



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 67

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Pages 4235 – 4283

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Quttiktuq)
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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

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(Kugluktuk)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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Minister responsible for Aboriginal
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
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Compensation Commission*

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for the Nunavut Housing
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responsible for the Status of Women*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, October 31, 2019****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, 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): Please say the opening prayer, Member Netser.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 324 – 5(2):
Arctic Council – Sustainable
Development Working Group**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States, arctic indigenous communities, and other arctic inhabitants on our common issues across the Arctic.

As such, I am pleased to share that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will contribute \$25,000 annually to fund activities for the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group Secretariat beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is pleased to be a part of the Canadian delegation for the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. This group captures some of Nunavut's most pressing issues, such as social well-being, and economic and environmental outcomes for the people of the circumpolar regions.

Mr. Speaker, this annual contribution will allow the Sustainable Development Working Group Secretariat to function more effectively, strengthen the coordination and outcomes of their projects, and contribute to Canada's objective to establish the group secretariat permanently in Canada.

This funding also illustrates our government's support and appreciation for the work of the working group, as well as the work it undertakes today as well as into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 325 – 5(2): 2019
Take Our Kids to Work Day**

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members and Nunavummiut,

Mr. Speaker, November 6 is Take Our Kids to Work Day. In Nunavut and throughout Canada, grade 9 students have an opportunity to experience the world of work first hand. This day allows students to learn about a variety of careers, industries and employment sectors at a point in their lives when they will be starting to look at the many paths available to them after graduating high school.

Mr. Speaker, this day also offers parents and guardians an opportunity to talk with their children about future education and career planning, as well as their own path to employment and work experience.

I want to encourage all workplaces throughout Nunavut, including my own department, to participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day. Allow your employees to bring their children to work and let them experience one potential employment path. Who knows, these students might become your future employees.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Take Our Kids to Work Day is one of the many programs my department's Curriculum Development Division is using to create access to hands-on learning and workplace education opportunities for students. These programs are one of the many actions my department has been taking to meet the recommendations of the recent Office of the Auditor General's report on supporting high school students and adult learners.

Mr. Speaker, I feel optimistic to know that the students, parents, and workplaces will be strengthening the link between education and the skills

needed for early career planning. Events like Take Our Kids to Work Day will assist many students as they transfer into our future workers. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik, koana, ma 'na.* (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 326 – 5(2): Kivalliq Community Visits

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please drive safe as a lot of children will be out tonight.

Mr. Speaker, in August I had the pleasure of visiting Coral Harbour and Baker Lake and I attended the opening of Agnico Eagle's Amaruq project.

(interpretation ends) The opening of the Amaruq and the Meliadine gold mine in June was historic. We now have a total of four mines operating that are providing careers and business opportunities for Nunavummiut in all of our regions.

My department is committed to developing and managing our non-renewable resources for the long-term benefit of Nunavummiut. The proposed mine training facility in Rankin Inlet is one way of meeting this commitment.

While I was in Coral Harbour I met with the hamlet council and the member and got to drive the 173-kilometre-long Duke of York access trail. I applauded the

Hamlet of Coral Harbour for its work to extend this trail across Southampton Island. It must be the longest access road in Nunavut.

The trail could not be possible without the funding from my department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program and the vision shown by the people of Coral Harbour in their consistent application of this funding to their prioritized project.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, and Agnico Eagle for their hospitality and look forward to visiting again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 327 – 5(2):
Agguttinni Territorial Park**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment was proud to announce the creation of Agguttinni Territorial Park in September.

Agguttinni Park will be the largest territorial park in Nunavut, covering approximately 15,000 square kilometres. Agguttinni Territorial Park includes a quarter of the Barnes Ice Cap, numerous cultural sites of importance for Inuit, important bird areas, and key habitat for polar bears and caribou.

This park was funded in part by the Canada Nature Fund. The federal

government was pleased to support this project because it contributes significantly toward achieving Canada's target goal of conserving 17 percent of our land and fresh water by the end of 2020. The Government of Nunavut is pleased to have the support of the Canada Nature Fund for this important initiative.

Nunavut's territorial parks and special places provide wonderful opportunities for Nunavummiut and visitors to enjoy the land and culture. The parks provide excellent economic opportunities for the communities through tourism and outfitting initiatives. I strongly encourage all Nunavummiut to explore the diverse array of parks in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 499 – 5(2):
Devolution Agreement in Principle**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove. (interpretation ends) Happy Halloween.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our Premier signed a devolution agreement in principle on August 15. Nunavut's evolution is huge and the signing was an important milestone. I celebrate with our

Government of Nunavut. It is evidence of evolution of our government. Perhaps my constituents and I don't fully understand today as to how devolution will impact the people of Nunavut in the future. For example, it identifies an agreement he signed on what they are intending to do with the funding from the federal government and on how large the funding will be given to us after they have signed the final agreement.

However, I am using this as an example. Within Nunavut, (interpretation ends) institutions of public government, (interpretation) the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Planning Commission, and the Nunavut Water Board, how will they be impacted after the final agreement for devolution is reached?

As a government, how many federal government jobs will we get? We can see that federal government employees are mostly located in Iqaluit. Will they stay here when they start working for the Government of Nunavut or will they be disseminated to the communities?

When will the final agreement on devolution be signed by the government? Those are just examples. There are many questions yet. I will have ask questions to the Premier when I have the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 500 – 5(2):
Recognizing Sanikiluaq's Youth
Leader Quentin Sala**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Halloween to the people of Sanikiluaq and especially have a safe Halloween to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, it always gives me great pleasure to rise in this House to recognize the efforts of hard-working and committed Sanikiluaq residents like Quentin Sala.

Mr. Speaker, almost two years ago, Quentin Sala turned his opportunity to run a five-day camp on Inuit Games during spring break into a full-time position as the acting recreation coordinator for the community of Sanikiluaq.

