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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Baker Lake)

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(Kugluktuk)

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**John Main**  
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Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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(Netsilik)

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**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
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Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister  
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
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Council*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joellie Kaernerck, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towntongie.

>> *House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): I ask Member Qirngnuq to say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 2. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 253 – 5(2): Photo Contest**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. To the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat, I say "good afternoon" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Nunavut Day, the housing

corporation would like to take an opportunity for us to reward public housing tenants for taking pride in their housing.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, when tenants keep their homes tidy, they are showing housing pride. When tenants turn off the lights of rooms they are not in, they are showing housing pride. When tenants see a small patch of mould and clean up with soap and water, they are showing housing pride. When tenants report damage without delay, they are showing housing pride.

(interpretation ends) The housing corporation believes pride should be rewarded, or care for their homes. This is why it will be holding a photo contest to do just that, with prizes awarded to the winner. All you have to do is look up the Nunavut Housing Corporation on Facebook and like its page. I think all of us go there once in a while. We will send a reminder on Nunavut Day when the contest begins.

This marks progress in our blueprint for action. Providing incentives for our tenants to monitor, care for, and maintain their housing units. In the midst of a housing crisis, we need every unit to last longer. As well, the more it costs to maintain each unit, the fewer new units we can afford to build. That is why it is so important that we recognize and celebrate them for their efforts.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeagok.

**Minister's Statement 254 – 5(2):  
RCMP Rescue of Child in  
Cambridge Bay**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the hard work of the RCMP and in particular the RCMP members in Cambridge Bay.

As you may be aware through the media, earlier this month a young boy fell into a crevice while on a daycare outing in the community. Shockingly the crack in the snow is believed to have been between 20 and 50 feet deep. However, due to the quick thinking and decisive actions of the off-duty RCMP officer, who was accompanying the daycare staff on their outing, called for immediate backup to ensure that this young boy was retrieved from the crevice safely. The child was taken to the health centre by the Cambridge Bay fire department and he was examined and found to be cold but unharmed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RCMP officers in Cambridge Bay and the RCMP officers across Nunavut for their hard work and dedication to keep Nunavummiut safe and protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 255 – 5(2):  
Women's Initiatives Grants**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, it is my priority to support girls and women across Nunavut and to recognize the critical role that community organizations play in advancing this priority.

My department supports community organizations through the Women's Initiatives Grants. This grant provides an opportunity for women-serving organizations to access funding to help increase community capacity, and help women and girls gain skills in a number of areas such as leadership and economic self-reliance. It supports projects, programs, or services that promote women's leadership skills, employability, wellness, and traditional knowledge.

(interpretation) Today I am pleased to share with you that the department supported four community-based initiatives through its Women's Initiatives Grants. The successful projects included:

- (interpretation ends) A sealskin snow pants project in Arctic Bay, a collaborative effort between the Hamlet of Arctic Bay and Tinniq Justice Committee;
- Prenatal workshops and perinatal support in Iqaluit run by Megan Mason to teach traditional Inuit midwifery;
- A women's group run by the Hamlet of Kugluktuk that provided weekly meetings for women focused on peer and professional support; and



- A junior high school's club in Pangnirtung that provides a space for young women to build self-esteem, talk about wellness and body image, and learn workplace and traditional skills.

Mr. Speaker, community organizations that provide programming for girls and women play a critical role in a strong and sustainable women's movement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible. (interpretation) The people in the small communities know their own communities, as I say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 256 – 5(2):  
Engaging with Communities –  
2019 Integrated Community  
Sustainability Plan Tours**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make my statement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, my staff at the Department of Community and Government Services has begun their annual integrated community sustainability plan tours, not quite the Rolling Stones tour.

Mr. Speaker, these tours are taking place from May 21 to September 28 this year,

are funded through gas tax, and focus on the development of plans to assist communities in determining their infrastructure needs, build long-term planning capacity, and reinforce the vital function of asset management.

These community visits have been designed with a clear commitment to Qanuqtuurniq: Being innovative and resourceful; Tunnganarniq: Fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive; and Pilimmaksarniq: the development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.

In each community, staff from different CGS divisions as well as other officials interested in supporting and engaging with councils will meet with the mayor, council, senior administrative officers, and municipal staff to share updates on CGS community initiatives and review the work shared at the annual senior administrative officers workshop.

The tour focuses on ways to support long-term planning in our communities, including training on planning best practices, as well as tours and information sharing of projects that are currently underway.

The feedback from elected officials and municipal staff about CGS' past two community visits have been very positive. The quality of the plans submitted has greatly improved, which helps carry the message from the community more strongly into the Government of Nunavut's capital planning process.

In addition, engaging in this way ensure a positive working relationship between

municipalities and CGS. It is important to me that my staff have a first-hand understanding of the critical infrastructure issues in our communities so that they can better meet municipal needs.

I would like to thank all the elected officials and municipal staff in all their communities for their valuable time and sharing of information when my team comes to their community. I look forward to continued collaboration and seeing the results of the upcoming 2019 ICSP tours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 257 – 5(2): Parks Day 2019**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Parks and Special Places Division within the Department of Environment and the important role they play in the preservation and prosperity of our parks and culture.

Mr. Speaker, Parks Day celebrations happen across Canada every year during the third week of July. It is a day to showcase the progress we have made in the development and progress of our protected grounds.

This year Nunavut will celebrate Parks Day on July 20, 2019 in Kimmirut,

Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I invite the people of Nunavut to go out and enjoy the activities planned in our parks, spend time with their families, and give appreciation to the pristine lands that we live on.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is one of the most spectacular places in the world, and we are fortunate to be able to call this our land. I hope to see many Nunavummiut in our parks on July 20. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Culture and Heritage Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 258 – 5(2): Nunavut Summer Reading Program**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, members, and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to inform the House that the 2019 Nunavut Summer Reading Program will begin in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage has been offering summer reading programs to our community public libraries since 2004. Across Canada, summer reading programs are a standard part of public library services during the summer holidays. Studies have found that children often lose reading levels during the summer break between grades. Summer reading

programs help to prevent or minimize this loss by providing young people the opportunity to read engaging books.

Mr. Speaker, my department is pleased to offer these types of programs to our community as they build community spirit and promote our public libraries as enjoyable destinations for the entire family. I encourage Nunavummiut, our youth, our children, and even adults to read every day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 259 – 5(2):  
Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce is  
Turning 40**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, our eldest child is celebrating her birthday today, so I hope you have a good day.

Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce is turning 40 in July 2019. This is an important achievement because an organization doesn't get to 40 years old without the dedicated commitment of its members.

(interpretation ends) During this time the chamber has succeeded in building up the business community in the region. It also plays an important role in advocating on behalf of businesses.

The economy in the Kivalliq region has boomed due to a number of factors, mainly with the Agnico Eagle Mines

opening up. There are also growing tourism, major infrastructure, and cultural industries that the business sector is pursuing.

Our former colleague, Jack Anawak, became the chamber's first president in 1979, followed by other presidents during the boom and bust days of the Kivalliq Chamber throughout these 40 years. Its mission has had business success in the Kivalliq is a reality.

President Patrick Tagoona and the rest of the members of the chambers continue to advocate for that and their presence is very strong, and we wish them the best future.

Today we are still able to advocate for the Kivalliq business community because of the commitments the members of the chamber have made. We congratulate their efforts, and let's continue to support our businesses from Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I would like to sing my favourite song of "Happy Birthday" for them and for my daughter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Continuing on with our agenda. Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 385 – 5(2):  
Sending Elders out of Territory**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good

afternoon” to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice an issue that is causing consternation to many residents and which we as MLAs have expressed as a shared concern. It is time we stopped pontificating about this critically important matter, which are our beloved elders.

With elders being sent down to southern institutions, many residents are deeply concerned and it impacts a lot of us. Some of our elders are not only elderly; they are also unilingual with no ability to speak English and they spend inordinate amounts of time at the institutions. Seeing our elders in those situations stirs up deep empathy as they require assistive care at all times. We must stop our continual discourse about our elders today.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, this is a monumental issue, as many Inuit today are here because our ancestors strove to keep their families alive, and if our current elders had not fought constantly to survive and provide food, many Inuit watching and attending would never have made it to today.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, this issue is becoming a common concern for many residents, especially when we seem to debate our elders’ situation unceasingly. This isn’t facilitating their situation.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking questions on this issue to

the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members’ Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

### **Member’s Statement 386 – 5(2): The Continuum of Mental Health Care**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a need that exists across Nunavut: the need for a continuum of mental health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is often the case that individuals who suffer from mental health issues run into problems with society as a whole. Their condition often makes it difficult for them to find a job or an occupation that they can stick with, and they become estranged from their family or community. They may not have a permanent home or place to live. All too often they run into problems with the law.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that there are many services, such as counselling and support, provided to the clients of our correctional system that is beneficial to them. However, once they are released from the correctional facility, the care and services that help them to deal with mental health issues and struggles are no longer available.

