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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
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(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
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Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)
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*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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Energy; Minister of Environment;
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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)
*Minister responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister responsible
for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
*Government House Leader; Minister
of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

Cathy Towtongie
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Michel Albert

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 23, 2019****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joëlie Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before we begin our meeting today, can you say the opening prayer, please, Member Netser.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Member Netser, for saying the opening prayer. Moving on with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Acting Government House Leader, Minister Akeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 294 – 5(2):****Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. David Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Quttiktuq. Particularly in Arctic Bay, Terry and Rita, my condolences to you and you are in my thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to advise members that our colleague, Elisapee Sheutiapik, will be absent from the House from October 23 to 25, 2019 for medical travel.

During the minister's absence, any queries related to Family Services can be directed to me and for the Qullit Status of Women to Minister Ehaloak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 295 – 5(2):
Influenza Prevention**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the days get colder and nights longer, it won't be long before influenza season, or the flu season, is here. The influenza virus occurs annually across Canada, typically throughout the fall and winter months. The Department of Health encourages Nunavummiut to speak to their health care providers to learn more about how to protect themselves from the flu.

Mr. Speaker and members, in flu season, prevention is the best medicine, and getting your annual flu shot is the most effective form of prevention. Health's influenza vaccination program is free to everyone in Nunavut. We can all work together to fight the continuing spread of this contagious virus with the help of the annual flu vaccine. It is one of the most effective and safest ways to protect ourselves, our families, and our community from the flu and other serious flu-related illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the flu is a respiratory illness that cannot be fought off using antibiotics. Those with weak immune systems, such as our elders and young children, are most at risk. It is for this reason that we need to prepare as a community to prevent the spread of the flu virus. The flu virus changes all the time; it is important to receive the annual vaccine to fight the various strains that are circulating. Mr. Speaker and members, I received the vaccine last year, and I'm happy to share that this afternoon in the foyer I will once again be receiving my annual vaccine to help protect my family, friends, and my community against the flu.

In addition to getting vaccinated, Health encourages Nunavummiut to wash their hands frequently, cover their mouths when they cough, and stay home to rest when they are feeling unwell. The flu vaccine is now available for free in all of our health centres throughout the territory. I encourage everyone, including guests and media, to join me at the break to get your flu vaccination in the foyer and set an example for our communities. Let's work together to beat the flu this season and keep our communities safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 296 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Conference

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. To all Nunavummiut, I say "good day."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share information about the upcoming Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Conference that will be hosted by the Department of Culture and Heritage in Iqaluit on October 29 and 30, 2019. This workshop will bring together Government of Nunavut employees interested in learning more about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and about how to implement *Iviqtippalliajut*.

Mr. Speaker, it will be led by elders and focus on Inuit Maligait Piquqituqavut Inuuttiarnirmut, Inuit Customary Laws for Well-being. Participants will also discuss how to incorporate culturally relevant practices in the work they do.

Mr. Speaker, the department is pleased to have the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit in attendance for this conference. The elders will contribute their knowledge and expertise, and will be available to answer participants' questions.

Mr. Speaker, we will use this opportunity to celebrate the creation of a book on *Inuit Maligangit* collected by Igloodik elders and the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit.

Mr. Speaker, this conference is a way to support Government of Nunavut employees towards a better understanding of culturally relevant ways they can provide programs and services to Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik. Ma'na. Koana.*

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 297 – 5(2):
Board of Directors**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat, as well as members and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and achievements of the current Nunavut Housing Corporation Board of Directors. The board provides strategic and financial oversight on NHC governance issues and has a forward-thinking role. I thank them for that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the board oversees corporate management functions and reviews and approves spending plans for capital, operations and maintenance. Board members also continue to be active in lobbying their corporation's interests.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation currently has three vacancies on the board. The NHC had advertised the three-year term positions and applications were accepted earlier this fall. Officials are now reviewing the applications and will appoint members this fall. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to welcoming qualified members on the board in the near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 298 – 5(2): Air
Transportation in Nunavut**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe all Members of this House have shared similar concerns about the merger of First Air and Canadian North, and what this will mean for the affordability of air travel and the level of service that is available in our communities. Now that the merger review is completed, later today I will table my department's submission into the merger review processes.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during the Transport Canada review process, my department advocated for conditions to be in place that would benefit Nunavummiut. I can proudly say that our efforts were successful. Transport Canada has been very responsive to our recommendations. We are pleased with the conditions in place to benefit and protect Nunavummiut. These conditions include no price increases beyond those related to operating costs, no reductions to weekly schedule options, accountability measures to the Minister of Transport, as well as committing to increasing Inuit representation.

Mr. Speaker, another one of the conditions that the federal government placed on the merged airline is the creation of an independent advisory board. My department is represented on this board, which reports to the Minister of Transport Canada on compliance with the terms and conditions of the merger. The staff who are monitoring the merged airline are well qualified and will closely follow any changes to prices, routes, and schedules.

In addition to the conditions placed on the merged airline by Transport Canada, there are also requirements in the new Government of Nunavut medical and duty travel contract, which applies to the merged airline in the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk regions and Calm Air in the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, under the new medical and duty travel contract, a minimum of half of the seats on flights will be available as economy class tickets. These will be sold at a discounted price as long as they are booked at least two weeks in advance. The merged airline has also voluntarily promised “regular seat sales.”

Mr. Speaker, another benefit supported by these changes in our airline industry will begin on November 1. The merged airline has announced an improved schedule, with better connections between our territory and both Ottawa and Edmonton.

(interpretation) I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Members of the Legislative Assembly for their detailed questions and engagement in the airline merger process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehloak.

**Minister’s Statement 299 – 5(2):
Minimum Wage Survey**

Hon. Jeannie Ehloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to have this

opportunity to provide my colleagues with an update regarding the department’s review of the minimum wage in Nunavut.

It is important to distinguish between the minimum wage and the “living wage.” Minimum wage is the lowest hourly rate an employer can pay an employee, but it does not prevent an employer from paying a higher hourly rate. The minimum wage covers all sectors, including young employees new to the workforce. Setting the minimum wage in Nunavut is not meant to meet the living wage but to protect employees from being unfairly compensated for their work. This rate was last increased in Nunavut on April 1, 2016 and is currently \$13 an hour.

The department reviews the minimum wage on an annual basis and tables those reports in this House. In the 2018 report it identified the need to consult with Nunavummiut in preparation for an increase to the minimum wage. On September 30 we launched an online survey, which is intended to collect data and the opinions of Nunavummiut. The survey will also be available in communities in hard copy through our income support offices as well as the government liaison offices.

In conducting our review, it is equally important that we consider the impact that the increase of minimum wage may have on small businesses in Nunavut. Increases to the operational costs for these business may have unintended negative impacts on their ability to provide goods and services to Nunavummiut. For this reason, officials from the department have reached out to our local businesses to ensure we collect

all necessary information to determine an appropriate increase to the minimum wage that supports workers and keeps businesses viable. Once we have collected the information, it will be carefully reviewed to determine the most appropriate increase for our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to participate in this review by taking our survey. I look forward to reporting back to this House in 2020 on our findings and a decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on with the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 448 – 5(2): Improving Health Care Delivery

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

This week I stated that when an elder went to see a nurse, they were told, "You are not going to die tonight." I found that appalling.

I fully know that the minister provides help and I am well aware that some nurses provide excellent help, but there needs to be an improvement in health care in Nunavut in my opinion. Many of us Inuit have noticed that Inuit go back and forth to see the nurse and when they are sent to receive care, they are told that

they have cancer. It's now too late for them. They are then returned home, being told that they have cancer.

The other issue is that when we go to the health centre, Inuit are told many times, "If you take Tylenol, you will get better."

I am in full support of the Minister of Health to find ways so that there is early diagnosis and treatment of cancer for Inuit who go to the health centre. It is of importance to Nunavut and I am well aware that there are many nurses in Nunavut, but in the smaller communities we must find ways to make sure that the nurses are not overworked. I fully support our Minister of Health and I can see the hard work that he is doing in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 449 – 5(2): Supports for Children and Youth

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I say "good afternoon" to my colleagues and visitors in the gallery, as well as people of Pangnirtung who are watching the proceedings.

I rise today to speak about the question I will be asking during question period. I would first like to thank the Minister of Family Services for her statement on October 17 regarding October being National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is

important that we recognize that our frontline workers who are called upon to address a wide variety of situations must have skills to respond appropriately and safely to incidents of abuse and violence.

(interpretation) It is important that children and youth are in a safe environment in our communities. People who can provide help need to be available in the communities. Further, our youth must have this information provided to them in an understandable context.

(interpretation ends) I applaud the work of such agencies as the Umingmak Child and Youth Centre, which is based here in Iqaluit. It's providing support to children and youth who have experienced harm and trauma within our territory. However, there are a high number of social issues within our communities. Not all children and youth can be flown out of their communities to receive the kind of specialized support that is provided here in Iqaluit at the Umingmak Centre. We also understand that children need to be with families in the communities and in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that greater effort needs to be made to provide specialized support, counselling, and guidance in our communities to the children and youth who are living with the after-effects of trauma. Mr. Speaker, while I greatly appreciate the dedication of our community social services workers in addressing these issues, they cannot be alone.

At the appropriate time I will be asking the question on this issue.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 450 – 5(2): Fibre Optic Project

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, ministers, (interpretation) as well as visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, slightly over a year has passed in the House since the Legislative Assembly approved \$126 million for a fibre optic cable megaproject. This was approved in the House. Personally I wasn't on board with supporting the project, but I too voted to approve this project. Nevertheless, after this year passed, we received notification that the project cost jumped commensurate to increased costs and now is estimated at \$209 million.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the period of one year we have a megaproject in this territory, a megaproject that went from \$126 million to \$209 million. This is based on the substantiation sheets from the government. I'm just going to let that sink in for a minute.

It's unacceptable. I look at my colleagues here and we have a lot of suggested uses for \$80 million, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Main: In fact in the government's own long-term infrastructure plan the same pot of funding where that fibre optic money is coming from, from the

federal government, it lists housing projects, group homes, elders' care facilities, and community learning centres. Mr. Speaker, these are just examples to show the opportunity cost that we run into when projects are subject to cost overruns or increases in the estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I'm really unhappy that I have to ask these questions today and I do support fibre optic infrastructure for Nunavut and for our capital city for that matter, but I think it's clear that this government has to manage megaprojects like this properly and, if we don't, then the whole territory pays the price.