Under Quentin's positive influence and with the dedication and motivation of the well-trained recreation staff, Sanikiluaq residents are becoming more active, more involved, and more sport conscious.

Mr. Speaker, Quentin has led the Great Happy Summer Day Camp program for the past two years and last February was part of the pilot multi-sport camp hosted by the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at just 20 years old, Quentin has been described as an individual who commands the respect and attention of the community of Sanikiluaq. Quentin has the ability to mentor, to be innovative, and always ensures the focus and positive involvement of participants in the programs that he runs.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his dedication and commitment, Quentin has recently been awarded the 2019 One

Ocean Expedition Youth Leader of the Year. This is a wonderful accomplishment. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Quentin on his award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 501 – 5(2): Mid-term of Fifth Assembly

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, today is Halloween and I do look forward to join the festivities with the rest of the community this evening.

Today also marks another special occasion in that it has been two years and a day since the majority of this House had won our seats in the previous election. With that being said, we are halfway through our term and the last two years it has been an honour serving with everybody in the room, and I do look forward to the next two years in collaborating with my fellow colleagues and the government in moving Nunavut in the right direction.

With that being said, I just want to once again restate my commitment to my constituents. I have had a lot of opportunities over the last two years to have dialogue with constituents through telephone conversations, emails, and quite frequently one on one, in person at the post office and NorthMart, and so on.

I just want to let everyone know that I am always open for discussions, and I

want to encourage constituents to please continue bringing up their concerns with me and I will do my best to provide them with some assistance.

With that being said, once again thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been an honour and I look forward to the next two years. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Member's Statement 502 – 5(2): Update on Fur Exchange Program

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my statement, I say "good day" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who are watching the proceedings.

Today being Halloween, please look after the children, especially the younger children. The ones without much supervision should be supervised. It is very important. There are a lot of people out there who will be going all over the place in the communities. Please look after the children, especially the young ones.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask this question that I keep asking every time we meet in the House about the long wait for those who send furs. Some of my constituents ask me when there will be an update on this issue. Some of the people who sent furs have been waiting a very long time to hear back from the auction houses.

What's the situation now? What action is

going to be taken regarding these furs? Even though the harvesters send out their furs, they are just waiting for their payment, especially with polar bear hides and other kinds of furs. A lot of harvesters pay for their costs. I would like to know what's going on.

I will have questions for the Minister of Environment at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 503 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Kugluktuk
Newly Elected Mayor and Council**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Happy Halloween and I wish you all a safe Halloween to all the kids across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newly elected Mayor of Kugluktuk, David Audlatak Nivingalok. Mr. Speaker, I am sure he will rise to the challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our previous mayor, Ryan Nivingalok, for all the hard work he has dedicated to the community of Kugluktuk, especially with the elder care project. Mr. Speaker, I know that he will continue to be involved in other capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the newly elected council of the Municipality of Kugluktuk:

- Simon Kuliktana
- Barbara Kapakatoak
- Joanne Taptuna
- Lucy Taipana
- Nadene McMenemy
- Darlene Metuituk
- Valerie Miyok
- Angele Kuliktana

Mr. Speaker, I have learned that being elected to act on behalf of one's community is not an easy job. I applaud all those who put their names forward to serve the community of Kugluktuk, whether they were elected or not.

Congratulations to the new mayor and council and my thanks to the outgoing mayor and councillors. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 504 – 5(2):
Housing Shortage**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Netsilik and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the housing shortage in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, although Inuit used to be a nomadic people, those days have gone. In the past we faced many hardships when trying to survive in a challenging environment. In today's world the basic challenge of seeking shelter remains the same.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am frequently asked by my constituents for assistance in obtaining housing. I am sure that all of my colleagues receive similar requests.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to tell a young couple that they will likely be on a waiting list for many years.

It is very painful to tell a mother that there are simply not enough resources to build enough new units to enable her to leave her overcrowded house.

Mr. Speaker, jobs are scarce in my non-decentralized communities, so homeownership is not always a feasible option.

Although some young people do move away, many want to remain close to home and family.

Mr. Speaker, our government cannot solve the housing shortage on its own, but we can work together to resolve this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I'm almost done.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please conclude your statement, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are other organizations that have the means

to make a positive contribution, and that we must work together for the benefit of all of our people.

Mr. Speaker, appropriate questions will be asked at the appropriate time to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 505 – 5(2): New DEAs of Naujaat and Coral Harbour

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

Yesterday I spoke about the newly elected hamlet council members. The district education authority members were acclaimed and I would like to congratulate them today. In Naujaat they are:

- Asina Angotingoar
- Leo Akkuardjuk
- Pasqualina Putulik
- Romeo Kopak
- Rosie Kopak

As well, in Coral Harbour there will be district education authority members. I do recall when they were in school as children. Today we see them now as elected members and I am very proud that they will be a part of building the future for their children. They are:

- Archie Kolit
- Darryl Nakoolak
- Doris Bruce

- Marlene Jones
- Ruth Eetuk-Pootoolik

I would like to work closely with them here in Nunavut regarding education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 506 – 5(2):
Happy Birthday to Wife Elisapee**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

The reason I rise once again today is that people are celebrating Halloween all over Nunavut and Canada. Today is my wife's birthday on October 31. She will probably not be joining in the Halloween festivities or maybe she will.

>> *Laughter*

We have been married for 40 years now, and I am over 40 years of age, of course. For people who celebrate their birthdays on this day, it is always entertaining. I greatly appreciate my wife for being with me for 40 years and for supporting me. I wish her a happy birthday and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Member Hickes.

**Member's Statement 507 – 5(2):
Happy Safe Halloween**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to congratulate all the new council members and different municipal election winners and participants over last week.