I feel that it is important to ensure that those who are identified as needing support to address mental health issues continue to receive support and services,

even when they are no longer a client of a government facility such as a correctional centre.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I feel that more can be done to ensure that there is a continuum of care for Nunavummiut suffering from mental health issues. If an individual is identified as suffering from mental health issues through any one of our government care providers, such as those working in the departments of Family Services, Health, or Justice and corrections, there should be a mechanism in place that ensures that the follow-up care they need is provided.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Member's Statement 387 – 5(2):  
Cancer in Nunavut**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, and ministers.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about this disease, (interpretation ends) cancer, (interpretation) which has impacted many Nunavummiut and perhaps all of us. In looking at my constituents in Arviat or even Whale Cove, another family lost a loved one just recently due to this disease.

Firstly, I want to express to the families

facing this hardship today and to individuals suffering from this sickness or who have just recently lost a loved one, or who are beginning their healing, and those who have reached remission, we as MLAs are thinking of you. We feel deeply for all of you from this House.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I believe more emphasis must be placed on combatting this within Nunavut, as I see the obviousness of that. Now, we all know that yes, we face a nursing shortage as well as health professionals, and the nurses we do have work exceedingly hard due to a heavy workload without ever catching up. Nonetheless, I believe we must strongly urge the Department of Health and our government to allocate more financial resources to oncology.

This document produced in 2004 entitled (interpretation ends) "Profile of Cancer in Nunavut" (interpretation) outlines what profile cancer has in Nunavut. It has allowed me to personally comprehend the origins by perusing the document, but this document is already quite antiquated as today the year is 2019. To me personally it is difficult to assess exactly where we stand today with regard to this sickness.

How is it being treated, how many residents have the disease, what kind of diagnosis is done, are they getting an early diagnosis, or was it too late for the people to have the disease diagnosed? These questions are difficult to know, but we require proper statistics and documentation that have clear directives where we could take the proper steps to resolve this sickness as Nunavummiut.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on that when I have the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 388 – 5(2): Pang Hats for Team Nunavut**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, like all Nunavummiut, I am extremely proud of our young athletes on Team Nunavut who represent us at the Arctic Winter Games, the Canada Winter Games, and other major sporting events.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very proud of the cultural and artistic talents and traditions of my home community of Pangnirtung. As you know, one of the things for which Pangnirtung is world famous is our distinct style of hat, which is known as the Pang hat.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to see the government issued a request for tenders for special Pang hats to be designed for Team Nunavut. I know that the community will be proud to see our traditions displayed on a national stage.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

**Ms. Nakashuk:** However, I am concerned that the tender does not

appear to clearly specify that Pang hats for Team Nunavut should in fact be real Pang hats and that are made out of Pangnirtung by real Inuit artists.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to tendering for generic products like coffee mugs or toothbrushes or spark plugs, I understand the need for a process that awards the contract for the lowest bidder. However, when it comes to things that have cultural dimension, we need to ensure authenticity. I am sure that the minister would not be comfortable if Team Nunavut were wearing Pang hats that had been mass produced in a facility outside of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the publicly known Nunavut Development Corporation has a number of subsidiaries in different communities. The Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts and Crafts is located in beautiful Pangnirtung, and it is world famous and it employs a number of talented residents of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Team Nunavut... .

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

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, fellow members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe that Team Nunavut should be outfitted in Pang hats that are made in Pangnirtung.

I also believe that we should be doing more to support our Nunavut Development Corporation's subsidiaries.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the minister agrees with my position, and I will be questioning his department at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause.*

**Speaker:** Thank you. There is also beautiful Baker Lake in Nunavut.

>> *Laughter*

Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, (interpretation) Member Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 389 – 5(2):  
Marine Safety**

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I state my member's statement, I would like to make a short note on a birthday greeting to my child, Loranda Rose, on her 22nd birthday. I hope you will continue to have birthdays in the future years. Enjoy your day, morning, and evening. Love, your dad.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the issue I brought up last fall where an accident occurred in northern waters, in our marine waters, as we are seeing more ship traffic in our arctic waters. It seems rather shocking to see the cruise ships arriving into the bay without being aware of the shallow shoals and reefs.

A cruise ship ran aground near Kugaaruk last year. In recalling that incident, I will be bringing up that issue later to the

Department of Environment. I apologize. It is not Environment, but rather the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. At the appropriate time, when we reach oral questions, I will have questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 390 – 5(2):  
Climate Change Action**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a number of occasions I have expressed my concerns over climate change. I would like to reiterate that Nunavut is warming at three times the global rate, and our environment, wildlife, and culture are at risk. Our planet is in crisis and it is crucial that we act now or it will be our children and grandchildren who will be paying the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, youth across Canada and the globe are speaking together in an international movement of youth striking for climate action and demanding governments take climate change seriously and make bold climate actions.

Mr. Speaker, we all heard the commotion outside the Legislative Assembly this morning, and I rise today to recognize local youth who share my concerns. Our youth have joined the fight against climate change by marching through the streets of Iqaluit to our Legislative Assembly in order to shed light on our climate change crisis and in the hopes to stimulate climate action.

I would personally like to thank the work of Cassidy-Ann Netser, Angela Austria, and Macintosh Pavia, who organized this event.

Mr. Speaker, our youth have taken matters into their own hands by calling on the Government of Nunavut to take action. Mr. Speaker, they have done so because they feel like they do not have a voice. They feel like the generations that are running our government do not share the same concerns. This is why our youth are demanding that the Government of Nunavut implement a youth advisory council so our youth will never feel like they do not have a say in our Assembly.

They are also asking that the Government of Nunavut create new policies that will protect our environment, consider climate change an emergency, implement a climate action plan, increase investment in clean energy, and increase efforts in educating the public about the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the initiative of our youth and I encourage them to continue their efforts, and I hope that our government will listen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member's Statement 391 – 5(2): 2019  
Indspire Awards – Atuat Akittirq**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely gratified to rise today to introduce and to share

acknowledgement of this person who is well renowned and who has worked persistently to share Inuit culture and language.

As members, we are aware that indigenous people are starting to submit more recognition of their fellow indigenous people throughout Canada. In most cases they are well known for their ongoing assistance to their fellow residents and to educate their youth, for example, to produce culturally relevant lessons.

Further, the (interpretation ends) Indspire Awards (interpretation) are shown on television throughout Canada. They hold annual ceremonies to present (interpretation ends) Indspire Awards (interpretation) to community members, volunteers, healing counsellors, leaders, elders, as well as youth. People who have made invaluable contributions usually need to be recognized and many of them get their due recognition, and furthermore, their communities celebrate the recognition of their fellow residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be able to acknowledge a winner of an Indspire award for lifetime achievement and commitment to one's people. This woman is a resident of Igloolik whom I am quite proud of, Atuat Akittirq, who is sitting behind us.

>> *Applause*

She is sitting with her granddaughter Sila, and I recognize her as well.

Nonetheless, Atuat is resilient and culturally strong in the traditional Inuit customs and she passes along the knowledge, all the while showcasing her



traditional Inuit culture and language to us all. She was born and inhabited the area known as Aggu, hence my role as the member representing the riding of Aggu. I am very proud of her. We were often sent to the communities... .

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Quassa, you may now proceed.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

From the outset of her life, Atuat has been passionate about showcasing traditional Inuit knowledge, traditional culture and beliefs. That is what she has strived to keep strong, and she has made tremendous contributions to the Nunavut education system, especially in teaching about Inuit cultural skills and knowledge. Further, she has also been a member of the Nunavut elder advisory committee.

She is also a very accomplished seamstress, as she has become well renowned for the skin clothing used by the actors in the films about Inuit culture. If you have watched any films, you have most likely seen her clothing shown on Isuma Productions. These are some examples of what Atuat has accomplished. Further, in 2010 she was awarded a (interpretation ends) Genie Award (interpretation) for one of her clothing designs and her expertise as a seamstress.

Mr. Speaker, Atuat has greatly assisted

the youth of her community, her fellow community residents by promoting shamelessly the traditional Inuit customs. Actually you can hear her practically every day on the local radio. We also know that the traditional Inuit practices can still be relevant in today's age, and here I mean traditional Inuit culture. She is now 84 years young, and Atuat is still going strong and strongly endorsing traditional Inuit customs and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to further congratulate her on her recognition in our community and by Inuit throughout Nunavut. I would like to warmly welcome Nunavummiut to watch the televised show on June 23, either on CBC television or on APTN, where the show will start at 8 p.m. in the evening, showing her recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerik.