I will have questions for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 451 – 5(2):
Wastewater and Solid Waste
Management**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as my colleagues and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again raise concerns about the issue of wastewater and solid waste management in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that every member in this House agrees on the importance of protecting our

environment. An important part of this work is ensuring that our communities have proper wastewater and solid waste management infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to my attention from the community of Taloyoak about ongoing problems in this area. People have been raising concerns about the community's sewage lagoon and the leakage of raw sewage into the environment. They are also concerned about the risks posed to wildlife or marine wildlife.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 452 – 5(2):
Planning for Long-term Care**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme frustration and dissatisfaction with the government's approach to addressing the long-term care needs of our Nunavut elders.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Ms. Kamingoak: Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the *Hansard* from last week Thursday, I see that in response to questions asked by my colleague from Arviat, the minister indicated that there

is a need to “build larger, more efficient facilities” and that we are “looking at regional centres.”

Mr. Speaker, where is the rationale for this decision? Where is the long-term care plan? Where is the consideration for initiatives that have already been brought forward to address the long-term care needs across Nunavut?

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have worked hard on behalf of the community of Kugluktuk, which has brought forward a very comprehensive proposal to build a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk. The funding for the building has been secured. The site has been identified and acquired. Plans are in place to begin training, yet our government continues to ignore this option.

Mr. Speaker, I have been given to understand that non-profit organizations in other communities like Iqaluit have also prepared well-thought-out plans for long-term care facilities, only to be rejected out of hand.

Mr. Speaker, the government has not produced a comprehensive plan for the future of long-term care across Nunavut. The government has suddenly brought forward a brand-new project while ignoring the work and effort that has gone into other proposed projects such as Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Kamingoak, please

proceed.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

To make matters worse, if I understand the minister’s comments correctly, existing care facilities in communities which are not regional centres like Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Baker Lake will all be closed down. Jobs will be lost and community involvement will disappear.

However, since the government has not produced a comprehensive plan to address long-term care needs across Nunavut, it is not clear whether the long-term impact of its current decisions have even been considered.

Mr. Speaker, I have expressed my frustration. I have given reasons for my dissatisfaction. I would dearly love to express my anger at the government’s decision in no uncertain terms, but I have been advised that they may be considered unparliamentary. Instead I shall be asking questions at the appropriate time. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on with the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 570 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to clarify a response I gave to Member Mr. Rumbolt, Question No. 570 – 5(2), Minimum Wage, during the winter...during the fall... . This is wrong. Sorry. ...during the winter sitting of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite lengthy and detailed and I have provided a copy to the Clerk for distribution to the members and be reflected in the *Hansard*.

Question:

When I raised this issue back in the winter sitting, the minister agreed with me when I stated my position that since Nunavut has the highest cost of living in the country, it should also have the highest minimum wage in the country.

Can the minister assure the House that the minimum wage will be increased before the end of this year and that it will also be the highest in Canada?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

I would like to clarify something I said in the House on October 17, 2019 when speaking to Nunavut's minimum wage. In determining the appropriate increase to the minimum wage, it is necessary for the government to review a variety of factors, including the cost of living and the cost of running a private business in Nunavut.

At the present time we cannot commit to the final amount in which the minimum wage will be set. First, we must do our proper consultation and due diligence to ensure individuals and private businesses

in Nunavut have input and we can determine what impact an increase to the minimum wage will have on Nunavummiut as a whole. We want to ensure an increase to the minimum wage does not negatively affect the viability of small businesses, which are vital to growing our economy and providing employment opportunities within communities.

I did not mean to commit to having the highest minimum wage in Canada, as we are still going through the consultation process. However, I can confirm that we are working hard in this area to benefit all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Let us proceed with our orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people from Arviat sitting over here. Karen Panigoniak, please stand. She is my constituent and I am proud of her. She works for the government, and Adrienne Tattuinee, who is my colleague for Arviat South's constituent. I would like to recognize them. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Amittuq and my colleagues.

I rise today to recognize these young people from Amittuq: Robert Morgan and Victor Pikuyak. It’s too bad they’re across from me, but I would like to recognize them. To my fellow residents of Amittuq, whenever you are in town while we are sitting, please come and see your House to see how it operates. Thank you for coming. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununig, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of my community, the people of Tununig, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize people who used to live in my community and who are now living here. Firstly, Derek Killiktee and Neil Henderson, both of whom have moved to Iqaluit, one to attend school and the other for work. There is also Leesa Sowdluapik, who lived in our community for a while when the late James Arvaluk was the Member for Tununig. Let us welcome them in the House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Always feel welcome here while the members are in session. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When my mother and father were relocated to Grise Fiord, they had children that they moved with, and their first child born there is here. I would like to recognize my older brother, Lazarus Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize people from Rankin Inlet. Behind me is Ms. Dyan White and I would like to recognize her, as well as Lori Kannak and Jackson Lindel. Welcome. Across from me is Ms. Misheralak. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, as you have come here to listen to and watch the members deal with the business before the House. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 607 – 5(2): Supports for Children and Youth

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Department of Health this afternoon.

In my statement I referred to the announcement made by the Minister of Family Services regarding the training of community social service workers to respond to incidents or instances of child sexual abuse.

Can the minister clarify what specific supports and resources are made by the Department of Health to provide specialized mental health counselling to children and youth in the community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member; the more information that we can get out to the public the better.

Mr. Speaker, whenever a family, especially a child or a youth, feels that they are going through something that they cannot deal with on their own, I strongly recommend that they talk to family members and, if necessary, absolutely, go into the health centre and talk to one of our mental health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to higher level needs of care, we work with the SickKids Hospital for telepsychology; also, if necessary, in-community counselling and, if absolutely necessary, out-of-community counselling available.

I strongly recommend that people talk to the health centre staff and they will deal with it one on one on identifying an avenue to access what resources that that child needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully recognize that and I encourage people in the community. The mental health nurses are very busy and they are usually lacking in the communities. Another thing I am concerned about is young children and whether there are mental health workers available in the communities who can speak Inuktitut. We know that that's lacking in the communities. I would like to ask the minister if he can clarify to the smaller communities if there are mental health workers available, including Pangnirtung. What kinds of mental health services are available for children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information readily available of what's in Pangnirtung. I could look it up and get it to the member very quickly, but I just wanted to touch on where there is not, for example, a mental health nurse in a community, there are still mental health workers who can refer the child and family to a mental health professional.

We're working very hard with communities to identify needs and programs. We have worked very diligently through the Quality of Life Secretariat. We have put on proposal

writing workshops, including in Pangnirtung, to help community members solicit other funds for community-led initiatives. I think, when we talk about how we set up the Quality of Life Division within the Department of Health, the whole focus on it was to have the community-level engagement on what types of services that are desired.

I know there have been a number of programs delivered in Pangnirtung and I applaud the community members that are leading these initiatives, and I look forward to ongoing success. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. This will be my final question because we know that some communities, not just Pangnirtung, some of the smaller communities go through unexpected traumatic events and children are experiencing that more and more these days. The numbers seem to be getting higher all the time where children see unimaginable, bad things.

What is the government planning to do to help the communities, especially with mental health issues, anything that has to do with mental health? What sort of planning does the Department of Health have to provide further support to youth and children in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're looking at initiatives in a community and the

services that are available, just to name some of them, mental health assessment, mental health monitoring and case management, mental health and addictions counselling, crisis intervention, suicide risk assessment, safety planning, appointments with visiting psychiatrists, referral of treatment within Nunavut, referral for out-of-territory, medical travel administration, access to youth helplines and elders' helplines/support lines.

I think even more importantly, it's not just the government that's working on this. We work with a number of different partners: Tukisigiavik Society, the Pirurvik Centre, YMCA, Ilisaqivik Society, Pulaarvik Friendship Centre. We also have mobile trauma teams if a traumatic event occurs in a community that we roll out.

I think, most importantly out of all of this, no matter where you are or what you're doing, if you feel you need help, you need to reach out. Go to the health centre. Talk to a mental health worker there and work with that one-on-one direct plan of what's going to help you or your family member get better. There are resources there and we're continuously working on improving them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 608 – 5(2): Update on Memorandum of Understanding with Agnico Eagle

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, of (interpretation

ends) beautiful Qamani'tuaq. (interpretation) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they again concern the memorandum of understanding that was signed in 2017 between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines.

Mr. Speaker, I fully participated at the opening of the new mine near Rankin Inlet at Meliadine and there were some significant contributions made by Agnico Eagle to various local organizations, including \$100,000 to the literacy council.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during the Legislative Assembly's spring sitting, I noted that the memorandum of understanding sets out a number of priority areas of cooperation between the two parties, including the issue of housing.

At that time the minister told the House that he was unable to provide any details concerning specific actions taken by the two parties on this issue. Is the minister in a position today to update the House on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, we arrived at an agreement with Agnico Eagle Mines for specific areas and we want to discuss further details of where we hope to collaborate. I don't have the particular details of the Nunavut Socio-economic Monitoring Report that I can refer to, but at the same time I will

provide information about the regional socio-economic monitoring committees. I will be tabling the report once the details are worked out with Agnico Eagle as the work continues. When the report outlining the details is complete, I shall be tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. The memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines also identifies training as a priority area of cooperation. I know that there are many people who would like to work. Can the minister update the House today on what specific initiatives have been undertaken to date under the memorandum of understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agreement sets out different articles and language stipulating how changes can be made, so we will need to debate it further. Just recently my ministerial colleague for Arctic College recently made an announcement about the mine training centre in Rankin Inlet and it included additional areas where we could possibly offer more training in. There are sections that speak to how we can add more specific training, so this will be our priority for Arctic College and the minister responsible will deal with Agnico Eagle by initiating discussions with the party to finalize the details.

We're from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, with representatives from Family Services as a part of this review group. There are three departments that are working together on the areas within our responsibilities and we need an interdepartmental meeting which started this June. The minister also began undertaking their duties recently. This is just one area I am referencing amongst many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines provides for an oversight committee to identify priorities and consider implementation plans. Can the minister confirm who sits on this oversight committee and can he indicate how many times it has met to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have that level of detail in terms of how many meetings they have had, but I want to assure the members that meetings do take place and there is one being planned for this month with the oversight committee as part of our memorandum of understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 609 – 5(2): Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, the two communities which I represent in the Legislative Assembly have identified the need for modern marine infrastructure as being a priority to support economic growth and job opportunities, especially in the fishing sector.

In 2017 the Government of Nunavut submitted a proposal for a new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq to the Government of Canada for consideration under the National Trade Corridors Fund. Unfortunately the federal government did not approve funding for the project.