Today is Halloween. It's an exciting time. There are lots of ghosts and goblins who are going to be running around on the roads tonight. I strongly encourage all people to make sure that they drive safe. I strongly encourage all the kids not to take shortcuts across the lakes yet. There are some places that aren't quite safe yet.

I really want to encourage people to be very generous with their candy, and I look forward to all the upcoming business for the dentist. I remember at the Rotary Fair, the dentist was handing out cotton candy.

>> *Laughter*

I just want to really take this time to acknowledge the children. Mr. Speaker, we have been talking a lot about elders in the Assembly in the last week or so, but there are a lot of children out there who also need care and I hope there are people that if people aren't available to take their kids out trick-or-treating, somebody can help them out. I know my daughter will be taking some young children out this evening with the parents who are busy and I really appreciate that and I'm sure the parents do.

I hope all people from across the territory remember that this is a day for

the kids to have some fun and I hope we will all have a bit of fun with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 508 – 5(2):
Recent Municipal Elections**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Canadians, it is always a momentous occasion to go and vote, as we can make a difference. There are three communities that I represent where the mayors got acclaimed, which I spoke about at the beginning of our sitting.

With that being the case, I now want to show my appreciation for the previous mayor from Arctic Bay, Frank May, who put a lot of effort and he wholeheartedly accepted the job. I am glad that he was appointed as a councillor. He works hard for the community. I'm sure our newly elected mayor, Moses Oyukuluk, will work closely with him.

As well, over in Resolute Bay, as I stated, Mark Amarualik got acclaimed. I am going to want to work closely with him as well. At this time I want to thank Tapisa Mullins, who was an acting mayor and then became mayor, but she did a very good job as mayor and I appreciate her for that.

In Grise Fiord the mayor hasn't changed yet and she still makes a lot of effort. Meeka Kiguktak is no stranger to this House. I know that she will work very hard.

I congratulate the former mayors and the newly elected mayors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 624 – 5(2):
Mould Infestation and
Remediation**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was posed by the Member for Amittuq and the subject was mould infestation and remediation. The response is quite detailed and I have given it to our Clerk for distribution to our colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 671 – 5(2): Wildlife
Management**

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

As the minister will recall, I have raised a number of concerns regarding the issue of wildlife management near my

*Please see the Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 624 – 5(2).

community of Kugluktuk, and I have been a strong supporter of active measures to reduce wolf predation on our caribou population.

In his statement to the House on October 24 the minister indicated that Kugluktuk hunters harvested 146 wolves during the 2018-19 season under the department's Wolf Sample Collection Program. Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate our community's hunters. However, the minister also indicated that hunters are compensated \$300 per wolf under this program.

Can he clarify how this amount compares to that which is currently paid by the Government of the Northwest Territories to hunters across the border in the Northwest Territories who share the same herds as we do, and will he commit to ensuring that the rate paid to Nunavut hunters matches or exceeds the Northwest Territories' rate? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amount we pay, as in my minister's statement, was \$300 per wolf sample from all of Nunavut. I can't comment on how the Northwest Territories came up with their rate which is higher than ours, but they are their own territory and they set their rates and they set their management goals and plans.

I can tell the member that she should be aware that we met with the Northwest Territories back in Kugluktuk in the springtime. We chat with them and we come up with a plan. We have an

agreement in place where the hunters from mainly Kugluktuk but in the Kitikmeot, if they hunt wolves from a specified area, they will qualify for a \$900 payment per wolf from the Northwest Territories on top of the \$300 that we have given them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent spring sitting about the "Caribou Summit" that was held in Kugluktuk earlier this year. At that time he stated that "...the numbers have really gone down on the caribou herds on the Bluenose-East and Bathurst. We're going to work with our co-management partners to look at the total allowable harvest for both of those herds..."

Mr. Speaker, my community's hunters and trappers organization recently held a meeting on this issue and they are very concerned. Can the minister update me today on the status of the total allowable harvests for the Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my memory, since I didn't have time to look it up, the total allowable harvest for Bluenose-East is 370, I believe, or 340. I didn't have time to check it. The TAH for Bathurst is 30 male caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. In June 2019 the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Hunters and Trappers Organization was scheduled to present its proposed Bluenose-East Community Caribou Management Plan at a meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Can the minister indicate what decisions were made by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in respect to the proposed plan? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can ask the member to restate her question, please. I was quickly reading so that I could get the right numbers for her for the Bluenose-East. I looked it up; it was 340. Can the member please state her question again? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Member Kamingoak, please repeat your final supplementary question. Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. In June 2019 the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Hunters and Trappers Organization was scheduled to present its proposed Bluenose-East Community Caribou Management Plan at a meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Can the minister indicate what decisions were made by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in respect to the proposed plan? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for restating her question. Mr. Speaker, we are still working with our co-management partners to come up a management plan for the Bluenose-East. We are working on that and part of that is the total allowable harvest. There are many stakeholders involved, including the Northwest Territories, the hunters and trappers organization from Kugluktuk, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We are all working together and we will be coming out with a statement soon on that in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 672 – 5(2): Funding for Playgrounds

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I hope I am referring to the right minister as I am unsure if this is correct.

Now, outside the school there is a playground. There are playgrounds outside our schools in many of our communities. In our community of Pond Inlet the airport is inching closer and closer to the centre of the town, and you have to go around the airport grounds if you want to go to the other developed areas of town. Many of our divisions are far from the schools, resulting in many houses being situated quite far from the school.