### **Member's Statement 392 – 5(2): Support for Seniors**

**Mr. Kaernerik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our elders, as I believe in our elders and for us descendants of these elders, we must assist them in any manner they require. I completely believed the Member for Uqqummiut during his statement that we must no longer expound or lament the situation of our

elders, but to implement the changes we need.

The public should be informed about the elders' invaluable contributions throughout the land claim process, where the elders provided the knowledge and wisdom. One of our principles is written above, "Nunavut is our strength," as our elders too are a source of our strength. I wanted to publicly voice that sentiment, as our elders have to be heard from again as they too are facing personal difficulties, and they have children, grandchildren, and in some cases they have great-grandchildren. They too face hardships, and for us MLAs here in the House, we must work harder to provide support to them.

We need to provide more services, as this government has made a statement that they will integrate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into government operations. I would ask the government to hear this instead: our elders' traditional knowledge is also formidable. With that being the case, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Family Services about our elders at the appropriate time.

I campaigned on representing elders when electioneering and that I will no longer have my face bowed, and I will work to be the voice of the elders, which is why I was elected to this seat. When we reach oral questions, I will again speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

### **Member's Statement 393 – 5(2): Bullying of Government of Nunavut Employees**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and people of Gjoa Haven watching, my family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a concern that is known to trouble many Government of Nunavut employees but is one that they cannot speak about.

Mr. Speaker, in many organizations there are individuals who use their positions of power and authority to bully and put down employees. Shame on you!

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many of us are aware of such situations. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the employees who are being bullied do not want to go on the record because they worry about losing their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware that we have whistle-blower legislation that is supposed to protect employees who report wrongdoing. I understand that government leaders recommend that employees go to their supervisors and report bad behaviour. As we heard by two colleagues, let's stop paying lip service. Do it; make it happen.

Mr. Speaker, in reality, when employees talk to their supervisors, they are often the ones who face repercussions, not the wrongdoer. As anyone who has been a victim of bullying knows, some behaviours are difficult to describe.

Mr. Speaker, bullies can be very clever in justifying their actions and words. Who else do the victims of bullying turn

to? Some employees have been specifically told that they cannot speak to their MLAs. We have all heard that.

Mr. Speaker, I raise this point to let those government employees who are victims of bullying by their bosses know that we are aware and we are working to find ways to stop this behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when all government employees that were bullied out of a job have their last laugh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Member Netser.

**Member's Statement 394 – 5(2):  
Youth Centre in Coral Harbour**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about residents of Coral Harbour who strive to enable their youth due to their concern about their futures.

I believe it has been about two years since a decrepit old building was purchased by applying for various funding programs from CGS and Health, which my sister-in-law Sarah Netser requested funding for, with assistance from Ben Ell, who we call Ittukallak.

To date the result is a wonderfully renovated building as they kept working on the building throughout the winter months, with Joe Saviakjuk from Coral Harbour acting as the foreman, with three youth assistants. They were successful in attaining \$326,000 from the various applications they submitted

to the government, so I thank the government on their behalf.

Furthermore, the building looks nothing like its decrepit sight as it looks brand new. The building has a pool room, two TVs, and a sound system that plays music for the youth. They also received donations of equipment. The pool equipment, televisions, and sporting goods were donated by Richard and Silu Connelly from Sarliaq Holdings Ltd. I appreciate the donations from them, and if the individuals are watching the proceedings, Silu and Richard Connelly, I am especially grateful to you.

There's also a manager as well as a custodian. They invite elders and offer training programs to the youth about Inuit culture. There's also an elder counsellor in the building available to provide counselling. My sister-in-law is very capable when she makes up her mind and she cares about the community, so we continue to support her to now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Member Sheutiapik.

**Member's Statement 395 – 5(2):  
Recognizing Three Iqaluit Elders**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems our focus is on our elders today. I am very pleased to stand today to acknowledge the following individuals, actually three of them who celebrated birthdays over 90 years who live in Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Elders are still exceedingly important, and I was adopted by an elder who was called Sheutiapik E7-1 and Niuraapik E7-2. My number is E7-2267. The following are Enoapik Sageatook, and I want to grow as old as her. She was originally born in Kimmirut. She celebrated her birthday on April 17. She turned 90 this year. She arrived in Iqaluit as a baby.

She gets invited all over to light the traditional qulliq and to speak about the importance of the lamp, and she is finally retiring from that since she is now 90 years old, which is understandable. She was married to the late Sageatook Charlie as that was what he was called in Iqaluit. They had five children.

The second elder, Mr. Gordon Rennie, who is better known locally as Angajuqqaaralaaq, has lived in Iqaluit for years, as he first arrived to work at the Hudson's Bay Company who had stores here. He was first stationed in Kimmirut and transferred here to Iqaluit. He is originally from Newfoundland. I am also quite proud of him as he calls Iqaluit home. He also turned 90 on April 27. He was married to the late Sarah Davidee, who has passed on from this life, but she had three daughters.

The third elder, who many people know is just called Inookie, was born just outside of Frobisher Bay, the community in the area known as Inuksulik. He just turned 108 years old this year. That is awesome! He had a wife called Mary and they had 11 children. I am also quite proud of this individual as he used to assist inmates at the outpost camp when they ran the camp for inmates.

Although we all go through stressful times, sometimes our elders advise us to smile. I am quite appreciative that I have three elders aged 90 and over, who celebrated their birthdays in the past month. None of them have televisions nor do they have telephones, but they always have a radio playing. If they are listening, I want to thank the three elders as they have provided much assistance to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 396 – 5(2):  
Spring Hunting in the High Arctic**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the month of June the three communities I represent in the High Arctic are almost empty of people, with people going camping or hunting all kinds of different animals to gather for the coming year.

As soon as school is out, the people start leaving town. This has been happening for many years now and hopefully it will continue for many years to come. They provide very good food for themselves, their families, and the community. With that, have a good time out there while you go hunting and camping. I am envious of you. We can't go hunting when we're working here.

If you're going out there or once you come back, please remember our elders who are no longer able to go on their own to these places. They are physically unable to go, but I know they are with you in their minds. Please provide them

with fresh food and fresh meat that you catch. They will be very grateful to you. Have good trips during this travelling season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Let's proceed to Item 4 in the *Orders of the Day*. Returns to Oral Questions. There being none. Let's proceed to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*.

Before I recognize anyone, I would like to say that I am pleased to wish a happy birthday and I give a big smile to Minister Hickes. He is celebrating a birthday today.

>> *Applause*

>> *Singing Happy Birthday*

Enjoy your birthday today. Even though it's your birthday, you have to be at work.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.  
Member Quassa.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about our elder earlier and I would like to recognize her and for her to be recognized properly in the House. Atuat Akittirq and her grandchild, Sila Airut, are here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker**: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Please feel welcome in

the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly ever get visited, so I would like to recognize, on the other side, my grandchild, Cassidy-Ann Netser. Mr. Speaker, in the fall she will be going to Dalhousie University. We hardly saw her this winter. When her mother would come over, we would ask her, "Where is your daughter?" She would answer, "She's always doing homework. Whenever she comes home, she spends hours doing her homework." She did that all winter up to today. We are really proud that she is going to university this fall.

Behind me is our eldest daughter. Sylvia has been living in Iqaluit for a long time now. She carries a lot on her shoulders, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes she drives me to tears when she tells me, "I love you, dad." I would like to welcome our eldest daughter. At some point I will be telling a story about her education in Coral Harbour. I never forget the time she came over with a concern, but I won't talk about that today. I would like to welcome our daughter to the gallery here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please feel welcome, as we have gotten Nunavut, to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement, I would like to

recognize three honoured guests to the Assembly: Ms. Cassidy-Ann Netser, who Mr. Netser had also recognized, as well as Angela Austria and Macintosh Pavia. I would just like to thank you all for your courageous efforts and devotion for the territory, and I would like to present you with these tokens of appreciation.

>>*Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize this person as it will soon be ten years since we have been married, and at the end of this month we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary. She grabbed my heart by the strings.

When we began our marriage, her grandmother, who has since passed on, told us that our marriage was like the making of a bird, that individually we comprised the wings of a bird, as she was the opposite wing such as I was, creating a whole bird. For example, no bird can fly without half a wing, and in my thoughts, her grandmother foretold this event, as my wife has been a source of undying support to today, and we comprise a team that supports each other.

I wish to welcome my wonderful wife, Emily Joanasie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery, and early happy anniversary. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Continuing on with Item 6. I have a statement prior to continuing with Item 6.