Earlier this year the Government of Nunavut submitted another expression of interest to the federal government concerning the project.

For the record, can the minister confirm the reasons why the federal government did not approve this important project for funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, this June the federal minister made an announcement about the approved projects within the, in English,

(interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund. (interpretation) The panel reviews each application and approves or denies it on behalf of the federal government.

We were informed that the Qikiqtarjuaq project was not approved at the moment. I submitted a query as to the reasons why it wasn't approved, but I didn't get a satisfactory answer. I was informed and know that through the National Trade Corridors Fund, there may be more funding available for government applications in the future. We will be able to submit more applications for funding as per that notice and we anticipate that we will be submitting more applications to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that explanation. The most recent proposal for a new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq was developed in partnership with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Will the minister commit to having his officials meet with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to consider ways of resubmitting a proposal to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do wish to work with the Inuit organizations and other stakeholders within Nunavut for important projects that are contemplated. This is indeed very important and we supported the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation

when they submitted their proposal.

If this proposal is resubmitted, it will require our reviewing the matter to see how we can resubmit the proposal and how much funding to apply for. Once I get a clear idea, I will work closely with the other organizations and you, the MLAs, as I want to work with you to finalize these major projects to the federal government. Once the terms are finalized, we will know what we can apply for and at that time I will be able to move forward from that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify how much funding the Government of Nunavut is able and willing to allocate to the planning, design, and construction of a new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal funding proposals had to fall in line with the 2019 capital planning budget cycle as they stated that there would be a fund of \$400 million specifically for the northern territories within the transportation corridor criterion.

Now that the election is over, we just need to wait for a new minister to be appointed. This will be one of the first things I remind my federal counterpart about the need to prioritize accessibility for our northern territories and how capital costs continue to increase and to

try to alleviate the challenges we face. I will try to convey that to the new minister upon their appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 610 – 5(2): Wastewater and Solid Waste Management

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked him questions during the Legislative Assembly's spring sitting about the condition of Taloyoak's sewage lagoon. At that time the minister indicated that work on the sewage lagoon had been delayed. Can the minister update me today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for the question. I do recall discussing this during our meetings. Currently the work on the sewage lagoon in Taloyoak is on hold at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know how I am going to ask this next question

since the project is on hold.

When I raised this issue with the minister during the spring sitting, he informed me that an assessment of the community sewage lagoon was underway. Will he provide a copy of the assessment report to both the Municipal Council of Taloyoak and my office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Dalhousie University is currently conducting research on these lagoons, how they operate and to see how they could be more effective. In terms of the research, we are just waiting for the research and the studies so we can move forward effectively for the sewage lagoons in Nunavut. We need policies in place and there are regulations we must follow. There is research being conducted at this time and we will inform the municipal council and my colleague about the operations of this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also appreciative that we will be informed about the status of the sewage lagoon in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue with the minister during the spring sitting, I also noted that his department had issued a request for proposals in July 2018 for a solid waste management feasibility study for the community of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, in his reply to me on this issue, the minister indicated that the study was scheduled to be completed in October 2019. Mr. Speaker, we are almost at the end of the month. Will the minister provide a copy of this report to both the Municipal Council of Taloyoak and my office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank my colleague for his question. I believe he is asking about landfills and not sewage lagoons. Those projects are going ahead. As I have said in the House, I have been talking about (interpretation ends) bundles; bundle 1, bundle 2, and bundle 3. (interpretation) We are currently following that order. Some of the studies are being completed and when they are completed, the information is compiled and they can then come up with options. Once those are completed, yes, I will provide a copy to my colleague's community and to the other communities as well on the types of plans applicable as each plan is finalized and we will communicate that with each hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 611 – 5(2): Planning for Long-term Care

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues will be aware, I have worked hard to support the community of Kugluktuk in

its plans to build and operate a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk.

Can the minister confirm whether he has taken the time to completely review and fully consider the long-term care facility proposal from the community of Kugluktuk? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have been involved in this. I and staff met with the mayor and SAO and other members of council a few years ago when this project was first being brought forward. As recently as a couple of weeks ago, I have been kept up to date from my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will know from the long-term care facility proposal submitted by the community of Kugluktuk, funding to construct the facility has already been secured from outside sources. Funding for the training of workers and attendants has also been secured, and a site has been identified. The government would only be required to allocate funding for the care services provided, funding that would have to be made available no matter where our elders are living.

Can the minister inform us what specific aspect of the Kugluktuk proposal is not acceptable to his department? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an ongoing negotiation with the hamlet about this facility. I can't negotiate an agreement here in the House, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of correspondence and again as recently in the last week or two with officials with the community on moving this project forward. I'm not sure what more the member wants me to say today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I have listened to the minister's replies, but it is still not clear to me what the government's comprehensive long-term care plan is across Nunavut. Oh, sorry. I'm going to start over. I have listened to the minister's replies, but it is still not clear to me what the government's comprehensive long-term plan for long-term care is across Nunavut. Good, decent, feasible proposals are being rejected. Ongoing, well-established, community-based, and fully functioning care facilities will be shut down. Community-driven efforts are being ignored.

Can the minister clearly explain why he has decided not to proceed with the community's proposal to build and operate a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure where the member is getting the information from that we have stopped or declined any proposals.

Mr. Speaker, when we're negotiating or working with especially something like this, an unsolicited proposal, we have taken and put a lot of resources in from our end to assist the community in their proposal development. Our long-term strategy is to provide health care, especially senior care, in the territory. Right now we have to send people outside the territory for high-level care. We expect, not only do the residents expect, we expect to provide that level of care.

With regard to a plan, in this sitting, we're going to be voting on funds to move a long-term care centre project forward. I have never seen this much activity in the government on moving forward with long-term care in the territory. With the amount of effort, and we all talked about it at our mandate, we recognize the importance of it.

With regard to closing down existing facilities, that's very presumptive. I know I have talked about in the past that where when we have met the need, at some time we're going to have to look at repurposing some of these facilities. That's down the road so far, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to be closing those facilities until the needs are met in the territory. Our plan is obviously to make sure that our seniors get the best care possible.

I'm not sure where the member is getting information that we're declining proposals. We're working very diligently with all stakeholders and partners to move long-term care in the territory forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 612 – 5(2): Mental Health Services for Inuit

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased yesterday to hear the minister's statement on Mental Health Day. It is important to focus on the mental well-being as well as the physical health of our fellow Nunavummiut.

Can the minister provide an update on how many Inuit mental health workers are currently employed by the Department of Health? How many Inuit are mental health workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've got dozens and dozens of positions across the territory. I don't have the breakdown right in front of me right now of how many are Inuit. Our community wellness workers in the communities are an integral part of the mental health service delivery. They're the people in the communities that know the population, that know the local issues and can help direct our more paraprofessional/professional staff on the appropriate resources to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get the information I wanted. I wanted to see how many real Inuit (interpretation ends) mental health workers (interpretation) there are. Mr. Speaker, having mental health counselling and support available in our communities is critical. However, it must also be culturally and linguistically appropriate. Can the minister clarify whether training and resources for mental health workers are available in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what exact curriculum is used, but I'll use an example of one project that we're working with to make sure that Inuit staff are able to consistently and culturally appropriate services in mental health.

With our paraprofessional program that we've got right now, we've got 14 paraprofessionals being trained and provide academic opportunities and training for assistants, youth program facilitators, outreach workers, we've got 14 currently in Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Pond Inlet, and Rankin Inlet and efforts are being made to hire in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with the member. Providing these positions at a local level, like I said in my initial response, is an integral part of people accessing the mental health services to make sure that they're getting the appropriate care. I hope that response is sufficient for the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My main question is regarding real Inuit. I know that there are mental health workers in our communities who can't speak Inuktitut and they're not Inuit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it would seem quite clear that 90 percent, perhaps even 100 percent, of Inuit who require mental health counselling and support need to be able to communicate with another Inuk about the issues that affect them deeply. (interpretation) An Inuk can receive the best support only by using the Inuit culture. When people who can't speak Inuktitut are trying to provide support, sometimes people don't want to approach them anymore.

(interpretation ends) What efforts are being made to ensure that mental health workers in our communities are fellow Inuit, who can speak Inuktitut and who have received linguistically appropriate and culturally relevant training?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program that I had mentioned earlier, the paraprofessional program, is a great example of one of the steps that we're taking to provide more local employment opportunities and making sure not that it's just somebody local filling a seat but they can actually fulfill and accomplish a lot of great things with the proper training and supports. We want to make sure that our residents are being treated by our residents. Mr. Speaker, that's the

endeavour all the way across the health care delivery and all government offices.

The more educational opportunities, the more advancement opportunities that our staff have lessens the burden on having to import work, import expertise; it helps us keep that expertise in the territory moving forward. Mr. Speaker, we're continuously striving to make sure that we have local employment, especially in our health centres, to provide that consistent face, that consistent voice, and that consistent knowledge of people at the health centre so that they can work with the population to make sure that the needs are met. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 613 – 5(2): Enforcement of Court Orders

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and a follow-up on my questions posed during the winter sitting regarding interdepartmental collaboration and enforcement of court orders.

Mr. Speaker, approximately seven months ago it became apparent that there was a lack of communication between the Nunavut Court Services and other government entities that are involved in enforcing court orders.

At that time I asked the Minister of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission as well as the Minister of Justice about the 2016 strategy titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut*, which identified the

need for more interdepartmental communication to support the RCMP and enforce court orders.