I would like to know if the department has a plan for playground development

for our boys and girls separate from our existing schools. If the hamlet wanted to develop a new playground, which department would be the right one to approach to request funding for a new playground for our youth? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, the playgrounds outside of the schools are some that can be created by the communities. When there is interest or a request from the community, the hamlet recreation committee can work with our department and the hamlet council to work on a plan for that. That's where it would start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Department of Community and Government Services set aside funds that can be accessed by communities through proposals submitted by the recreation committee under the hamlet council? Is there a minimum or upper limit to the funds that can be requested by communities for a local playground for local boys and girls? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services works with

hamlets when there is an interest to create a recreational playground in the community. We assist them in looking for funding within Community and Government Services. We direct them to a funding program under our department. These recreation areas usually have a different purpose. We can work with the hamlets and they can indicate to us exactly what they are looking for, which initiates our work with them to see how to apply for financing and the other things that are needed. We are able to work with them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked if there was a limit to the amount of funding that can be requested for recreation areas for our youth. That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The requests we receive are different. If it's specifically for a playground or a basketball court or a ballpark, we review different kinds of funding requests from the community. I cannot say what the limit would be for funding, but we do work with the communities to access different pots of funding once they indicate to us what they are interested in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 673 – 5(2): Update on Devolution

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to our Premier regarding devolution. My first question is about acquiring employees.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, once the final devolution agreement is signed, Nunavut stands to gain employees that will be transferred over from the Government of Canada to the Government of Nunavut. It's my understanding that there is work to be done between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik on a post-devolution human resources development strategy.

My first question for the Premier is: what is the ballpark figure for the number of employees that will be transferred over to the Government of Nunavut, and will the Nunavut government's decentralization initiative still apply post-devolution?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. We're working on a human resources development strategy right now. We hope to have that finalized; it has to be finalized within the next two years.

I can't give the members exact numbers of employees or even a ballpark figure as to what will come out of this. That's still part of the negotiation process. The federal government says, "We will transfer X number of employees," and

the GN says, "We need this number of employees to get the tasks done to provide the services." I can't give the member the numbers yet. We're close, but we're not there yet.

The reason they are different is because, with all of these federal departments, some of their functions are done by other departments and we have to compensate for that when we take it over and we will be doing all of the functions and responsibilities that are in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have further questions on this at a later date.

Looking at the finances, (interpretation ends) under the devolution agreement, the Nunavut government would receive resource royalties that currently go to the federal government. In terms of forecasting, I know that most resource development is currently on Inuit-owned lands, but there are some royalties that go to the federal government.

In terms of forecasting the amount of resource royalties that the Nunavut government stands to gain, what is the ballpark, again, or what is the range of amount of money that the Nunavut government stands to gain under a devolution agreement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently with this devolution

agreement, we will get \$9 million in royalties, 100 percent of it. After the \$9 million, the rest would go back to the federal government. We do have a one-time clause in there where we can get 50 percent of all royalties, but there is a cap on that too.

Once we make the decision to go to the 50 percent of all instead of the \$9 million in total, we can't go back. It's a judgment that the government would have to make in terms of which one there is most beneficial to them. Currently, when the final devolution agreement is signed, our cap will be at \$9 million in royalties. The member is correct that most of the known resources are on Inuit-owned land and we don't anticipate too much on getting any royalties out of this in the near future.

To add to that, we will be negotiating offshore oil and gas once the final agreement is signed and that is where we hope to get more royalties to make sure that Nunavut can be more sustainable and we can generate our own revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. If I understood correctly, it is an agreement in principle and the final agreement is currently being negotiated. I believe they are at the negotiating stage at this time. When can Nunavummiut expect to see the final agreement signed by the governments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We signed the agreement in principle in the summer and from there we will look at finalizing the negotiations within five years for the Nunavut government to take over the responsibilities. My response is it should be completed in five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 674 – 5(2): Casual Employment

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been raising concerns for a long time about the issue of long-term casuals in the government, which is why I was pleased to see the government responding to these concerns by taking a step in the right direction recently through its announcement of September 9, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, this announcement indicated that direction has been given to "Foster Inuit employment across the public service by substantially increasing the number of direct appointments of long-term casuals."

Earlier in our sitting, the Minister of Community and Government Services announced that his department has recently appointed 22 long-term casual employees to permanent positions.

Can the Minister of Human Resources update us on the total number of such appointments made to date across

government since last month's announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, we are working on that very thing at this time. We work towards changing casual status or casual employees into full time. It's ongoing and we are hoping that within the next little while we will be able to calculate the totals up to date, but that work is ongoing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that there were a total of 822 casual employees working in the government as of June 30, 2019. Approximately half of these positions are located here in Iqaluit. Can the minister provide an estimate as to how many long-term casuels are expected to be direct appointed by the end of this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't anticipate knowing exactly how many it will be, but that number is rising constantly.

Mr. Speaker, she asked in her previous question how many to date have been

put to indeterminate. Mr. Speaker, I can only go back as of August 31. Casuels who have become indeterminate staff as of August 31 was 89, which is quite a significant amount. Mr. Speaker, in 2018-19 that number in total was 135 and we are very hopeful in this government that we will be able to surpass that. We are constantly working to improve that.

All the departments are working to increase, not so much increase employees but to take people off casual status and put them into indeterminate. We are working very diligently on that. As these numbers change and become more solid, I will be more than happy to share them with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response because I think that the government definitely is going in the right direction. I think the concern over casual employment has been voiced many times right here in this House. It's good to see that the government is finally really trying to address that situation and those concerns.

In cases where long-term casual employees are directly appointed into a position, can the minister clarify if they will be classified as new hires on probation and at the bottom of the pay scale or will they be classified according to how many years they have actually been doing the job? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, all I could really say is that staff who are currently casual employees or were casual employees and put into indeterminate positions will not be losing their salary. We are working with each department and each department is working diligently to try to make the best fit per casual employee.

I would like to add while I have the opportunity that close to 60 percent of the transfers from casual to indeterminate were Inuit, and we hope to see that continue to grow. It's a very significant amount of people, but we are working within departments and trying to ensure that as they go from casual to indeterminate positions, they will not lose their salaries and their scales, Mr. Speaker. We are working on each individual case and assessing them to benefit the employee wherever possible. I thank my colleague for that question. Thank you.