### **Speaker's Statement**

Members, before we proceed with oral question period, I wish to remind regular members to be as brief and concise as possible in the preambles to their questions.

I also remind ministers that their replies should also be concise and I encourage ministers to be mindful that the information which they provide to the House should be relevant to the question that is being asked.

Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 533 – 5(2): Surplus Disposal Policy**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes it is hard to have a short preamble to get your point across, but maybe we should just start reading faster.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, I have raised a number of concerns over the years about the government's Surplus Disposal Policy, which is administered by the

Department of Community and Government Services.

One of the concerns that I have been raising is the need for the departments to provide more timely information to Community and Government Services about assets that are ready to be surplus before they are vandalized beyond anyone's use.

For example, in my community of Sanikiluaq I am aware of two pieces of mobile equipment that were formerly used by the airport, a pickup truck and a plow truck, that are now sitting abandoned and being vandalized. It is not all clear to me if they have entered the government's surplus process.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that this is an issue in other communities with other departments. I don't expect the minister to be personally aware of the specifics of this situation, but I will ask him if he is willing to communicate with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to clarify the situation and have these surplus vehicles taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I will communicate with my colleague, Minister of Transportation, to see if we can't speed up the process that my colleague is concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Your first supplementary question, Member

Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. It is not all clear to me if there is a government-wide tracking system in place regarding the statuses of assets that go through the surplus disposal process, including buildings and mobile equipment. Can the minister confirm whether or not such a system is in place and, if it is, would he be willing to provide information on an annual basis to the Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's activities in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have two different types of disposal practices we do. One is the fixed assets in terms of buildings and those take a little longer to work through the process because we have to make sure that they are not hazardous buildings, that there are no mould infestations, and that part of it. The other part that is the assets such as snowmobiles, ATVs, and boats and more of those smaller assets, and the normal procedure for that, the normal protocol is that if there is a client department that they feel they have no more need for certain assets, they let us know and then our department kicks in the whole array of issues in terms of who gets the right to first refusal and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Your second supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I have previously raised the

issue of ensuring that local search and rescue committees and hunters and trappers organizations are prioritized when it comes to the disposal of such things as snowmobiles, boats, and ATVs, as the minister just mentioned.

Can the minister clarify how his department currently approaches the disposal of larger items, such as trucks, and larger equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of trucks and larger pieces of equipment, if our government no longer requires those assets, they are always first offered to the municipality. I have seen cases where the municipality might take the asset if it's a snowmobile, for example, and then pass it on to the search and rescue itself, but it's first offered to the municipality and then the not-for-profit organizations such as search and rescue committees and whatnot, and then surplus to the public, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

#### **Question 534 – 5(2): Climate Change Action**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

Climate change is upon us. Our society's consumer consumption and addiction to oil has led to our planet's current state. I would like to ask the Premier: does our government consider climate change an

issue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we didn't have a Climate Change Secretariat, then I guess it wouldn't be an important issue, but we do have a Climate Change Secretariat. Yes, it is an important issue with our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If climate change is in fact a priority with our government, then I would like to ask: why are we the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not have an incentive program or offer rebates to encourage Nunavummiut to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here in Nunavut we have very few, limited options in terms of our reliance on fossil fuel. We have to rely on fossil fuels to generate our power, to make sure that we have safe, 100 percent reliable energy in our communities.

I'm sure the member does his part for climate change. Maybe he has a quick, warm shower instead of a hot shower. Maybe on occasion he walks to work instead of taking a vehicle. Maybe he doesn't take unnecessary trips to the south so that he can conserve fuel. We



can all do our share.

Just to make a point of it again and I have reminded the member once that Nunavut's share of carbon is 0.1. That's our share in Canada. If we shut off every single light and just sat in a cold, dark room in Nunavut, Canada's carbon share would drop by 0.1. We are the highest per capita user because of the environment of where we live and we are doing our share.

We have programs where the people can get money for retrofits to buildings, to reinsulate, get better energy-efficient windows and doors, and things like that. We're doing the best we can with the limited resources we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that we do have a limited amount of resources, but I believe that every dollar invested in renewable energy reduces the costs for all Nunavummiut, from the cost it requires to generate power to the amount of fuel that the PPD has to purchase, ship, and store.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that investing in clean energy, whether the government does it itself or encourages Nunavummiut to do so through incentives or rebates, is a dollar that we will be saving in the long run. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I don't think I heard a question. Are you asking a question? Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I was trying to keep my questions short and forgot to throw it in there.

>> *Laughter*

**An Hon. Member:** And save energy?

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Lightstone:** With that being said, I would like to state that every dollar invested in clean energy is a dollar saved in the long run. Why is it that our government has yet to create incentive and rebate programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do our share and I can give one example, a project that is not a government project, but the fibre and hydro project in the Kivalliq which is spearheaded by the Kivalliq Inuit Association. I was part of their group that went down to Ottawa to lobby the federal ministers to get funding to do the second stage of a feasibility study so they can bring in clean, renewable energy from Manitoba into the Kivalliq. If that project becomes a reality, it will take five communities and two mines off diesel, which is a huge amount of carbon that would not be emitted into the atmosphere. We are doing our share.

As the member knows, we have only limited dollars, we have so much dollars and we have to use those dollars wisely. There are other projects that were in the

news recently about the solar panels that will be part of the power plant in Kugluktuk and projects like that. We do the little bit that we can. We know that we're reliant on diesel and gas, and we would like to get off it as much as we can, but until there are other viable options, I'm sorry to tell the member that we are stuck with fossil fuels for the time being until we can find a safe, reliable energy source. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Question 535 – 5(2): Cancer in Nunavut**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I mentioned earlier the issue of cancer in the territory.

(interpretation ends) My first question for the minister is: when it comes to the most common types of cancer, namely, lung cancer and colorectal cancer, for which, from my understanding, account for about 50 percent of the total cases of cancer in Inuit, what are the early detection and cancer screening programs for these types of cancer and how are they being applied in Nunavut?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue. It's very important to all Nunavummiut that when you feel something wrong with your body, you go in and get it checked out. There are

different parameters of screening. The member mentioned a couple, and colorectal obviously is a very treatable cancer, so the earlier the detection can be found, the better.

Mr. Speaker, just quickly, some of the major steps that we have taken in the last couple of years here in Iqaluit are that screening at the QGH has been sped up. Our wait-list has been shortened dramatically with the assistance of the Qikiqtani General Hospital and the staff there. We're working very closely right now with developing a territorial-wide cancer screening for colorectal cancer. We're working very diligently. We have recently hired a territorial lead who will manage the development, coordination, and implementation and most importantly, the evaluation of a territorial cancer screening project.

One of the gaps that the member mentioned earlier is that a lot of the information he has is outdated. That is one of the gaps that we're finding in health care where we look at the tracking of information and data and we struggle with our data management. It's something that we have had positions created recently so that we can make better tracking, so we can follow these trends a little bit more.

I have lots of information on what we're doing and unfortunately a lot of it is ramping up right now. There has been a lot of headway made, but there are more improvements yet to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) My second question is the Nunavut *Disease Registries Act* requires that all cases of cancer diagnosed on a Nunavut resident be reported to the Nunavut Cancer Registry. The minister mentioned issues with data management and collection. Can the minister please confirm that the Nunavut *Disease Registries Act* is being followed and all cases of cancer are being reported to the registry? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently had some discussions with departmental officials on this topic and from all indications that I have been advised on, all cases have been report appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That is good to hear. It's an important thing to be doing as a territory. Another important thing that we need to be doing is communicating and sharing information on cancer with policymakers and with decision-makers such as ourselves in this House.

My final question for the minister is: can the minister commit to providing numbers, statistics, and available data related to cancer in Nunavut, similar to what was provided in this 15-year-old report, which was titled *A Ten-Year Profile of Cancer in Nunavut*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will, and my officials are listening as well, and I have already initiated a request for further data to see what exactly we do have.

If the Speaker will indulge me just for a moment, I know we're supposed to keep our responses brief, but at the same time I do want to acknowledge on how important it is for me and for the department on how we deal with people who are going through their cancer or battle.

I recently met with the Ottawa General Hospital cancer care team. They came up to Iqaluit here with oncologists, nurses, and other doctors that I met with and they met with departmental officials here recently. I have also travelled recently to Ottawa to meet with a society there that deals with Inuit-specific cancer care in urban centres just to learn more myself so that I can help my departmental officials "steer the ship."

I just want to again take this opportunity to thank the partners that we do work with where we do have a number of different agencies that I won't eat up the time right now. We do have a number of partnerships with our outlying jurisdictions on making sure that our residents receive the best care that we can provide for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Question 536 – 5(2): Marine Safety**

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good

day” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our recent winter sitting about the serious incident that occurred last year in the waters off Kugaaruk which involved a cruise ship running aground.