My first question for the minister is: in the last seven months, what progress has been made to ensure that Nunavut Court Services shares information regarding court orders with the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission permit office as well as the beer and wine store to prohibit these sales to individuals from purchasing alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. Regarding court orders between the Department of Justice, the RCMP, and the Department of Finance regarding the beer and wine store, we all work together, we collaborate to ensure that those court orders are maintained and ordered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up by asking: if an individual is given a court order today prohibiting them from consuming alcohol, are they able to then go to the beer and wine store and purchase alcohol? Thank you, Madam Chairman...or Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. If an individual received a court order today and went to the liquor store or the beer and wine store to order, yes, they can. Unfortunately there is a process that has to be followed and it would take more than just a couple of days for the departments to collaborate together so that this individual cannot order from the beer and wine store. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sitting in the Speaker's Chair. Your final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seven months ago I was on the same topic and I posed related questions. Specifically, when a child sexual predator is charged and released, they are typically given court orders prohibiting them from frequenting any area where persons under the age of 16 are present, including daycares, school grounds, and playgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask, in the seven months since I posed this question previously, I would like to ask if Nunavut Court Services has since begun sharing those court orders with the Department of Education or school administration or other relevant entities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. Yes, when an individual

has been charged with a child sexual offence or has been released within the community, all facilities; Education, the schools, the DEAs, and individuals that deal with children are notified as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 614 – 5(2): Beer and Wine Stores in Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good afternoon” to everyone.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my questions to the minister earlier on in our sitting, the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store has been described as a pilot project. As I noted, there have been many concerns raised about the extent to which the pilot project has achieved such harm reduction goals as stopping bootlegging and reducing binge drinking.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard numerous concerns from residents about what appears to be a noticeable increase in the number of incidents of public intoxication since the opening of the store. Can the minister indicate what statistics he has received from law enforcement concerning the rate of public intoxication and alcohol-related domestic violence since the opening of the store? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is listed as a pilot project and we’re two years in now, so we are gaining more and more information. One of the things that we have been looking at is data collection from service providers. Right now the indication that we’re getting is that there has not been a statistically significant increase in alcohol-related incidents. However, I will say that there has been a working group put together to compare data collected and determine what additional information might be useful to track an informed decision-making going forward.

I will say that some of the early indications that we’ve got from that data actually contradicts some of the anecdotal reports. Obviously having a beer and wine store here makes people maybe more publicly... . They’re not in bars or licensed establishments drinking. They’re able to consume alcohol at home, as they have always been able to. I’m not getting any firm indicators that we’ve had an increase in any of the topics that the member mentioned. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, and my colleague made a reference to it, the Government of Nunavut’s strategy document titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on

November 8, 2016. The strategy indicates that “Sometimes the courts, justices of the peace, RCMP or other mechanism of Nunavut’s justice system limit, restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol. These restrictions are often put in place after the individual, under the influence of alcohol, has caused themselves or others significant harm. (...) The government will explore how to support court-ordered restrictions on alcohol by:

- ✓ Considering whether the permitting system could help reduce alcohol-related harm by supporting court-ordered restrictions on alcohol...”

My question for the minister is simple: does the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store sell to individuals who are under court-ordered restrictions regarding the consumption of alcohol, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question; it kind of goes along the lines that my colleague, the Minister of Justice, was asked.

Mr. Speaker, no, we do not have a list of people who have court-ordered injunctions against them to not possess or consume alcohol. The beer and wine store, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission is not responsible for enforcement from the standpoint of legal court orders. That being said, it’s a very complicated process. It’s one thing to put, from a group of laypeople, to make suggestions, and there is a desire to help to try to find a way to inform people. At the same time we have privacy

legislation that is very clear on how personal information can be shared.

There are a number of different circumstances. I will just give an example, Mr. Speaker. Let’s say for an example I was court ordered not to consume alcohol today and it ends tomorrow, if my name was on the list at any permitting office or the beer and wine store, I wouldn’t be able to get alcohol today, but how fast does my name come off the list? I could go there tomorrow and legally be allowed to purchase and then my human rights are infringed upon by the beer and wine store or by the permitting office because my name hasn’t been removed from the list. It puts staff in a very awkward position and actually it puts staff in a position where they have information available to them that is not needed and they are not legally entitled to.

It is a little bit more complicated than maybe the understanding of that goal, but there is continual work, as my colleagues stated. Our officials and [we] at cabinet have talked a number of things about alcohol-related incidents. This is something that we are keeping on top of, but it’s not something that is an easy-to-implement process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It makes me wonder a bit about how you’re keeping on top of things if you don’t have a process in place. The quote that I quoted says here that it’s people under the influence of alcohol who have “...caused themselves or others significant harm.” To me that’s a

big thing.

Mr. Speaker, as has been noted by a number of my colleagues, the opening of the beer and wine store has had an impact on our neighbouring communities. Can the minister describe what measures he is using to evaluate the impact that it has had on neighbouring communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every community, as we learned this past week, has regular meetings with the local RCMP, meeting with hamlet officials and people have access to, obviously, attend those meetings.

Mr. Speaker, this was talked about again on Saturday, where you look at what type of impact the beer and wine store has had and there were some direct questions posed to the RCMP. We continuously have dialogue with the RCMP on part of the data tracking of the impact of the beer and wine store.

I know there is a lot of anecdotal evidence out there of maybe more intoxicated people, but from the RCMP standpoint, they are not considering the beer and wine to be the impact. It's still the hard alcohol that's going into these communities, whether legally or illegally, that is contributing to the majority of the cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 615 – 5(2): Cost of Fibre Optic Project

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Department of Community and Government Services.

My colleague for Arviat and Whale Cove was dissatisfied about the fibre optic project. My first question is: with the cost of the project going from \$126 million to \$209 million, was it done through the plan, yes or not? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't clearly understand if it went through a plan, but I can say that when we first reviewed the budget for the project, it was an estimate. As we're moving forward, the cost of the project, as we're reviewing the cost, that's how we arrived at this figure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me provide clarification. (interpretation ends) The Department of CGS had increased the budget from \$126 million to \$209 million. Did it go through the preplanning stages, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working on this for a very long time, as there is no connection through fibre optics in Nunavut. The Canadian government announces funding that can be requested and the money can be used in different ways. When that funding came up where the Canadian government could pay 75 percent and 25 percent would come from somewhere else, we did that and worked on it to see if Iqaluit and Nunavut can be connected to undersea fibre optic cable. That was the estimate that we made and we announced this last year.

The planning has been done and trying to come up to a definitive figure as to how much it would cost. Once we compiled that, it was a class “X” estimate at first and last fall it became a class “B” estimate. Once we got more information, we found out that it would be much more expensive. We requested this money from the federal government and the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn’t get an answer to my question, so I’ll explain further about the letter of September 9, 2018. The Department of Community and Government Services has recognized and considers planning for major infrastructure projects to be very important. It also states that approval is required as to how the project will be built. The letter explains what I’m asking. (interpretation ends) Did the preplanning stages go through the

preplanning? It is just a simple yes or no. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thought that I said that already. I explained it so that you could understand it without just saying yes or no. The plan has to start from somewhere and, if it is preplanning that needs to be done, then it is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members should note that the fibre optic project is before you in the Committee of the Whole as part of your review of the capital where you can ask more detailed questions. I’m just letting the members know. Thank you. For estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, you may wish to save your questions for the Committee of the Whole, as you can ask many more questions in that committee.

(interpretation) Thank you. Oral Questions. Continuing on. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 616 – 5(2): Cost of Fibre Optic Project

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) My question is for the Minister of CGS and it’s on the topic of this fibre optic project.

As I mentioned in my member’s statement, there has been a very big change from one year to the next. I will note for the record that the numbers provided during last year’s capital

budget estimate were a class “A” estimate and that was provided by the department.

My first question for the minister is we all know that we don’t have enough money for the things that Nunavut needs, so this is a very important part of our job as MLA. Can the minister please explain how a project of this magnitude can see such a huge cost increase in the space of one year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding for the project was requested last year. We have been reviewing and working on the project and how much it would cost, and that is why the total has increased, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know what the reason is now for the increase, as the minister stated it’s going to cost more now. What is the reason? Did they put an incomplete proposal in at the beginning or was there a change in which company will install the fibre optic cable? I’m asking the minister to explain the reasons for the increase, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a

number of reasons and unfortunately I don’t have that information in front of me right now. Nonetheless, the studies I referenced identify where the research will occur and how the details of the proposal would be clarified, with the overall prices now settling, as they seem to keep rising.

With respect to funding that can be requested from the Government of Canada, we applied for the maximum extent. I would also like to note that in this fiscal year there will be no funding request for that. We received \$30 million in funding last year, although there won’t be any other funding applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying it further for us. When exactly did CGS find out about the increase in the project costs? (interpretation ends) I will just clarify my question here. It has been about a year since this project went from \$126 million to \$209 million. At what point, at what date, when did the department find out that the costs had gone up? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department determined in May 2019 that the total ICIP funding request to Canada should be increased to \$201.6 million in order to ensure that maximum available federal funding contribution was available for this initiative if required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Motion 049 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Gjoa Haven, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

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

Question 617 – 5(2): Minimum Wage in Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they revolve around minimum wage and a return to oral question earlier today that the minister had given us all. For the record, they were entered into the record as read and we had an opportunity to review them because there was a copy provided to us.

Her return to oral question was in regard to my question on October 17 where I asked the minister if the minister could assure the House that the minimum wage will be increased before the end of the year and that it will be highest in Canada.

The minister's reply on October 17 said, and it was very straightforward, short, and to the point, "...we will have the highest minimum wage in Canada." Now, today in her return to oral question; and I won't read the whole thing but I'll quote from a part of it, it seems to be a change of heart. "At the present time we cannot commit to the final amount in which the minimum wage will be set."

Mr. Speaker, my first question of the day for the record is: was it the minister's idea to backtrack on this commitment or was it advice that she had taken from other people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. It's Speaker. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I did state that Nunavut would have the highest minimum wage in Canada and I apologize for that statement. I should have taken into consideration the small businesses and small companies in Nunavut, that this may have a huge effect on them. After all the consultations and once the survey are complete, we will come up with a recommendation for what that amount will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When ministers commit to things in the House and it gets out in the media and it's publicized across the territory that the government is going to do a certain thing, it would be very appreciated if they could follow through with their

commitments on what they say in the House.

Another part of the return to oral question, the minister stated, “I did not mean to commit to having the highest minimum wage in Canada, as we are still going through the consultation process.”

Mr. Speaker, I fully understand that the minister cannot tell us at this time what the exact amount of the minimum wage will be. My request was for a commitment to ensure that it’s the highest in the country, which could be as low as \$16 or \$17 an hour.

My question for the minister is this: is the minister telling Nunavummiut today that the government is seriously prepared to have a minimum wage in place that is not the highest in Canada even though Nunavut has the highest cost of living in the nation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Allan Rumbolt, for your question. At this time I cannot commit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ll try to get one more commitment out of the minister. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the input her department receives as part of this survey process is tabled and provided to all MLAs?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. That I can commit to. Once the document has been prepared and reviewed by the cabinet, I can commit that we can table that document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Member Qamaniq.