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

Question 675 – 5(2): Custom Adoption

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Acting Minister of Family Services. I would like to revisit the issue of custom adoption.

As the minister will be aware, the 2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut stated, "...the ACARA does not include requirements...to conduct such things as safety checks of adoptive homes or

criminal records checks of potential adoptive parents."

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of June 7, 2018, I was told that the legislation was being looked at. Mr. Speaker, that was almost 17 months ago. What has the government done to address this issue since that time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As acting family services minister, when it comes to the custom adoptions in Nunavut, work is still ongoing and there are terms of references that are drafted with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for a working group on custom adoptions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towntongie: Mr. Speaker, section 6 of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* provides that the minister "...may appoint as custom adoption commissioners, one or more persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, have a knowledge and understanding of aboriginal customary law in the [community] or region in which they reside."

Can the minister clarify what additional training or support is provided to custom adoption commissioners to help them make decisions that take into account the safety and best interests of the child?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is actively working in coordinating training for the commissioners during this fall 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the safety and protection of the child in the fact that a child predator adopts a child, an Inuk child.

Section 7 of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* allows for regulations to be made under the Act. It has not been updated since 1995. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that these regulations have not been updated in decades. Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when the regulations will be reviewed and updated? I would assume, for the protection of the Inuk child, it's for their safety and it should be a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For any custom adoption to take place, there is an agreement between the biological parents or biological mother and those who are adopting. That has been customary in Nunavut and what sometimes makes it complicated is when the government tries to intervene or government starts to make different kinds of regulations.

It's a fine balance between what Inuit

have long done when it comes to custom adoption of making sure that the parents who are going to take care of the kid are at the best interest of the child. That's what makes it difficult to start developing regulations. This is the very reason why the Department of Family Services is taking very careful time and trying to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in terms of developing a working group in terms of how to address this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 676 – 5(2): Staff Housing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation regarding the responses I received on my written questions on the subject of the administration of Qulliq Energy Corporation staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the responses that I did receive. I do believe that given our unique housing situation, staff housing does play a unique role in addressing our housing shortage, two reasons: one because providing individuals with accommodations is quite important, but number two and more importantly, providing subsidized housing to allow those individuals to save up to potentially become homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I did find quite a few of the responses very interesting and one of which was that the QEC has a total of over a hundred employees. Over 60 percent of their employees are in staff

housing and I do appreciate that, but when I looked at the numbers a little bit closer, I did notice that a majority, 78 of the employees... . Sorry. Let me start over. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

One of the more interesting aspects of what I found was when I looked at the number of Inuit that were in the staff housing and at 32, it's roughly 29 percent, but when I put that into comparison to the 110 non-Inuit employees in staff housing and comparing that to the total... . Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to get at is 85 percent of the non-Inuit employees in the Qulliq Energy Corporation are in staff housing, meanwhile only 30 percent of Inuit employees are in staff housing. I would just like to ask if the minister has been made aware of that situation and has any plans of corrective action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. Our Inuit staff housing within our communities, a lot of our Inuit are basically residents of the communities and a lot of our Inuit who are working for the Qulliq Energy Corporation could be homeowners or could be living in public housing. They do have the option to apply for Qulliq Energy Corporation staff housing if they would like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I find it also quite interesting, as when I asked in my written question how many QEC employees were on the staff housing wait-list, it stated that that is not applicable as the QEC did not have a staff housing wait-list. I would like to enquire: when exactly did the QEC adopt this staff housing wait-list? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone is correct; there is no wait-list for staff housing. As I stated earlier, individuals have the right to apply for staff housing because the units are...QEC employees do have staff housing. That's why there is no wait-list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moving on to my next question and that is the number of vacant units currently maintained by the Qulliq corporation, and that figure was over 60 units or over 30 percent of QEC staff housing units are vacant. I do know that there were some reasons provided about the reasons behind the vacant units and one being a number of units held for transients and another being vacant units which require major renovations.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is with regard to that last category. There are 17 staff housing units that do require some major renovations before they can be utilized. I would like to ask: how long

have these 17 units remained vacant due to waiting for renovations? If it's easier for the minister to respond to, maybe I might also ask: when was the last time a damaged unit was added to renovated units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Regarding the vacant units and the amount of renovation or if these units require renovation or not, I don't have that level of information, but I can get the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 677 – 5(2): Levels of Care for Elders

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. (interpretation) To the residents of Gjoa Haven who are watching, along with my relatives and grandchildren, if they are watching, (interpretation ends) have a good Halloween. (interpretation) I hope my grandchildren enjoy the night.

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

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are different levels of care provided to elders who can no longer live independently at home.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a brief overview of the different levels of care that are provided within the health

care system, and specifically can he tell me what levels of care are currently provided at the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the question and just want to get the exact figures for the member. When we're talking about different levels of care, there are five different levels and they vary upon the level of need for the residents, from very simple care where it can be provided in the home up to 24-hour care. I'm just trying to find the exact...I usually have this stuff pretty handy, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize.

I can give a basic rundown. Basically level 1 care is care that can be provided at home through just a family or home care. Level 2 is a little bit more advanced care where people need up to, I think, four to six hours of care per day and it does progress, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Gjoa Haven facility specifically, it is level 2 and 3, although there are some people who do age in place where they are requiring up to level 4 care. There are currently no beds in the territory of Nunavut that provide level 5 care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that we currently have a limited number of elder care beds in Nunavut. In fact I have heard that there are waiting lists for beds in our continuing care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform this House how many elders requiring level 1, level 2 or level 3 care are currently residing in facilities outside of Nunavut, such as Embassy West? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate this question. Mr. Speaker, typically we send people down with level 4 and 5 care needs to outside contractors.