When I last raised this issue in the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that the federal Transportation Safety Board was investigating the incident.

Can the minister indicate if the Transportation Safety Board has provided him with a timeline for when its report on this incident will be released? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no definitive timeline in terms of the Transport Canada investigation on this particular one. It is deemed as a level 2 investigation, which often, on their website, states that it can take up to 600 days. When I looked into the specific grounding near the member’s community, at this stage, it’s at the examination and analysis phase. That’s the second of the third phases and the third and final phase will be on the report. I do look forward to getting that report from the Transportation Safety Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Information that has been publicly released by the federal Transportation Safety Board indicates that “The vessel suffered major hull damage...” (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, if it states “major hull damage,” it should be understood as exactly that. (interpretation ends) “...approximately 80 litres of fuel oil were released.” Can the minister describe what actions were taken to assess and remediate the damage caused by the fuel spill? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t have that level of detail in that whenever Coast Guard responds to an oil spill, which is a federal-led initiative, through this report, I would suspect that that remediation part would be covered also with that report. I am waiting for that report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The summer cruise ship season is rapidly approaching. Under his department’s new *Marine Tourism Regulations*, cruise ship operators are required by law to submit detailed reports concerning their activities while in Nunavut waters.

Earlier this year the minister indicated

that he would be tabling the reports from the most recent cruise ship season in the Legislative Assembly. Can he confirm that he will be doing this before our spring sitting ending tomorrow? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I cannot confirm that. I don't have that on the schedule for our last day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

#### **Question 537 – 5(2): The Continuum of Mental Health Care**

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, and our elders Violet Twyee and Alice Ipkornerk, who follow the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister of Health.

In my member's statement I discussed the need for a continuum of mental health care because even though individuals may be identified as suffering from poor mental health by different service providers working for different departments, the lead department for coordinating mental health care services is the Department of Health.

Can the minister clarify how his

department works with other departmental officials to identify and follow up on individuals who are suffering from poor mental health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickers.

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of collaborative efforts with, for example, Family Services, the Department of Education, just to name a couple, Mr. Speaker.

Again, as we put out mental health programing in the communities and work with our stakeholders to provide different activities and different programs in the community, we want to make sure that we are encompassing as many people as possible, from young to old. There is no age discrimination with mental health, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that when somebody feels that they need help, they ask for it. I think the most important stage of any issue related with mental health is to acknowledge and ask for help no matter whom or where you are.

I think, again, I will reiterate that if anyone feels that there are additional steps that can be made or gaps that are identified, to please let me know or through my colleagues around the room or through our Office of Patient Relations to make sure that the level of expectation of care is provided by my staff and officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towntongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that there are issues of privacy and protection of information with respect to an individual's personal details. However, it is too clear that many people are falling between the gaps. For example, if a person suffering with mental health issues ends up in a correctional facility, they can receive help and counselling in there, but once they serve their sentence and rejoin our society, it is not clear that they can continue to get the support they need.

The minister did not answer my question. I wanted to get an identification and follow-up. Can the minister clarify whether there are any agreements between his department and other government departments to ensure individuals receiving mental health services in one department will continue to receive them when they move on from the care provided by another department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of different MOUs that we have with other departments within the government. I'm not aware of every specific item on that, but I can assure the member I did listen to her member's statement earlier with much interest as well as the line of questioning today. I will have my officials follow up how exactly those protocols are being followed and if there are any identified areas of concern to make sure that we close those gaps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. However, I feel strongly that there has to be a mechanism to ensure that those individuals who are identified as having poor mental health by service providers and one government department can continue to receive the mental health care and support as long as they need it. Very often we see them just walking on our streets and night time they're going into homes or cabins.

Will the minister commit to working with his counterparts, especially in Family Services or Justice, to establish a mechanism to ensure a continuum of mental health care services for individuals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, if there are gaps there, I will look into it, but I will take this moment to state that in the majority of cases whenever mental health supports are being requested, whether it be through Corrections or through Family Services, it is the health care workers, either in the community or here in the capital city or regional centres, it's the health care workers who are working with those people. They would be aware of the level of care that's needed and would work to make sure that the transition from, as an example, of an incarceration to being out in the public to make sure that there is a transition of care protocol established. I do take the member's questions to heart and I will look into making sure that those guidelines are established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Question 538 – 5(2): Status of Seniors Long-term Care Project**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues in this House, I have a number of constituents from Uqqummiut who are currently living at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I very much wish that these elders could be in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that the Department of Health recently issued a request for proposals for new long-term care facilities for seniors in all three regions of Nunavut. The request for proposals indicates that the government plans to provide a total of 108 beds at a new facility in Iqaluit. Can the minister clarify how this number was determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we look at our demographics and how they have changed throughout the years in Nunavut, those ages are being tracked, so that's where we project numbers on the level of beds that we will need across the territory. As an example, the information that I have currently is in the next 15 years we are going to need upwards of 156 beds in anticipation across the territory for our elder care

needs. We use Statistics Canada and Nunavut Statistics to get that information to be able to foresee what type of needs that we're going to need. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request for proposals indicates that "...the Government of Nunavut has long recognized the need for additional long-term care beds locally to support those individuals who require a higher level of care and/or who may be suffering from mid- to late-stage dementia. Without the availability of those particular services within the region, those residents are currently residing in an Ottawa facility."

Can the minister describe what initiatives his department is working on to build the human capacity necessary to deliver this level of care here in Nunavut when the new facilities open in a few years from now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're just finalizing this. It has been on record for a while now that we are finalizing our elder care strategy with Partnerships BC, Community and Government Services, the Department of Finance, and pretty much all my colleagues across the table here, Mr. Speaker. We freely acknowledge that elder care is a priority of this government. The RFP that has gone out is another step in the right direction to show that this is not lip service; we are

acting.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge that there has been a lot of work to date, yet there is a lot more to come. I look forward to support from all my colleagues on moving initiatives forward to provide additional health care services in the territory so that we can repatriate the people who are gone and to make sure that we don't have to send any more people out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that you will be very interested to hear the minister's answer to my next question. Although the government's request for proposals identifies the community in which the Qikiqtani long-term care facility will be located, it also indicates that the government has not yet determined where the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot facilities will be located. Can the minister clarify how his department will decide where to locate the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As those discussions are still ongoing, some of the criteria are accessibility to make sure that regular flight schedules in and out of the community are available and the level of health care services that are already available in the community, such as physicians. Depending upon the level of

care that we put in each facility is going to dictate what type of infrastructure and surrounding capacity is going to be needed. There is a whole gambit or a list of criteria that we are looking on. Like I said, as we are finalizing our options through our Partnerships BC report and our internal discussions on the best practices and the best locations, that is the criteria that we will be looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

### **Question 539 – 5(2): Procurement Practices**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I noted in my member's statement, I am very proud that our athletes on Team Nunavut will be wearing Pang hats as part of their uniform. (interpretation ends) Can the minister assure me that his department's tendering process will ensure that these hats are made in Pangnirtung by artists from Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hats that are referred to as Pang hats are actually traditional crocheted hats. In the RFP that is out, they're referred to as traditional crocheted hats, Pang hats. Mr. Speaker, because the tender is out right now and it



closes on June 10, I really can't speak to the details and particulars of that matter, except that our department felt it was important, as part of celebrating Nunavut's 20th anniversary, that at the upcoming Arctic Winter Games you have something unique. The crocheted hat known as the Pang hat is one of those, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I had noted in my member's statement today, the publicly owned Nunavut Development Corporation has a number of subsidiaries employing Inuit in a number of communities, including the Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts in Pangnirtung, Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet, and the Jesse Oonark Centre in Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Development Corporation's most recent annual report indicates that it was responsible for maintaining over 140 jobs across the territory, most of which are filled by Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to government procurement, can the minister confirm whether or not the Nunavut Development Corporation's subsidiaries receive bid adjustments or other considerations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, when individuals, companies, and organizations put in a bid, there are procurement adjustments

and stuff available within the procurement rules. The development corporation that my colleague is referring to is more than able to bid on those and they would get bid adjustments where they do qualify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very clear what the minister is speaking of, and we also know that the government uses the tendering process for procurement purposes, generally accepting the lowest bidder, even for something as small as cups and various items. However, we have to look at different methods because, if they will be looking at the tendering process, they should use cultural authenticity which denotes uniqueness. In looking at the (interpretation ends) Pang hats, (interpretation) we shouldn't allow bids from overseas to make these types of hats, even the toy Inuksuit. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify how the government's procurement process takes this into account then? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pangnirtung residents are not the only ones who make those hats. In fact I've got four hats, of which two were made by my daughter and the others were gifted to me.