Question 618 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Conference

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Minister of Culture and Heritage indicated that the Department of Culture and Heritage will be hosting a conference on *Inuit Qaujimajangit* on October 29 to 30. They will be focusing on Inuit customary laws or well-being and they also will be discussing how to incorporate culturally relevant practices.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I now want to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage about the programs that target elders and which will use Inuit societal values and traditional Inuit customs and laws. This includes using our social wellness customs. I wonder if this will be the focus of the department when it comes to changing the legislation that is their foundation. I am aware that he is not the Minister of Family Services, as the Government of Nunavut is the funding source for this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. This is my first question from the Member for Tununiq since a long time.

Mr. Speaker, there is a publication called *Iviqtippalliajut* that I tabled in the House for the Department of Culture and Heritage. It highlights through that document how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles can be exercised by the government via their policies and legislation, as well as other operational issues related to service provision. Since we have various resources, we will be meeting with various departments within our government and review the *Iviqtippalliajut* document with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. They will be participating next week with the Department of Culture and Heritage's planned meeting. This will be the review of the family services legislation.

Yes, perhaps this is a question for the appropriate minister when they assume the portfolio. Nonetheless, this *Iviqtippalliajut* document will become the foundation for their policies, legislation, regulations, and other documents that provide directives. Some of them will change and with more emphasis on the needs of Nunavummiut, we may see more in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now having just recently been elected via a by-election, I am hearing about these issues for the first time and since the minister also mentioned the document *Iviqtippalliajut*, I thank the minister for that clarification.

Would the *Iviqtippalliajut* document the minister referred to apply to the various departments where *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles will be developed in the future? At least that is how I understood the answer. Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each department has their own Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinator. There is also a committee called Tuttarviit. The committee meets with the employees of the different departments and they plan how *Iviqtippalliajut* will be implemented. I would also like to say that our deputy ministers work on Inuunivut as part of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate. We have stated that there are different elements of Inuunivut and they meet about that. They try to move things forward with *Iviqtippalliajut* in communities and within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying *Iviqtippalliajut*. I now understand what the department is working on in this area. It will be appreciated that these issues are being

incorporated into legislation, along with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the operations of the Government of Nunavut, which is what I look forward to.

I now want to ask my last question, Mr. Speaker. Once the work with *Iviqtippalliajut* is complete, when will it be given to members? Will it be tabled during the life of this Assembly or the next Assembly? That is what I wanted to ask. Thank you. That is my last question.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question, we have already introduced *Iviqtippalliajut* and it will be used by staff and it can be used by Nunavummiut. It is a framework for how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles will fall into place. Perhaps if I say it like this: how it will be put into government operations, services, and policies. We have already presented *Iviqtippalliajut* and we will start implementing it. With the upcoming conference, there will be more ideas brought out and government employees will have a better understanding, as well as our partners outside of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time the Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 619 – 5(2): Standardized Writing System for Inuktitut

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again. I would also like

to direct my question to the Minister of Languages.

I'm not sure if he spoke to part of this. Last September the president of ITK said that he acknowledged the introduction of a standardized Inuktitut writing system. What I would like to ask is if the government will recognize this roman orthography writing system and use it for their documents and news releases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Languages, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question from the Member for Pangnirtung. Language is a broad and complex issue within Nunavut, and the Inuit language is used not only in Nunavut but in the Inuit circumpolar world. It's called Inuktitut, as we have different dialects. Even if we don't have the same dialect, our language is called Inuktitut to cover every dialect. The term is also used by Taiguusiliuqtiit.

I want it understood that Taiguusiliuqtiit sets the writing system that will be used in Nunavut and we work with them on standardization. We are working with them to see what impact the writing system that Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has come up with will have. However, based on our understanding, roman orthography and syllabics are the two writing systems that are used in Nunavut and we will continue to use them.

If Taiguusiliuqtiit wants a certain system to be used, I expect that direction from them because they're the experts on that. Nonetheless, as a government we are

using both writing systems and we will continue to do so in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that explanation. At the last ITK meeting, I read what the NTI president, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Makivik Corporation, the president of the Nunatsiavut government, and the president of the youth council thought about that and some of them supported the idea of the standardized system. He mentioned part of it. Inuit Tapiriit's roman orthography is used. It seems similar to written English and French. Are you going to be adopting the Inuktut roman orthography and would the writing system used by Inuit change today because many people find it hard to grasp in some ways? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Perhaps in speaking to this writing system, I would note that they are trying to standardize roman orthography previously published by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Further, I want to restate that the (interpretation ends) the Inuit Cultural Institute or ICI standard (interpretation) that we use here in Nunavut will continue to be used. Again this is dual, both for roman orthography and syllabics. However, to reiterate, once the Taiguusiliuqtiit determine and provide direction that only the standard system is going to be

used, we would switch to it. They may deliberate amongst themselves benefits of the ITK writing system, but I can't tell you right now that it would be that way.

I also noted in my review of this new writing system that some of what Nunavut already uses in terms of phonetic sounds remains, but there are also new additions. Perhaps to use this example, in Inuvialuktun or Inuinnaqtun, *piffi* has a double "f." That again is part of the new writing system that would add to the system already in use here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do acknowledge the work done by ITK, as they are showing this to represent Inuit in all of the regions and not just Nunavut. This was a subject of discussion amongst youth levels of understanding and writing systems already in use now. This was also debated throughout the land, not just in Nunavut.

My last question to the minister is (interpretation ends) if there has been any consideration on producing Inuit language material for youth, such as resources and books, for Nunavut schools using the Inuktut *qaliujaaqpait* system. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we use these writing systems such as roman orthography as part of language

curricula work. To use Inuinnaqtun as an example, they primarily use roman orthography and we anticipate that more work will surface in those dialects. We do use the two systems when developing language curricula material. Further, with several distinct and different writing systems both in and outside of Nunavut, perhaps it does lead to confusion.

Nonetheless, based on our understanding, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami created this system to encourage more communication and to ensure Inuit understand each other, whether they live in Nunatsiavut, Inuvialuit, Nunavut, Nunavik, or Greenland. They also use roman orthography and so we use those for educational material. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

Question 620 – 5(2): Addressing Cancer in Nunavut

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you for recognizing me again, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

We have noticed Inuit from across Nunavut with illnesses that keep going back and forth to the health centre, but when they travel down south, they are told that they have terminal cancer. That's how it is. There are many cases like this.

Can there be earlier diagnoses done of cancer in Nunavut? Yesterday when my colleague from Arviat was asking

questions, I heard that there is a (interpretation ends) model of care review (interpretation) that will show how well screening is being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The model of care review didn't have any bearing on cancer treatment or cancer care. We do have our Quality Care Division that continuously looks at enhancing services. We have a number of initiatives here to increase screening. That's obviously what the member is getting to. Catching such a terrible disease such as cancer earlier always gives people a better opportunity to fight it. That's a continual thing that we're working on. Specifically with the colorectal screening right now, it has been a large focus the last couple of years and we have made a number of advances in reducing that wait-list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, in looking at the Canadian pursuit of catching up to the demands on testing using breast cancer screening, I wonder if Nunavut has breast screening tests that would allow women to be screened for cancer prior to the cancer becoming metastasized. Has the Government of Nunavut planned this breast screening stage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, although Nunavut has lower than national average occurrence of breast cancer, it is a focus and there are a number of different discussions going on, on how to improve access to breast cancer screening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that good response. However, the other major concern in the communities is that when people go to the health centre, they are told that if they take Tylenol, they will get better.

Mr. Speaker, I can't hear the interpreters. Is it okay now?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll start over. In considering this, our constituents tell us that when they go to the health centre, they're just told "If you take Tylenol, you will feel better." What's going on here? Is it because we have a shortage of nurses? I personally don't know how this problem can be rectified, but I would like to ask the Minister of Health if this has been reviewed. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Whenever something is prescribed or suggested for medical patients to take or visitors to the health centre, it is based on the medical advice of that time for that occurrence. There are Tylenol protocols that are communicated with regularly in the health centres with health centre staff.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes Tylenol is prescribed for a purpose. Mr. Speaker, I know and we have all heard many anecdotal stories and discussions on maybe Tylenol being prescribed too frequently. It depends on the personal health issue that is being addressed at that time.

I have said it in the past, I will say it again, and I will probably say it again in the future: at the end of the day we know our own bodies, we know if there is something wrong, and to continue to advocate for yourself. If you believe that not enough is being done, you can go to the health centre and talk to the nurses and express that you want a deeper analysis or a second opinion where staffing is available. There are options out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'll recognize for the second time the Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 621 – 5(2): Course Availability in Mental Health

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again. I had questions about mental health, but I will direct my questions to the one who hasn't said much in a while, to the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

We all know that Arctic College provides different programs and they are required to provide career development training programs that are geared towards Inuit, for example, the Teacher Education Program, Nursing Program, and so on. They have to provide different programs and they have

provided programs, but we still have some programs missing.

My main question is: are they going to set up a program for mental health workers who will be fluent in Inuktitut, who will have extensive knowledge of the Inuit culture, or do they have any plans to create a program for mental health workers in the very near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, two days ago I went to the hospital here in Iqaluit. The person who took care of me spoke only in Inuktitut, which I was pleasantly surprised. This individual asked me what my problem was and why I came to the hospital. It's a pleasant surprise when you are provided those kinds of services by our fellow Inuit. I thank the person who has been involved in planning this.

Mr. Speaker, Arctic College is currently setting up a (interpretation ends) 10-year strategic plan. (interpretation) We will be going to the communities to ask them what types of courses or programs they would like to see through Arctic College. We will try to visit all the communities, but that is one of the questions we will ask the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is something that I would like to see. As people of Nunavut, we would like to see even more Inuit mental health workers because more Inuit approach them. We have noticed that mental health workers who don't really know the Inuit culture try to help, but we know that many Inuit don't want to see mental health workers who don't know the Inuit culture. Even though they want to help, when they don't know the Inuit culture and they can't speak Inuktitut, the help they are providing is not very useful.