That being said, one of the ramifications, I guess if you want to call it that, is that a number of patients who do go down to Embassy West requiring more advanced care, depending upon their condition, improve enough where they can actually return home. I know I have communicated with a family member recently who is very thankful that their relative is coming home from Embassy West care because of the level of care that has been able to be provided at that facility. It made improvements to the degree where they can be returned to the territory.

It's an accomplishment of the level of care, but it's also recognizing that as care needs change, we continuously assess the elders to make sure they are getting the appropriate care in the appropriate facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to our elders that the government and we talk about,

we want to take care of our elders in Nunavut and we don't want to send them out of the territory. The elders would like to receive care in their communities and they don't want to be sent out of their communities. They want to be with their children and grandchildren while they are alive and well. They would like to stay in their community. They would like to hug their grandchildren and say "I love you" to them in person. They don't want to move to other places. With that in mind, there is a need for more elder care beds in the communities. Our elderly population is growing and they would like to receive support.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the minister has indicated that a total of 156 beds will be required to accommodate elder care in Nunavut by the year 2035. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide further details on how many of these 156 beds are anticipated to be dedicated to level 4 and how many to level 5 care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of research done on how people age, especially with dementia-related illnesses. I would have to check the statistic; I was actually just reading it this morning, Mr. Speaker. I believe the anticipated need for care is approximately 110 per 1,000. Out of that, I don't recall the specific amount that would be deemed to be high-level need. I will have to go back to my notes that I do have upstairs in my office that I was reading this morning, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have to get back to the member with that exact amount. These are statistics that are being done across Canada.

We look at how our needs are being met. I don't even want to call it an educated guess because there's a lot of actual factual information and statistical information that is being shared across the country on statistics on who needs help and anticipated needs. We're using current information on best estimates to work with this and we have been working with partners through a number of our different research in the long-term care strategy and to find out how many beds and that's where we have come up with approximately 156 beds by the year 2035. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 678 – 5(2): Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

Earlier in our sitting, the minister announced that he had "...accepted the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's final decision for the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan."

As the minister is well aware, this issue is of great importance to the people of Sanikiluaq and the community's hunters and trappers organization.

Can the minister highlight the impact that the new Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan will have on the southern Hudson Bay polar bear management system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut wildlife management plans will affect all polar bear management plans with each subpopulation equally. The decision by the NWMB which I accepted was to have the sex ratio changed to 50 percent male and 50 percent female. In the past the hunters had to harvest two male bears for every female that was harvested. After this decision there, the hunters from within Nunavut will be able to harvest one male bear for every one female bear. This is what all of the hunters and trappers associations have been asking for a long time. We do hear what they have to say and we are there to serve them. This was a management decision that was made and it was well thought out and well made. I think that all of the HTOs will be very pleased with that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that all of our communities and hunters and trappers organizations have a clear understanding of the new Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the approved plan in the Legislative Assembly before the end of the fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into that. All of the

conservation officers would be going to the HTOs in their communities to inform them of the decisions to make sure that they understand it and the impacts that it will have on it. We do have a communication plan for the conservation officers to go to the HTOs and to any of the hunters who come into the offices and tell them of the decision and the impacts that it has on polar bear hunting in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, there have been a number of inter-jurisdictional disputes over the years between Nunavut and its neighbours concerning the management of polar bears in the southern Hudson Bay area. In 2017 the Makivik Corporation launched an action against the Nunavut and federal governments on this matter. Can the minister clarify the impact that the new Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan will have on this dispute? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a Nunavut wildlife management plan and it's only within Nunavut, so it should have no impact on the legal proceedings that may or may not go ahead from other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 679 – 5(2): Update on Fur Exchange Program

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment. I announced in my member's statement that I would query the minister about this topic.

Mr. Speaker, during the winter sitting, I had raised this issue by questioning the minister about hunters who send out furs for auction and in this case, specifically about hunters who sent out polar bear pelts, at least from the Baffin region and particularly from my two constituency communities. Many hunters shipped out polar bear pelts when the prices were quite high, but I think we all know that after the peak price, the price dropped dramatically. With that being the case, some hunters have been waiting for many years from the time they shipped out their pelts to the fur auction houses.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the department and the minister has no say over the prices or demand for pelts from the auction houses, but he does know when the auction houses schedule their auctions. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Environment inform the members whether or not any polar bear pelts were sold during the last auction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe fur pelts were auctioned off on March 21 and 22. However, the polar bear pelts were not sold out as there are still quite a number of them. It makes it quite

difficult, but current global demand is not there for polar bear pelts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, when some hunters send out their polar bear pelts, as that is what I know about, they get paid roughly half of the assessed value of the polar bear pelt when the pelt is sent to the auction house. Most hunters get roughly half of the estimated price of the pelts. I imagine many hunters are in that situation where they receive 50 percent of the assessed value of the pelt and many hunters exhibit great patience as they wait inordinate amounts of time before results come in, in some cases for a number of years.

I wonder if there are changes to the current system or if plans are in place for hunters who get paid half of the value and where their pelt is never sold or is eventually abandoned. What happens to the hunter who was paid half of the value of the pelt where the polar bear pelt doesn't sell? What is the policy on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member spoke to the usual practice in place currently. To use his example, if the polar bear pelt is sent out for auction, the hunter is paid half of the assessed value of the pelt and it gets shipped out. If it gets sold and the overall price of the pelt is higher than what the hunter was

paid, then the hunter would receive the remaining funds.

The polar bear pelts have not been selling yet and the hunters will not owe a debt since the pelt is still at the auction house. However, we are working on a possible solution for pelts that are not selling and are just being stored in the southern locale as there are over 300 polar bear pelts. We want to try to return these pelts to Nunavut so that they can be used by Nunavummiut. This work is ongoing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for providing the details, as I imagine many hunters are watching the proceedings via television and in particular those who may have sent out polar bear pelts.