The government is asking for 355

crocheted hats, I believe. The bid is open for anyone who will be able to supply that amount. I can't really talk about it because it may pose a problem for the bidding process. What I can say is that the procurement process is followed and obviously bidders from Nunavut would be given priority over those outside the territory. Mr. Speaker, I do apologize that I can't talk about it while the tender is out so as to not cause issues for the bidders. I'm not trying to avoid answering your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Question 540 – 5(2): Extra Staff at Embassy West**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister has indicated, there are over 30 Nunavut elders currently receiving care at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa. Can the minister indicate exactly how many employees are currently on staff to represent and assist our residents and their families at this facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first

supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we're always here trying to find out as much information as we can about things that are sort of out of our control where we have to send people away.

I understand that there a number of interpreters available to provide translation for our unilingual elders at Embassy West, but they are only there during the day. I also understand that employees of the Department of Health visit the facility to assess the needs and issues. However, these are only occasional visits and these staff rarely speak Inuktitut.

I have heard concerns that there are not enough personal care workers on staff, so our Nunavut clients often have to wait long periods of time for assistance, even to get out of bed or to go to the washroom.

Can the minister clarify how his department evaluates the level of care and service provided to our Nunavut elders currently residing at the Embassy West facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials at Health do work with Embassy West to evaluate the level of care, but there is also, as the facility resides in Ontario, the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority has oversight on that facility. They do also inspections and provide certification, of which, from what I recall, was just recently done in the last

six months and passed very well, with a very good grade, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are all sorts of, like you were saying, inspections and they passed well. That's really good to hear, but sometimes they're different than the actual realities of what some of our people are facing in the facility. It would be good if you could share that report with us just so those of us who are concerned can see the report.

It also has been suggested that having a couple of full-time dedicated care assistants who speak Inuktitut and are familiar with the culture and the logistical needs of our Nunavut elders could greatly improve the quality of life experienced by these who are receiving care at the Embassy West facility.

Will the minister commit to giving full consideration to staffing two or more full-time Inuktitut-speaking personal care positions at the Embassy West facility in order to ensure that our elders are well cared for 24 hours a day? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to a contracted organization on what their hiring is. My officials are listening and they will communicate these concerns to the management at the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I know the member did

sneak in a couple of questions there. With regard to the report on the facility, I don't have ownership of that report. That report belongs with the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. I'm not sure if that's available on their website, but I'm sure that if the member wanted to write them a letter and request a copy of that report, they would take a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

#### **Question 541 – 5(2): Benefits for Elders**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, the Minister responsible for Seniors.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my community of Igloolik, like many other communities, we have elders who live in designated public housing. Elder housing is one of the positive initiatives by our government. However, many of the elders in our outlying communities, such as Igloolik, find it difficult to fully participate in community life.

Can the Premier describe what kinds of benefits and supports this government provides to ensure the well-being of our elders in the communities across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The advocacy for elders and

seniors is under the Premier, but the actual care of elders is under Health. I can speak a bit about some of the programs that the health department does have to help our elders. They have the home care program and I'm not sure exactly all what they have, but they have a few programs here. Under the last government there we brought out under the Premier of the day then, they brought out a handbook for seniors of all the phone numbers of certain things to help seniors out and programs like the Senior Fuel Subsidy. I don't have all the programs in front of me.

We had a booklet out before and we have been toying at the idea of putting a booklet out again to help the seniors who are living at home to help them out. It is easier and it is better for the seniors to live at home. If they need a bit of assistance so that they can stay at home and not have to be taken to a home or sent out of the territory, we would like to keep our elders in their own home with their families and we will assist them however we can. That is the end goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I was indicating, these elders are, as I said, living in designated public housing that I'm referring to.

(interpretation) He stated that he's an elders' advocate. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that the government provides funding to the Nunavut elders society and supports them in the work that they do to address

elder concerns across the territory. I believe the Premier is very close to that organization as an advocate.

Can the minister provide an update on the kinds of issues being addressed by the Nunavut elders society and further, can the minister indicate whether the lack of transportation for elders in our communities is one of the issues being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member said he was talking about public housing. Home care is provided to elders who are in public housing too. Home care is provided to all elders who require it.

In terms of some of the issues that the elders society has brought up, one of the main issues that they brought up the last time I met with them was elder abuse, that there's got to be more done so that there is no elder abuse going on, whether it be from a family member or another member. Their biggest concern was about the elder abuse and that it is happening, and we should do stuff to prevent it from happening because it is not right that there should be elder abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It seems to me that the minister responsible for elders is trying to avoid my question by answering various other issues.

Again, I am trying to point out transportation needs. If the minister is an advocate for the elders, I believe the minister should be advocating to the other departments that may be responsible for elders, such as Health and Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Iqaluit has a designated vehicle, and I do understand that it is privately donated, but to provide transportation to the elders, this kind of benefit would be greatly appreciated by elders. I have talked to elders in my community. They are requesting to have assistance in that.

Will our Premier, the Minister responsible for Seniors, commit to finding ways in supporting and providing transportation benefits to elders who are now living in government-supplied designated housing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little bit confused as to what “government-designated housing” means. Is it public housing? Is it staff housing? Is it elders’ care? Are we going to exclude elders who are in their own home that is not provided by the government?

Like you said, there is elder service transportation here, which is private. If there is an elders society in communities, and a lot of these communities do have an elders society, they can put proposals through. If they come up with a reasonable proposal, I am not exactly sure who the proposal

would go to right now because, as the member stated correctly, I am the advocacy, but it doesn’t come with a budget. We don’t have any money to give to elders, the advocacy group.

We want to look after all our elders for their needs, not just the ones in government-provided housing. We look at all our elders in Nunavut equally. Some need more care than others due to their physical or mental disabilities, but we want to look after all our elders, as we cherish our elders here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

#### **Question 542 – 5(2): Bullying of Government of Nunavut Employees**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier of the issue of bullying of employees by their immediate bosses or supervisors. I do recognize that the government has whistle-blowing legislation. However, this seems to apply more to explicit cases of wrongdoing rather than the often hidden behaviour of bullying.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clearly explain what protections are offered to a government employee who “blows the whistle” on a suspected wrongdoing by another government employee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year we talked about the HR department, Inuit employment moving out of EIA, and HR having their own department. Part of the process was the anti-harassment policy and that was being worked on. I believe that it is either finalized or almost finalized.

I think bullying and harassment is one and the same, other than bullying is a little bit higher. You can classify it as harassment or bullying. It's more or less the same. We do have policies on that. There should be no room for bullying or harassment within the GN. Like the member stated, we have the whistleblower protection.

No employee should be afraid to come forward if they have concerns about bullying or harassment. We want the Government of Nunavut to be an employment of choice, a nice place to work, a good place to work, where people want to come to work and not be fearful of going to work. We want to have a good atmosphere. If any GN employee has issues about bullying, then they should come forward and they can report it.

There are other instances where, I don't know what the proper word is, I guess like corrective actions may be seen as bullying or harassment, and we want to make sure that there's a clear distinction between making someone perform their duties and bullying. There's quite a difference there, but in this government there is no room for harassment or for bullying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member

Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all say it's so easy to say what we want to do, but then it's really hard to do what we want to do, and that's just the way the government operates. That's the way I see it today.

Mr. Speaker, bullying behaviours are often difficult to pin down and describe. How do you characterize it when a staff member comes out of their boss's office in tears? How do you describe it when a boss makes vague threats that a person will lose their job if they speak to anyone about what happens at work? That's happening today. There's legislation that it is not supposed to happen, but it is happening.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clarify what government policies are in place to address bullying and what programs exist to prevent bullying by staff who are in management or director positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many levels of management and supervisions within the government, and the normal process is to report, if you feel that you're being bullied or harassed, to your supervisor. There is also the ethics officer that can be reported to if someone feels that that is the route they want to go.

Ultimately the level of where the complaint will go would keep going up until eventually it gets to the DM and minister level. It depends where it is, but no one should be afraid to report that

they're being bullied or harassment and it would be determined whether it's bullying or harassment and by whom.

The member talked about what you do when all these things come out. I can't say what you do because some people are more sensitive than others. It's hard to judge people, but there should be no bullying. That's very clear and it's government policy that there is no bullying here and if it's happening, then it shouldn't be happening.