I know they are trying to work hard, but for that reason, they really need further training so that our language is strengthened. It's good that health care professionals are starting to speak Inuktitut, but when will the study be done and when can we as MLAs expect to see programs delivered to those who can speak Inuktitut and know the Inuit culture? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you for the question. After consulting with the communities... . Maybe if I go back a bit, I meant to say the five-year academic plan. I'm sorry for that. We have a 10-year strategic plan as well. I can't say when we will make an announcement on this because we just initiated the process, but there will be community consultations and surveys can be done through the website on what types of programs you would like to see at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is something I'm looking forward to, but we know that people who work for Arctic College ask the communities what types of programs they want delivered. That's already done, but the last question I'm going to ask is: what does the minister envision for people who will be working for the government? What would be his priorities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to know what my priorities would be because there are many things we need to do. We support the people becoming nurses, social workers, and so on. We have an MOU with Memorial University in Newfoundland. We will work closely with them so that our fellow Nunavummiut can benefit. Arctic College will work with them so that Nunavummiut can gain the skills they need for jobs with the Government of Nunavut because we want to see Inuit taking on high-level positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The time for question period has expired. Continuing on. Written Questions. There are none. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 202 – 5(2): Letter to the Deputy Minister of Transport Canada, Michael Keenan sent December 18, 2018

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the letter to the Deputy Minister of Transport Canada, Michael Keenan, regarding the proposed merger between First Air and Canadian North, sent December 18, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 050 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Friday, October 25, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the very Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the fall 2019 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Motions. Continuing on. First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Second Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickers.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 35 – Medical Profession Act –
Second Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for the registration, licensing, and regulation of medical professionals providing services in Nunavut. It also amends the *Psychologist Act* with respect to telepsychology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the bill will be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Continuing on. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33 with Member Angnakak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, I wish to remind members that in the foyer, if you haven't received your flu vaccination, they will be offering vaccination shots. It is available for members so that you can receive your shots.

With that, before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:52 and
Committee resumed at 16:20*

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Health. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Community and
Government Services –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairperson: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Mr. Kyle Seeley is to my left and to my right is Ms. Constance Hourie. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. For a reminder, we are doing Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. J-3. Any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon/evening. I've just got a few short, simple questions. My first question is in relation to the Rankin Inlet Utilidor System. I do notice that on page 2 the current budget will not necessarily correct all of the repairs required and CGS will prepare another submission for funding in future years. The first question is: how much of the utilidor is being replaced under this current project and how much will the department be looking at replacing in future years? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different parts of the utilidor system in Rankin Inlet that are having some major issues in terms of the thaw-and-freeze cycle and those areas will be the first priority. There are two loops, I believe, that are causing a majority of the issues at this point, so those will be tackled. I just don't know exactly how many percent of the system that will entail. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation) I'm not male.

Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll move on to my next question and it's in regard to the South Baffin Energy Management Project. On page 2 under the scope, under the last bullet it mentions that the scope includes items such as renewable energy initiatives, such as solar domestic hot water, solar air heating, and solar photovoltaic. I would just like to enquire where specifically solar PV will be incorporated. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm sorry if I didn't address you correctly in the previous conversation.

Madam Chairperson, the plans to work on the energy projects is varied. Maybe if I could have Mr. Seeley respond to the particular details of that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. The South Baffin Energy Management Project is part of the Nunavut Energy Management Project and photovoltaic and/or solar energy initiatives will be acquainted to any facilities where they're going to generate enough alternative energy to offset the actual fuel costs that we're currently dealing with.

Of course the seasonal nature of

photovoltaic does limit its use in certain capacities within the north, but certainly where the technology is viable from a savings perspective, from both a financial perspective and/or carbon perspective would be considered within the project.

Within the South Baffin initiative, facilities within Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Sanikiluaq would be eligible facilities; again, GN owned and operated facilities for those photovoltaic upgrades. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Seeley, for that information. I'm always grateful for energy initiative projects such as this, and as I mentioned yesterday during my opening comments, I was really grateful for the introduction of the Municipal Alternative Energy Program. I was also very excited when I read this last bullet in the scope. I just want to request for next year's substantiation sheet when CGS returns next year if you would be able to include any targeted facilities that may potentially incorporate solar photovoltaic systems. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think it's the wish of CGS to provide as much information on the projects that we are working on within our department, and most definitely we will provide you, if you

wish, maybe through your Chair, the updates on this and other projects that might be of interest. We will provide it as soon as it becomes relevant or complete and able to do so, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I'll move on to my next question. It's in relation to the communication technology infrastructure upgrades. Reading over in the summary and the rest of the information in the substantiation sheet, it clearly explains that there is a need for these capital funds to upgrade and replace communication and other IT-related systems, but I wasn't able to clearly identify what exactly these funds are for. I would just like to ask if the minister would be able to provide a little bit more detail on this \$3.5 million project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, of course. Madam Chairperson, as technology seems to change every time I walk down the aisles of the store, you see new cellphones popping left, right, and centre, and so is the communications network and our government is trying to keep up with that. It often becomes difficult.

In terms of improving our communications technology upgrades, we are looking at expansion and

replacement of primary infrastructure because the applications systems and related hardware, such as servers, routers, and work stations that are in existence today, have exceeded the manufactured lifecycle, so it's a lot of that. Also, application systems due to being obsolete cannot be expanded to take advantage of new technologies within the marketplace, so we have to sometimes change out that whole system. That is where that funding is being put throughout the government stations in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that information. I agree that the Government of Nunavut needs to maintain up to date with all of our IT systems. I just have a request of the minister. Next year when the minister provides the next request, I would like to ask if it would be possible for the minister to provide a little bit of detail of some examples of what the funding was used for. I don't want to see a full detail of how the whole \$3.5 million was spent; just a few examples of what the funds were used on. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate the question. Most definitely, Madam Chairperson, I have committed to this House that our department is working to ensure that as much information that we could relay to the colleagues as possible, we will and this is one of them. I'm

currently drafting a letter to the Regular Members' Caucus and it includes some of these very things that you're requesting that our department will pursue to bring forth and get ahead of the curve. We're providing you with information you may wish that you may not know about yet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll move on to my next topic and it's the Small Communities Fund administration. In the minister's opening comments he had mentioned that this fund will be used to offset salary expenses, I believe. I was under the impression that Vote 2 funds were not applicable to compensation and benefits expenses. I just wanted to seek clarification on that. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I could have my deputy minister maybe respond to that, Mr. Seeley, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. The administrative component of the SCF funding, just for the clarity on O&M versus the capital, the nature of the SCF is that it's a matching dollars program and because it is an infrastructure program that we receive that funding

through, we need to match that towards the federal contribution with the same coloured money. It needs to be matched through our capital as well.

Within each of the federal agreements, we have seen a trend of increased acknowledgement of the importance and just how vital it is to have adequate administrative staff available to assist with the administration of the number of infrastructure projects that we're taking on.

To the member's question, it comes down to the type of money that the federal partners are contributing to us. We need to match it with that same type of money or category of funding. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Seeley. I understand that this is a requirement of the federal contribution agreement.

My next question is: is this \$95,000 going to sort of offset several positions that will be administering this fund or would it be specifically tied to one specific position? Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Ms. Hourie will respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. Those funds will be applied to two positions, a planning officer in the Infrastructure Branch and a senior planning officer in the Community Infrastructure Division, along with other costs for the audits that need to occur under that fund, as well as communications, etcetera. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Sorry if I mispronounce your name. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Ms. Hourie. I'll move on to my next topic and I have saved the best for last. My next line of questioning is in relation to the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund. As I had previously mentioned, I was really happy and grateful to see this initiative. I think that if Nunavut is going to move or reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, it will require some sort of government incentive and this is exactly what we need. My first question is: will this funding be made available to all 25 communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, it will be available to all the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that

response. My next question, on page 2 of the substantiation sheet, at the very first line under the business case summary, it indicates that in response to municipal interests as well as the requirement to show the distribution of carbon tax revenues, CGS is proposing this new funding. This is my first time hearing about requirements to show distribution of carbon tax revenues. I was just curious if there are any other requirements attached to carbon tax revenues. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think that question would be better responded to by the finance department, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you for that response. I will definitely be referring that question to the appropriate minister.

When I was reading the substantiation sheets, I noticed that the funding... I'm sorry. CGS will be accepting applications as of April 1. My question is: has the minister been in talks with municipalities to see how much interest there is in this fund or if they have been able to start the application in advance of the April 1 deadline to allow them sufficient time to complete the application in order to take advantage of the funding within that fiscal year? Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate the line of questioning on this. This is going to be a very interesting project or projects as they start to roll out in each municipality that wants to take advantage of this program. I hope this is the start, like you colleague, that this will be a start to municipalities and businesses wanting to get into more green energy within their communities or in their businesses.

Right now we are preparing to have meetings with the mayors and municipal administrators. We have workshops and meetings coming up in November. At that time we will be working with them to talk about some possible ideas on this and also to hear feedback from the administrators and the municipal councillors or mayors to see how they would like to see this shaped. Those discussions are forthcoming. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For my last question, I was curious if there are plans to expand this type of program to allow for homeowners as well as small businesses to apply for similar types of funding. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It would be good to see a program for those different

sectors, but right now we are concentrating on municipalities, to work with them and get this going. Maybe there will be funds in the future that would allow us to work with through different agencies within government to work with the private sector and the homeowners and stuff like that.

Right now, as of this moment, on this project, we're concentrating our efforts on municipalities and their infrastructure needs. Maybe from there it will grow legs and bear fruit and be able to expand to other areas. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. That's okay. Mr. Quassa, you're next on the list.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister.

Perhaps I'll start with this. One of the priorities in your department's business plan is how to improve water sources in the communities, as in (interpretation ends) a "strategy framework." (interpretation) You wrote a letter to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on February 6, 2019 explaining the drinking water strategy that a territorial advisory group is dealing with, if I'm making sense. It's a (interpretation ends) territorial water advisory group.

(interpretation) To date, what is the current status of the work to complete a territorial drinking water strategy? I would like to find out where exactly that is at now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Quassa. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm glad my colleague asked that question. Having good water is something we have always worked hard towards. The community that you represent has had problems with having fresh water as the water is briny. We're working on that right now and we're trying to complete our territorial water strategy to see how it can run properly and have a training component to it as well on the operation of water treatment plants in the community. It was nothing to be concerned about in the past, but now that they have a water treatment plant in Igloolik, for example, it has to be maintained so that it operates properly.

Madam Chairperson, we're now planning to train water treatment plant operators and have standard water treatment plans in Nunavut. When there are different systems and their parts and operation differ greatly, it causes problems. We're planning to have standardized water treatment plants in the communities and to have one lab where they can check the quality of the water. We're working with the Department of Health because they're managing the water quality testing. Water quality standards will also have to be set up to make sure there are no germs or pathogens in the water. The Department of Health is involved in that. That is the situation right now, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My community of Igloolik is referred to as Aggu, but I'm not really from Aggu, as Aggu is actually located on Baffin Island.