Just so they are completely clear in their comprehension, can the minister provide some more details about the pelts that were shipped out and that are part of the grouping to be sent back to Nunavut? I wonder if there is a limit on how long the pelt has spent in the auction house and which pelts could be returned to our territory for use, or will this require further planning and work before you determine how long the hunters will have to further await the results? Did a limit get determined for the proposed return of the pelts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't placed any limit on the pelts.

However, if we can go backwards a bit here, I believe it was around the year 2012 where the prices for polar bear pelts were the highest, and hunters sent out numerous polar bear pelts as the prices were strong. Now, the prices have dropped substantially for the polar bear pelts and demand has dropped precipitously. Now it is many of those pelts that were sent down earlier when the prices were higher that hunters received payment for are not worth it anymore.

However, as I stated previously, we are making plans to return these polar bear pelts to Nunavut, especially the ones that have been stored for the longest periods, as it is now 2019 and some pelts were sent down in 2012, which haven't been bought. Back in the past, every polar bear pelt sent out for auction would sell, but today there is no longer any demand for the pelts. Our work is ongoing to try to return the oldest stored pelts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 680 – 5(2): Housing Shortage

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As I indicated in my member's statement, I believe that it is essential for the government and its partners to work closely together to address the housing

shortage in Nunavut.

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 3, 2019, the minister stated that he would welcome the decision on the part of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to help address the housing shortage in our territory by providing financial support for the construction of new units.

Can the minister clarify what responses he has received from NTI on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, we are working really hard with the housing shortage in Nunavut. We want to collaborate with NTI since they're going to collaborate on housing. I'm open to collaborating with NTI on this issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of announcements in recent years about Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's work with the federal government to develop an Inuit housing strategy. Can the minister clarify the extent to which this work has been helpful to the Nunavut Housing Corporation in obtaining additional resources with which to build new units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We support the Inuit organization, in this case ITK, who has been lobbying the federal government in terms of addressing the housing shortage throughout Inuit Nunangat. To date they haven't reached out to us in terms of "We have found some money for you and we want to help address the housing issue." To date we haven't heard from them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to construct 10 new units in Kugaaruk during the 2020-21 fiscal year, 10 new units during the 2021-22 fiscal year, and 10 new units in Taloyoak in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Can the minister confirm that my understanding is correct? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Perhaps I will first respond by saying that I want to work closely with the Inuit organizations. In the past when they were on the election campaign and the now NTI vice-president was on the radio, I was in Coral Harbour. He said that he wanted to support housing. I haven't heard anything back from him since he got elected, but I am open to working with NTI.

We have made plans as the housing corporation. With respect to the member's question, the planned construction has not changed for those fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Motion 054 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the member from Pangnirtung, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 681 – 5(2): Results of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Conference

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister announced in the House that the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Conference would be taking place this week. They were probably meeting this week between October 28 and 30. I am proud of the fact that there is a committee like that.

Can the minister clarify what process is followed to collect the results from these conferences and how the decisions made at the conferences can be beneficial for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aggu for his question. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit took part in the conference this week. It was kind of regretful that some of them could not arrive due to weather, but the conference proceeded with many delegates attending. They were mainly focused on government staff and the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Division, but they also discussed how they can apply *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the workplace. The *Iviqtippalliajut Framework* was explained at the meeting.

I want to say that the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit meet throughout the year and make recommendations to the way the government operates in implementing *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within its programs. That's how the committee can be utilized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am proud of the elders who are knowledgeable about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. It is good to hear that they take part in these meetings. It's obvious that they promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the

usefulness of Inuit societal values. It is the kind of information that should be used in our schools.

Can the minister explain how he has worked with the Minister of Education to collect the results of these conferences? Has he spoken to the Minister of Education about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aggu. We have been geared toward *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* with the Department of Education. The department works with the Department of Culture and Heritage through language development and we are continuing with that. The Department of Education has its own curriculum development committee and they have elders as members. The Department of Culture and Heritage has the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit and they work with the other committees.

I went and listened in to their meeting yesterday and there was curriculum development staff there who works in Arviat and attending the meeting. That person could report on the work they do and how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* can be disseminated to the schools. It is very comprehensive and they simply can't cover everything in two days. I am sure other groups will want to have meetings about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and not just in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 682 – 5(2): Current Initiatives

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Democratic Institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I'm fairly confident that this is the first question that has ever been directed to a "Minister of Democratic Institutions" since the portfolio was first created in the previous Assembly, but I'm very confident that this is the first question to be asked during the current Assembly.

>>*Laughter*

For the benefit of everyone following today's proceedings, could the minister please highlight one or two initiatives that she is currently working on?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Main, you are correct; this Democratic Institutions was first established or created under the federal government under our former Minister of Justice, Keith Peterson, in 2017.

As the Minister of Democratic Institutions, we're responsible for ensuring Nunavummiut are represented at the federal, provincial and territorial

levels in any discussion regarding electoral reform. Unfortunately, although this was a priority for the last government, little work has been done on the part of the federal government and this Democratic Institutions is not currently active. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had the courage and commitment to put their names forward this week for municipal elections and district education authorities, as well as other local organizations.

Elections are very important; it's a big deal. Pursuing public service and holding public office are honourable callings. However, I am concerned that the high number of acclamations and races with few candidates in a number of communities reveal a lack of civic engagement. In one community we heard that nobody ran for mayor, with many councillors acclaimed. This is worrisome.

Can the minister describe how she is working with Elections Nunavut, the status of women council, or other partners to promote democratic engagement with our institutions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are a number of ways that Nunavummiut can participate in our

democratic process. By staying informed, the public can better participate in the process. The public receives information regarding our government through our frontline staff, our public communications, and information tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Additionally, all individuals have the right to access to information under the Access to Information and Protection Act.