Like the member said, it's easier to talk about and whenever anything involves HR issues, it is hard to deal with. It is very hard to deal with. Everything in HR has to be documented and we have all kinds of issues that we can and can't talk about. Here in this House we can't talk about specific human resource issues very openly, but my main part of the message to the member and to everyone listening is that there is no place for bullying in this department, in this government, and if it's happening, the workers have the right and they should report it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is right; there is no room for bullying anywhere. When we want people to work, they should be happy where they are, but in my member's statement I did say, "Bullies can be very clever in justifying their actions and words, and the government will listen to them." I doubt they will ever believe the lower employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure many of my

colleagues have had the experience of a constituent coming to them to describe situations they are facing and then turn around and say, "But I have been told not to speak to my MLA about this or I may lose my job, so you can't use my name."

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit, in writing, to permitting Government of Nunavut staff to speak to their MLAs regarding their experiences with bullying without fear of reprisal or loss of employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, to the best of my knowledge, we don't have any policy where employees can't talk to their MLA. They can't talk to their MLAs about privacy issues or stuff that is job related that the public should not know about certain things and confidential stuff, but in terms of any employees who want to talk to their MLA, there is no, to the best of knowledge, government policy that they can't do that. We don't want GN employees talking to their MLAs about confidential stuff or work-related stuff about the normal ongoing duties in the workplace that should not be public.

In terms of a blanket policy saying that GN employees cannot talk to their MLA, to the best of my knowledge, there is nothing like that. If any of the departments have that, then it shouldn't be there and we had one of the ministers state here in the House that his department doesn't have any policy like

that, and we shouldn't. People should be free to talk to their MLAs.

We're all MLAs here, all of us. Some of us are MLAs and ministers, but we're all MLAs and there is no blanket policy saying that GN employees shall not talk to their MLAs about work-related stuff. There's certainly stuff that they should not talk about. That's a given, but they're allowed to talk to their MLAs, to the best of my knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members will note that the time for question period has expired. (interpretation) Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

#### **Motion 041 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You probably won't be too happy with me, but pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that the time for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'll respond to you.

>> *Laughter*

When you are going to be introducing a motion, please speak to the principle of the motion.

The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Question period is extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq,

Member Kaernerck.

#### **Question 543 – 5(2): Support for Seniors**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are lengthy, but I'll try to keep them short. My question is for the Minister responsible for Family Services.

As I spoke earlier with elders being the subject and since we all are aware of the recent increases to income support allocations, our elders also try to sell their arts and crafts. What I want to understand from the minister is if he can elaborate to the House how the Department of Family Services has taken into consideration the need to increase the pension amount for our elders who receive the elders' benefit where they are 60 years of age or older. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

#### **Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. In 2015 the increase went from \$175 to \$200 monthly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She seems to have read my mind as that was my next question that she answered. Yes, that increase of \$25 in 2015 is appreciated. However, I wonder if the department can conduct another review to revisit the last



four years to determine if the pension amount can be further increased to our elders throughout Nunavut. With the cost of living increasing, especially foods and goods, can the minister reconsider the amount to see if an increase may be needed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously this type of benefit has regular reviews, and I will once again request that this pension amount be reviewed.

I just want to add a reminder that our dear elders receive three different pensions monthly as they no longer get paper cheques. These three pensions are (interpretation ends) Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and (interpretation) that final pension supplement the member was asking about just now that comprises the three pension amounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking if they can commit to another review to determine if this supplement should be increased, without including these other pension amounts. This supplement is what I am asking to be increased. Since the elders have retired and are physically unable to work, they try to sell their crafts.

I would like to see if this supplement can be further reviewed, as I would like to see an increase prior to the end of my term so that elders get an increase in their pension amounts, as we have many elders here in Nunavut. Can this supplement be increased prior to the end of our terms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my response was that I will ask if we can review this again and how often it is reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

#### **Question 544 – 5(2): Youth Advisory Committee for Climate Change**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again my questions are for the Premier.

Before I get into my question, I would just like to mention a quote that a wise man once said. "We do not inherit the planet from former generations; we actually borrow it from future generations."

Mr. Speaker, our youth have spoken and they value our environment and they are worried that the older generations that are running our government do not share those concerns. They feel that the current generation is not making decisions in the best interests of the future.

Our youth have asked for a youth advisory council to ensure they have a voice. Does the Premier believe our youth deserve a voice through the formation of a youth advisory council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the environment minister, I can let the member know that the Climate Change Secretariat is working on a youth advisory committee. They actually have one person on staff now working on it. The environment minister says yes, we want to hear the youth concern and the Climate Change Secretariat is developing a youth advisory committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. I'm glad to hear it and I'm sure that the youth who were here today will as well.

Mr. Speaker, the youth demonstrated to shed light on the current climate crisis in the hopes to stimulate action. One item that they're requesting our government to do is to increase efforts in educating the public on the climate crisis. I would like to ask the Premier: will the government follow through with this request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we do that right now. We have the EnergyWise program and we have other programs. One of the ads that have been on TV is the guy ice fishing with the heaters all the way around, which is the same as having your house open with the furnace cranked right up and the window open, and stuff like that.

We have educational programs where we're trying to get Nunavummiut to do the small things to try to use less energy; turn lights off that aren't needed. Like I said, don't have the windows and door open. As a government we're doing our share to try to make buildings and houses more energy efficient. We're doing the best we can. We want to educate Nunavummiut to use less energy because we have to use energy. It's just a fact of life, but if we use less, that means we don't have to produce as much. If we don't have to produce as much, then we will use less fossil fuel.

We care about our planet. It's the only home we've got. We don't have plan B if our home, this planet, is not working out. We have to use it well and it has to be here for a very long time for us to use it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Your second and final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again thank the Premier for that response. Another one of the items that the youth are calling on our government is to introduce a motion to declare a climate emergency. Governments across Canada, from Parliament to municipalities, have

already done so. I would like to ask the Premier: will he also be fulfilling this request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what the definition of an emergency is. Climate change is being felt the most in the north. We all see it. We hear it. We feel it. In terms of us Nunavummiut, what we can do, our capacity is pretty limited. We live in this world. We live in a small corner of this world where it's being affected the most, but a lot of the factors that affect us are being happened even outside of Canada. The biggest emitters are not from Canada.

We want to do our part to limit what we put in the atmosphere in terms of carbon and try to make our carbon footprint as small as we can. I encourage all Nunavummiut to do their share. Like I said, if we all do the little things, it will all add up to make a difference in terms of the amount of carbon footprint we have in Nunavut.

As for declaring it an emergency, I'm not sure what it would do. We only have so much resources here. There are limited things we can do, but we're doing the best we can with the little things that we can do to try to make a difference up here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time, Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

### **Question 545 – 5(2): Municipal Bylaws**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Acting Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, I have been asking questions since our winter sitting about the status of the City of Iqaluit's new land administration bylaw, which the elected council approved in November of last year.

As the minister is aware, the new bylaw includes new eligibility and procedures for residential ballot draws that will prioritize Inuit and long-term residents of the city. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Department of Justice has raised concerns about the bylaw, which has resulted in a delay in it being approved by the government. Can the minister clarify the nature of his concerns about the bylaw? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Acting Minister of Justice, Hon. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As acting, I'm going to claim that I don't have knowledge of every little detail of the department I'm serving. Therefore one of the rare things is I'm going to take this as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** The minister has taken the question as notice. I will move on to the next member on my list. (interpretation) Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the

second time, Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Question 546 – 5(2): Community Learning Centres**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

This document was tabled yesterday. I haven't read the whole thing, but the contents are interesting. For example, page 21 refers to the college. I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) "Several factors affected the College's ability to provide its ABE-core program in communities, including limited space in some community learning centres." (interpretation) When it is mentioned here, I totally agree about the lack of space in Arviat for many years, and it hasn't been mentioned when the community learning centre would be renovated, extended, or replaced with a new facility.

My first question is: looking at the community learning centres, how does the college determine which ones need to be worked on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have assessed each community learning centre, or rather (interpretation ends) a thorough assessment (interpretation) to put it another way, in pretty well every community as the need is large. This winter the MLA for Gjoa Haven spoke about the floor sinking at their centre

while students were attending classes. We are still reviewing these centres and which community has the most urgent cases. This is still under review. However, (interpretation ends) I'm committed to making a big difference for our campuses throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I do understand that there are urgent fires to put out in terms of learning centres with issues, but I feel that we shouldn't penalize communities for having good building maintenance. I think there should be other factors considered in terms of which communities see upgrades to their learning centres and see renovations or new learning centres altogether.

In terms of the analysis that the college is doing, will the college be sharing or, to use an education term, will the college be showing their math in terms of which communities get new learning centres and why? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we have a program or project on the go with which community is getting what, we consult with the regular members on the other side of the House and we try to give a thorough explanation why this community needs it more than community A. I think he's quite aware of the processes. We continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am aware of the process and the process isn't very clear when it comes to Nunavut Arctic College and how they decide on the community learning centres. We will use the Department of Education for example. They publish utilization rates for all their schools and the ones that have the highest utilization rates get prioritized for new schools in the communities. That seems to be a clear process.