I checked with the community regarding our pumphouse. It requires spare parts and so on. I don't know how to say it in Inuktitut, but the (interpretation ends) pumphouse, (interpretation) I believe that's what it is called, requires different parts such as (interpretation ends) spare filters, relays, pumps. (interpretation) Those parts are necessary. For Igloolik in particular, I would like to get an update on the status of the hamlet's request regarding the pumphouse. That's what I would like to find out first of all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Quassa. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have worked with the Municipality of Igloolik on the water treatment plant for quite a long time now. We delivered a training program there with a water quality specialist to ensure its success.

The water treatment plant requires a lot of parts and they need spare parts for when things break down or need replacement. With regard to the many spare parts like filters and such that the member is referring to, some of them have to be paid for by the hamlet depending on how much revenue they make for water and sewage services. Every time they deliver water and pump out sewage, the hamlets get money for providing those services. From that revenue, the hamlets also set funding

aside to pay for replacement parts. Outside of that, if something broke down or needed to be replaced, we work with them and we will be working with the hamlets, not just Igloolik. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Quassa, do you have more questions? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will be speaking English. I'm sure he will understand.

(interpretation ends) The water plant in Igloolik is supposed to be automated, (interpretation) perhaps I'll say it that way, (interpretation ends) which means that they don't have to have an operator full time. Apparently every day they have to test that water manually, every truck load of water that is naturally requested by that Department of Health. What is the issue up there that it's supposed to be automated, yet they do it manually every day? Has CGS looked into this issue? Again, if they say it's automated, then why is it that they're still doing it manually? I mean, this is something that the community has been quite concerned about and certainly after when they we're told that it's going to be automated.

(interpretation) Igloolik is probably not the community in this situation. I would like more information on how it is actually set up because the way it is set up right now, it looks like it's going to cost more money to operate. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank him for asking about that. I try to keep my statements concise.

With the situation there, yes, the water treatment plant automatically mixes the water and cleansing agents, and they have to be inspected. The main reason for the inspection is they have to ensure that the water being dispensed into the water truck, for example, doesn't contain any pathogens or hazardous material before it is delivered anywhere. Those inspections are required. It's not done for one particular day but over several days or months. That's the main reason for the inspections. Once the number of days or months has been identified for the water to be suitable, it won't need to be checked continually.

The mechanism itself may work properly one day, not work the next day, and then work again the day after. We don't want that to happen, so that's why long-term inspections are done. Once it is working properly and it continues to be safe, fewer checks would be required. That's what it's for. Yes, we're talking about its automated feature for mixing water and chlorine, as well as other cleansing agents that are put in the water for a certain amount of time to make the water safe.

Within the work that we're doing right now, we're looking at whether it is better if we can contain the water that has been already treated before it is dispensed in the water truck. We're working on those things right now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Do you

have any more questions, Mr. Quassa?
Okay. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't want to keep talking about our water source, but it's important and access to good drinking water is discussed throughout Canada.

Another concern is if our water reservoirs have fencing, as debris from our dumps get blown everywhere if there is no fencing. It's obvious that it can also harm the water reservoirs. I would like to ask the minister about fencing our water reservoirs. In Igloolik I believe they can put the fencing on themselves. I wonder what the Department of Community and Government Services thinks about fencing water reservoirs. My question is if it can proceed in Igloolik, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Quassa. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for asking about that. With respect to your questions and my responses, they have an impact not only in Igloolik and that's understandable. In Igloolik they requested funding from the government, as we have small capital funds for projects in communities. The hamlet had requested funding for their sewage lagoon and they received funding to put up fencing around their sewage lagoon. They can also request funding for their water reservoir if they wish to do so. They can request funding through that as well. Well, all communities can request funds through

that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for clarifying that for us and it's obvious that residents of my community who are watching the proceedings and the hamlet now have a better understanding.

Moving on to another topic, probably as my last question, communities have parking garages for their vehicles, which are called maintenance garages. In Igloolik the maintenance garage for their vehicles, as we know, the concrete flooring is sinking. I'm not sure if I'm saying it properly. The floor is (interpretation ends) sinking. (interpretation) It's not new and it's hazardous.

I would like to get clarification from the minister. As it's a priority in our community, I would like to get an update on whether assistance will be provided by the Department of Community and Government Services to address the issue. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for asking about that matter. A few weeks ago in September, around September 23, building inspectors went to see if the structure was adequate and where there were hazardous areas. Engineers went there to inspect the infrastructure to see if there were any hazards and, if so, how they can be addressed. There were engineers there.

Once we review the engineers' report, work will begin on areas that require the least amount of work and we will need to plan for the ones that require more extensive work. It will be clearly outlined before the end of this month and we will have a better idea of what needs to be rectified so that the flooring stops sinking into the ground. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I hope that answers the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. (interpretation ends) We're on Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Main

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good day, minister. First of all, I just wanted to see what conditions the assets are in. In Arviat the tank farm has been expected and the tank farm is included in the minister's letter, which states, (interpretation ends) "business case complete." (interpretation) I don't see anything for that in the proposed capital estimates. I would like to get an update on that first of all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are many communities in Nunavut...well, they're not many, but there are quite a few tank farms. With respect to tank farm regulations, they stipulate the type of tank, valves, and so on. There have been funds set aside to comply with those regulations. There are ten tank farms that will be upgraded,

including the tank farm in Arviat. Work is now beginning on the upgrades. For example, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Igloodik, Rankin Inlet, Sanikiluaq, and Whale Cove are the communities whose tank farms will be upgraded and they're expected to be completed by 2021. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, I was asking about a new tank farm for Arviat. It's my understanding that the permitting process is already underway with the Nunavut Water Board for a new tank farm. I thank the minister for that information about the existing one. For the new tank farm, it says here, "Business case completed." It also says, "To be determined subject to fiscal funding." I'm to get a bit more information on when we can expect to see this important project in the capital estimates. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): I also thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate my colleague's patience. I am sorry I misunderstood your question. I took it as meaning the other. I understand that the business case is complete and we are in the current stages of planning to bring it forward for building. I just don't have the exact details as to when that will come forward, but as soon as that becomes clear, I will be more than happy

to share with Mr. Main. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I have another question about the preplanning envelope, and this is the letter from the minister on September 12. The new planning projects that are included here are the Rankin Inlet Airport expansion and the water treatment plants.

On the airport expansion in Rankin Inlet, I wonder if the minister can clarify why CGS is allocating money for planning for this project, but Economic Development and Transportation is also allocating \$1,625,000 in funding for this project, so if he could clarify that, please. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I could have my deputy, Ms. Hourie, respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Seventy-five percent of the funding for the airport terminal expansion in Rankin Inlet comes from the National Trade Corridors Fund, which is handled by the Department of ED&T. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the information. Is this the same project and it's being funding twice? There is a million dollars going into preplanning under CGS and the airport expansion is under the preplanning on your list of projects. There's also money that's going to this project from ED&T. Are these separate allocations? Are they the same allocations? I would just like a bit of clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe our department is doing the planning and design of it, and if Ms. Hourie can respond in further detail. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Depending on the scale of the project in preplanning, it depends on the cost of the project. For this project, the two amounts that you have identified would be under each department. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) This planning envelope is valuable and my understanding is that the

preplanning process is there to make sure that the best information is ready before you decide to go into construction on a project.

For these projects, schools, health centres, and airports, the preplanning process is needed before the government pulls the trigger or starts the process. Going to the project we discussed earlier today, the fibre optic project, how long did that project sit in the preplanning phase? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe I could have my deputy respond to the details on that project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. The fibre project was introduced in the spring of 2018 into the Assembly and was approved for marine survey work approximately six months, which was approximately \$6 million under Vote 4. In the fall of 2018 we had about two-thirds of the planning phase completed when we came to the Assembly to get the project considered, where we received the \$120 million. It was our estimate at that time, which was preliminary.

How long it actually sat in the document that you're referring to, fibre was a bit of a different project and wasn't in the same type of preplanning that you see in

the document before you. Fibre was more of a fluid conversation. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for providing that information. I feel like all these projects should be treated fairly. We have schools here. We have health centres and elders' centres. We were told that "Preplanning is necessary before we can get that thing built in your community." We need to do preplanning, but when it comes to this fibre project, it appears that it got the fast track. I don't know what the exact process was there.

Okay, so if I have a project in my community, an elders' centre for example, and I want it to skip the preplanning process and go into design and construction right away, what is the process by which a project can, I'll say, jump the queue in terms of capital planning? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Let me try to explain it the same or a little different. I believe that when this fibre project came on board, it came about because there was an opportunity from the federal government to get 75 percent of the funding for this project. That funding was pretty specific in terms of what it could be used for, the federal portion of this. A lot of the programs that come out of the federal program such as this are very specific in terms of where it's going

to go.

That funding, I believe, was not accessible for facilities or schools or what have you and it was earmarked for something like this. When the opportunity came on board, the department felt that here's an opportunity to get into fibre. The discussion within the government was starting to talk a lot about fibre at the time and that Nunavut needs to get into fibre sooner or later. Here came this opportunity where the federal government is going to contribute 75 percent of the cost and that's how it sprung forward, Madam Chairperson. I hope that kind of explains the situation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that the fibre project, the federal portion is coming out of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The information that I have here shows that that funding was eligible to be used on other projects such as improve food security, more reliable road, air and marine infrastructure. Broadband is in there. It also says education and health facilities. That's based on the information I have.

I guess I'll just ask the minister to confirm that the federal portion, \$151 million, is coming out of the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada agreement. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, it does, Madam Chairperson. When I said it's specific, I didn't have in front of me the copy of what it's specific to, but it would be specific to those. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I'll just ask the minister to confirm. It says here in this document that I have, \$152 million was the total amount available for the rural and northern component. Based on the current cost of the fibre project, \$151 million is being allocated to the fibre project, so that leaves about \$1 million for all these other projects under this pot of money. Am I correct with my math? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If you would allow my deputy to give detail on that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the rural and northern funding stream, yes, you're correct; \$201 million is within that stream. There are other streams or other projects under the community culture and recreation

stream. There is also \$33.6 million available.

With regard to fibre and the ICEP program, the federal funding pot, projects go forward as they are ready and prepared, as business cases are aligned. In this case, fibre was fairly well along the path in September of last year or October of last year when it was brought to this Assembly and therefore we moved forward with fibre. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll just say that I wish that the planning process had been used better for that fibre project. I don't we should be having a class "A" estimate one year of \$126 million and then a class "A" estimate the next year of \$209 million. It seems to be a fundamental breakdown in the capital planning process and it seems to be the precise kind of issue that we're supposed to avoid by going through preplanning with this stuff. I'll just put that on the record.

The minister in his letter last year to the committee following up on requests for information that we had mentioned development of the parking garage program, and in that letter it mentions that parking spaces are an issue in every Nunavut community. It is on the preplanning because we can't build a parking garage in a community without putting that through preplanning.

It's on the preplanning envelope and it says, "Business case completed April 2020." That's your target. It just says

parking garages in this letter, so I'm curious as to which communities are included under that preplanning work. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Before I get to answer that question, Mr. Main keeps talking about this class "A" estimate. Maybe he could provide me with a letter outlining the class "A" because I can't find it, so I would appreciate it. I don't know if it's a typo somewhere, but I would appreciate a copy of that letter so I can look into it, Madam Chairperson.

In terms of the parking garages, in initial consultation with municipalities, yes, there is a need for parking garages and it has been identified that more and more municipalities need heated garages for their mobile equipment. We now have compiled a list of 24 communities, a priority ranking actually, for parking garages in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, I was referring to the department's substantiation sheet from 2018 on the class "A" estimate.

For the parking garage program, could the minister share the priority ranking list with the committee? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have written a letter to all my colleagues, which has those details in it, and I'm just waiting for the finalization of it. As soon as it is completed through translation, I will be sharing it with my colleagues, I hope before the end of the week. It has those details in it. It is a letter to my colleagues and I will be sharing that with my colleagues as soon it's available in our languages. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could maybe just explain why that letter is not ready for us to use as we evaluate this budget here. The normal practice is that after in-camera review, the information requested by committees is prepared to assist with the review of these estimates, so if you could just clarify that. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I apologize for it not being ready, but the letter itself is 14 pages long with a lot of detail and particulars that were asked at standing committee. It is ready. It is written out. It is ready for signature. I just have to wait for the translations of this document to

be finished; otherwise it would have been presented as I sit before you. I apologize for that, but it's important that this document be available in Inuktitut as well before I bring it forward. I do apologize, but it's not intentional at all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for being a good Canadian and saying sorry. I should probably say sorry too for asking for so much information from the department. I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

When it comes to Whale Cove, the CGS shop there has been a topic that I have raised here in the Assembly. I have tabled pictures of it. I thank the minister for exchanges in correspondence on it over the summer. I would just like an update in terms of the status of that CGS shop, which needs to be replaced as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) Regarding the CGS shop in Whale Cove, we are currently working with the hamlet and looking at the lots. Once the land selection is completed and once we lease it, then we will be able to build the CGS shop. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. Before the construction, will there be preplanning done first before the work is done or just like the fibre optic project, is it going to be fast-tracked for construction? I would like to know, once the land is secured, when CGS will begin construction. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We will make it a fibre optic station and have it ready by next summer. I'm kidding.

Madam Chairperson, we are working on it as quick as possible and it's not a very large project and hopefully we would be able to begin construction if not next summer, definitely the summer after. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I look forward to that day. (interpretation) The workshop doesn't seem to be owned by the government. My colleague earlier asked about fresh water within that \$30 million. Looking at the funding and the water projects within the proposal, I would like to know how many millions of dollars will be spent. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main.

Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): It's within the letter you will be receiving. I would like to reiterate that according to the first cost estimates, it's estimated to be \$137 million, funded 75 percent by the federal government and 25 percent by the Government of Nunavut. This is for fresh water systems within Nunavut. There will be different projects for either new water treatment plants or upgrading the existing water treatment plants. There will be different projects within that budget. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My last question is about...I'm going to come back to this fibre project, okay? I would like to see the government find a way to make this project cost less money. If I'm planning to build a house, for example, and I'm told it's going to cost \$126,000, maybe it's a tiny house, and then the next year the contractor tells me, "Oh, it's going to cost \$209,000," as a homeowner, as somebody who is going to pay for this thing, I might hit the breaks and say, "Oh, maybe there's something different I could do to make this thing happen for the same amount that I had saved up."

(interpretation) I would like to know if there are going to be alternatives considered for the fibre optic project to see if there could be cost-saving measures. That's my last question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you, Mr. Main, for asking that question. For all government construction projects, we don't look at the maximum amount of money we can spend. We will keep looking at ways of how we can save money and we will continue looking at that. There might be somebody out there who will want to be involved.

We will keep our ears open on where to save money and maybe we can come up with a better system. I will keep looking at that and we will look for the most cost-effective and best way to work on it. With the funding that the Government of Nunavut will be using for this project, we will look for ways to save money and I will keep you informed on the progress of this project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$27,595,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Let's go to page J-4. J-4. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$4,150,000. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Regarding the PPD, there was a fuel shortage in Rankin Inlet over the

summer and it was Jet A-1 fuel. I was wondering if that was due to an infrastructure issue where the tanks there are too small or was it a breakdown or malfunction of the equipment. How many communities have that type of fuel available for the airlines? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): I thank you as well, Mr. Main. (interpretation ends) A correction, I said J-4. I'm sorry; I meant to say J-5. For the record, it's J-5. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Not to speak out of turn, but I think the concern my colleague is talking about had to do with the NOTAM in that community for a couple of days. What happened, I believe, is that the fuel was delivered to the community and it has to be settled and passed through the proper fuel regulations before it is able to be put into airplanes, and that test cannot be done in Nunavut.

There were a few days where the fuel that had to be sent to labs to be tested did not make it to the lab due to not being able to get a plane to fly there. It might have been weather related. It wasn't a matter of there was a shortage, but much more than it was because the fuel had to be tested and certified to be able to be used before it was sold. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess my next question is: how

many communities have that type of fuel, aviation fuel, available? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe all the communities have airplane fuel. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I don't believe they do. My understanding is that the new tank farm in Arviat, based on the planning, will have jet fuel but currently it's not available in Arviat. There's no fuel truck and there's no aviation fuel in that community. I know that for a fact. How do I know this? When that NOTAM was in effect, the planes were flying to Churchill, Manitoba to fuel up. Maybe if the department could clarify which communities have this and which communities don't. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I stand to correct myself. I'm sorry. Not all the communities have Jet A-1, but those that don't, they have diesel aviation, as I understand, Madam Chairperson. If I can, Madam Chairperson, I would be more than happy to get that detailed information on exactly what types and

what amount of fuel. Regardless of if it is airplane fuel or housing fuel or gasoline, I'll ensure that I provide my colleagues a list of what kinds and what types of fuel each municipality has. I'll do that before the end of the week, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is a mining company at Mary River near our community. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland had an Inuit impact and benefit agreement. If I'm not mistaken, they had agreed that anyone over 15 years old would be able to be provided around 45 gallons of fuel. It's for all beneficiaries in our community. In the capital budget there are gas tanks that will be constructed. The project still hasn't started and the agreement was last year. It was set to begin this year. I think it was going to begin as soon as the agreement was signed.

Has the Department of Community and Government Services received a letter from Baffinland on this new project to provide gasoline to beneficiaries in my community? Did they ask for a project to be planned or do you have sufficient storage space when that program is introduced into the community? That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for that question. If you want to adopt me, please adopt me so that I can also receive free gasoline. It's very good news to have those kinds of agreements.

To date we've had discussions with the mining company in your community on their contribution. We have heard that there will be quite a bit of fuel that they will be able to purchase. To my understanding, we've had discussions with them and they have considered constructing their own fuel tanks. Perhaps we will be able to use their fuel tanks. The discussions are still ongoing.

I can't come up with a decision right now because the discussions are ongoing on how much impact it will have and how we can have a good impact when there's that's much gasoline that's going to be available and whether we have sufficient storage space. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): I also thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It seems obvious that shipping season is over and this is fall. The ocean is freezing over and this project doesn't seem to be starting in the next year because the tank farms that have been considered need space and I don't know if there's sufficient space in our present tank farm. Will they need to put up a new tank if the mining company goes ahead with what we were just discussing or is the present tank farm that is there sufficient? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for asking about that. Based on our knowledge and what we have reviewed, you should not be running out of fuel in your community, even though that gifted gas is given out. If there is a chance that the fuel may run out, we will keep an eye on that. Like I stated, it really affects the work of the mining company. We will work together to see how that will be dealt with, whether we will need to expand the tank farm in Pond Inlet, as well as how and where it would need to be constructed. We will see if that will be necessary to make sure that they don't run out of fuel in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Qamaniq, I'll give you one more. I'm looking at the time and we have another person on the list, so I will allow one more question from you. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is the current tank farm big enough to have another tank farm installed in my community? To implement this gas distribution that was agreed to by Baffinland and Qikiqtani, the question is: is the tank farm in Pond Inlet big enough to build another gas tank? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I said earlier, at

this point with the vouchers that will be given to the community and the amount of petroleum products available in the community, we do not anticipate or foresee a shortage of petroleum products in that community. Now, should there become a time that they need more fuel and thus more storage space for the said fuel, then it depends on how much more fuel they would require. We would have to see if there is space in the current facility or if we would have to make additions. That's something that we will have to work towards as and if that requirement happens. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have a brief question. Fuel from the government is distributed to the communities and there are fuel contractors in the communities. Fuel expands and shrinks depending on the temperature, as we know. Does the contractor have to indicate the fuel level at the end of the month or the beginning of the month? Sometimes it is not possible to get the right level and the contractor can lose money when I think about it. Has the department looked for ways to improve the accuracy of the amount of fuel that is measured, like having an automatic system implemented? I wanted to ask if that can be considered for the future, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We

adjust the fuel prices annually and try to standardize them around the communities or try to stay as close as possible to the same price in the communities. Whenever we need to adjust it, we do. We always try to keep an eye on that with the fuel prices that are set by the government. We will continue to review that to see if we can get a better system in place. We would like to hear about any suggestions to improve it as well. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are you done? Okay. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Petroleum Products. \$4,150,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. Let's go to page J-2. (interpretation) Let me put on my glasses. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$31,745,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: I'm new at this. Sorry. Minister Kusugak, do you have closing comments?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for chairing a very good discussion. Madam Chairperson, again I apologize to my

colleagues for not having the documents ready before I got to sit here in front of you, before COW, but I assure that they will be ready in your language of choice in the next day or two. If you have any questions on them or reactions, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Those other issues that I have committed to providing to my colleagues, I will in as an expeditious manner as I can. I thank you for your patience, and I thank my staff that are sitting with me and more importantly, those staff that are working in Nunavut for Community and Government Services who are doing a very superb job in sometimes very violent...or turmoil conditions.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, colleagues. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): I also thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Member Angnakak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Premier Savikataaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Continuing on. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for October 24:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): To clarify, it was *Orders of the Day, Katimajjutiksatsat*. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 24, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:53*