What I'm envisioning is some sort of a similar process for Nunavut Arctic College. I understand that they are going around and looking at the needs in communities. I will ask the minister again: will the minister commit to showing the college's math and publishing the data that will explain the infrastructure decisions on community learning centres across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This takes time to do such, but I will commit to the members, when we have a thorough assessment on all our CLCs, I will work with the members to inform the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. We will proceed on to Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

## Item 7: Written Questions

### Written Question 034 – 5(2): QEC Solar Panel Project

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and it is on the QEC's solar panel pilot project in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and at the benefit of saving time, I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

**Purpose:** It is known that burning diesel has negative impacts on the environment, including air pollution, greenhouse gas emission, and fuel spills.

As Nunavut is almost completely reliant on fossil fuel for power, diesel generators are constantly spewing out greenhouse gases, which are contributing to climate change, while the Arctic is seeing the most dramatic impacts.

The average electricity price in Canada is about 11 cents per kilowatt-hour, while in Kugaaruk the price for a residential customer is currently \$1.12 per kilowatt-hour, more than 10 times the national average.

Renewable energy generation systems offer an environmentally friendly approach to producing electricity in Nunavut. Solar energy potential in the territory is comparable to the amount of solar energy that reaches southern Canada while the investment in the area is not.

Although installation costs of solar panel projects are high due to the cost of transporting equipment to the territory, the use of renewable solar systems results in energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

I would like to request information on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Iqaluit solar panel pilot project to make this information public and encourage others to invest in renewable energy in Nunavut.

### **Panels**

1. What solar panel make and model was selected for the Iqaluit project?
2. Why did the Qulliq Energy Corporation select these particular solar panels?
3. How does this specific solar panel compare in quality to other makes and models?
4. How did the Qulliq Energy Corporation decide that 11 panels would suffice?

### **Inverter**

5. What inverter make and model was selected for the Iqaluit project?
6. Why did the Qulliq Energy Corporation select this specific inverter?

### **Location**

7. How did the Qulliq Energy Corporation determine the location of the panels?

### **Installation**

8. What certified electrical contractor was hired to install the system?

9. Why was this company chosen to perform the installation?
10. Were any local technicians or Qulliq Energy Corporation employees trained on solar installation or operation as part of the project? If so, what did the training involve?

### **Inspection**

11. Who performed the final inspection?
12. What were the results of the inspection?

### **Cost**

The Qulliq Energy Corporation reported that the total project cost \$73,000.

13. What was the purchase price of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
14. What was the transportation cost of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
15. What was the installation cost of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
16. What other costs were included in the \$73,000 total project cost?

**Other**

17. Have the solar panels performed as expected?
18. Can the Qulliq Energy Corporation share the total energy generated from this project so far, as well as how much energy the panels generate each month?
19. What lessons did the Qulliq Energy Corporation learn from the project?
20. Has the pilot project helped the Qulliq Energy Corporation to develop other potential renewable energy projects?
21. If the project were to be repeated, what would be done differently?
22. Are the results from this project helping to inform the Qulliq Energy Corporation on how to shape their renewable energy policies as they move forward?
23. What other relevant information would Nunavummiut gain from the Qulliq Energy Corporation's solar panel project?
24. What sort of maintenance has been required on this solar project and at what cost?
25. Does the Qulliq Energy Corporation have end-of-life concerns for solar energy systems?
26. How long do they expect the panels to last and can they be recycled at the end of their lifetime?
27. Will the Qulliq Energy Corporation roll out any incentive programs to assist Nunavummiut to take part in the net metering program?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is requesting that his written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement and the written question is entered as read.

Written Questions. Item 8. Oh. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Written Question 035 – 5(2): NAC  
Solar Power System**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next written question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and is also in relation to the solar panel or solar power system.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

**Purpose:** Nunavut Arctic College first installed solar panels on its main building in 1995. The 20-year-old installation has been producing 200 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, or enough to power one classroom for a year, according to a CBC article which also stated that despite being two decades old, most of the 60 panels are still active and working at about 70 to 75 percent capacity.

A report titled *Performance Monitoring of the Nunavut Arctic College PV System: Nine Years of Reliable Electricity Generation* concluded that “The PV system has worked reliably and well during its first nine years of operation...On an annual basis, the system performs at 70% of its rated capacity, which corresponds to a typical value obtained for PV systems installed at lower latitudes. This shows that PV systems can perform just as well in

Northern climates.”

Renewable energy generation systems offer an environmentally friendly approach to producing electricity in Nunavut.

I would like to request information on the Iqaluit solar project to make this information public and encourage others to invest in renewable energy in Nunavut.

### **Panels**

1. What solar panel make and model was selected for the Iqaluit project?
2. Why did Nunavut Arctic College select these particular solar panels?
3. How does this specific solar panel compare in quality to other makes and models?
4. How many panels were installed and how was that number determined?

### **Inverter**

5. What inverter make and model was selected?
6. Why was this specific inverter selected?

### **Position**

7. How did Nunavut Arctic College determine the position of the panels?

### **Installation**

8. What certified electrical contractor was hired to install the system?
9. Why was this company chosen to perform the installation?
10. Were any local technicians trained on solar installation or operation as part of the project? If so, what did

the training involve?

### **Inspection**

11. Who performed the final inspection?
12. What were the results of the inspection?

### **Cost**

13. What was the purchase price of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
14. What was the transportation cost of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
15. What was the installation cost of the
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. Other?
16. What other costs were included in the total project cost?

### **Other**

17. Have the solar panels performed as expected?
18. What is the total energy generated from this project so far?
19. How much energy do the panels generate each month?
20. What lessons did Nunavut Arctic College learn from the project?
21. If the project were to be repeated,



- what would be done differently?
22. Are the results from this project helping to inform Nunavut Arctic College on how to shape their renewable energy policies as they move forward? Is the learning from this project helping Nunavut Arctic College to develop other renewable energy projects?
  23. What other relevant information would Nunavummiut gain from Nunavut Arctic College's solar panel project?
  24. What sort of maintenance has been required on this solar project?
  25. Does Nunavut Arctic College have end-of-life concerns for solar energy systems?
  26. How long do they expect panels to last and can they be recycled at the end of their lifetime?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is requesting that his written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement and the written question is entered as read.

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. There is none. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member Main.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 183 – 5(2): Photographs of Old Power Plant in Whale Cove**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have photographs I took previously that I wish to table, and I took these photographs while visiting Whale Cove. The first picture shows the original building under the Northwest Territories, in English (interpretation ends) the old NCPC power plant, (interpretation) where they know the lot and surrounding land is heavily contaminated by old fuel spills.

I have sent out correspondence on this issue to the Minister of Environment and copied the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation about the same issue, as this requires intensive cleanup. The lot is situated right in the core of the community of Whale Cove. This dilapidated building is definitely an eyesore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

#### **Tabled Document 184 – 5(2): Statutory Report on Wildlife to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Section 176 of the Wildlife Act 2018**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the 2018 Statutory Report on Wildlife to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, section 176 of the *Wildlife Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Acting Minister for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Tabled Document 185 – 5(2): QEC Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I stand here today tabling on behalf of our colleague. I am tabling the Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Tabled Document 186 – 5(2): Photographs from Whale Cove Airport**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Another set of photographs I took while in Whale Cove are ones that I also want to table. These are photographs of the cracks at the Whale Cove Air Terminal Building, which you will see upon entry.

This seems designed for visitors to see, and it shows how communities are treated differently, which is quite noticeable, Mr. Speaker. We all know of the extravagance here, as they spent (interpretation ends) hundreds of thousands of dollars (interpretation) towards the beautification of the facility spent by our government.

However, to use Whale Cove as the example of divergence, the building was allocated during the days of the NWT, yet it stands as a reminder of the (interpretation ends) Northwest Territories, (interpretation) when Whale

Cove was last allocated a new facility. Smaller communities are ignored and I want them to be recognized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I see none. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aivilik, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* in response to the report of the Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly on the *Education Act* and subsequent consultations with stakeholders, including designated Inuit organizations, district education authorities, and the community at large. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. (interpretation) Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to just speak to the principle of the motion. I would just like to note for the record that the Department of Education has put a huge amount of work into this bill. I would like to thank the department for visiting my communities as part of the work that went into that bill, and I look forward to a very healthy dialogue with all Members of this Assembly on this important matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 25 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items before the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is none. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. I see none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day:*

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

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

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members, a reminder to join me and the Commissioner of Nunavut at 6 p.m. for the Order of Nunavut investiture ceremony.

This House stands adjourned until  
Thursday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:00*