While I encourage and support Nunavummiut who wish to participate in our democratic process through casting a vote or running for seats, I do not have a mandate for education and engagement. That falls under Elections Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that. The more questions I ask, the more I understand about this portfolio, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that it's not only important that we have strong institutions but also that we have the right number of institutions. We don't want too many and we don't want too few. I have heard from a number of constituents recently that, perhaps, Nunavut as a whole has way too many boards and other elected bodies for a jurisdiction of our size. Would the minister be willing to commit to a process of dialogue and engagement with the public to start having a conversation on this topic?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Main, for your questions. I won't commit, but I will research the information that you are requesting and I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 683 – 5(2): Vision Care in Iqaluit

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing from a number of my constituents that they are becoming increasingly frustrated with the long wait times to get proper vision care.

Can the minister provide an update on the current arrangement to provide adequate vision care services in the community of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For our vision care contract, I know there is a service here in Iqaluit that is available and I know there are also the specialists that come in numerous times a year. With regard to exactly how often they come, I don't have that information right in front of me at the moment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents is a diabetic, just like me, and needs a yearly vision exam as part of her diabetes treatment. Being unable to get an appointment with the eye care team can really jeopardize her health.

Can the minister clarify what steps are being taken to ensure that clients who need vision care services for related health issues can be seen without delay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did find the information about NIHB eye and vision care services. There are a couple of different contracts with Polar Vision and the Northwest Territories Health Authority.

Mr. Speaker, anytime that someone feels that they're not going to get an appointment in a fast enough manner, again, I strongly suggest that they contact patient relations.

That being said, as the member is aware, I recently made a statement on the diabetes clinic here in Iqaluit. If the person has concerns with their diabetes, again, I strongly encourage the member to encourage that constituent to contact the diabetes clinic and they will help coordinate as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the minister for his response. I think this frustration has come out of just a long wait-list. There are other people who have similar conditions that also need to see the eye specialist, but it has been very frustrating.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that without a permanent vision care team in this community, the department needs to bring in specialists, as you mentioned, under contract. Can the minister provide an update on the number of vision care team visits to Iqaluit that are scheduled, how many days each visit typically lasts, and how many people are seen during these visits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact number of days that they come up. I do know that the surgical eye team comes up at least a couple of times a year. When we get into the specialist services that do come up, we do take a look at the amount of usage and the wait-list.

I'll be honest, Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have heard that this is a concern. I will speak to my officials about it to get an update on the wait-list and to see if there are ways that we can encourage our specialists to extend their time. It is something that we have been doing. I'm not sure if other patients have noticed, but we have been decreasing our wait-list by bringing our specialists in for longer periods of time, either here in Iqaluit but also in the communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 684 – 5(2): Staff Housing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and are following up to my previous questions.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the responses to my written questions were appreciated, as the figures contained in the GN and QEC staff housing statistics do provide a lot of pertinent and useful information. My first question would be, prior to my written question, I would like to ask the minister if the minister had been monitoring the amount of vacant units or was this the first time that management had compiled this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. No. We have been monitoring from the very first day I became Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I wanted to know about staff housing, how many units we had, who was in them, if they were, like the information you requested, who were non-Inuit, how many were non-Inuit, how many houses were actually compatible for people to live in, so no, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They indicated a high ratio of vacant units. Roughly about one-third of the corporation's staff housing units are vacant. That is quite alarming, but more importantly is the number of vacant units requiring renovations: 17. That is roughly 10 percent of the corporation's staff housing stock. My next question is: of those vacant units requiring major renovations, would those be leased or owned units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Just a little bit of information for Mr. Lightstone, the information you requested was dated February 21, 2019. The information that I received from Qulliq Energy staff is there are currently ten units that require renovations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the response to my written question, as of March 31, 2019, the number of vacant units requiring renovations still remained at 17 units. In response to one of my earlier questions, the minister had committed to looking into the number of units requiring renovations to find out the length of time that those units have remained vacant.

Once the minister does compile that information, if it turns out that the number of units have been vacant for an extraordinarily long length of time, I would like to ask the minister if she would be willing to transfer those units

over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation so that the NHC could then renovate the units and convert them into public housing stock. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. Unfortunately I can't tell you how long these units are going to take to renovate. Some of these units were built back in the 1960s, some of these units have asbestos in them, some of them are because of wear and tear, and like I mentioned, how old they are. Once the Qulliq Energy Corporation knows exactly what can be done with these units, I can have definite answers for you.

At this time, even if we did renovate the units and were able to keep those units to stock them with staff housing, at this time I'm not going to say whether or not we will renovate these units and then turn them over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to become public housing. I'm not going to commit to that right now. If the Qulliq Energy Corporation feels that these units, once they are renovated, are needed for our staff housing, we will fill them with staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 685 – 5(2): Mamisarvik Healing Program

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing

me again. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Just recently the healing centre in Ottawa was opened after being closed for quite a while. When it was first opened, the Government of Nunavut had a contract with the organization so that that facility can be utilized by the people of Nunavut. When it reopened, we heard that the Government of Nunavut's contract had expired, but there was no further information on what they will be doing now.

My first question is: what is the status of that? Has the minister considered signing another agreement so that the people of Nunavut can utilize that healing facility? Has he considered that? I know that the contract has expired. Where is it at now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, some of my officials with the Department of Health have already been in contact with the TI and Mamisarvik facility itself. Right now they're still developing their capacity and they're currently only taking Ontario Inuit residents. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for explaining that. We didn't hear what the Government of Nunavut was going to do once that facility reopened.

We know that Nunavummiut have been discussing the establishment of a healing facility here for a number of years. From what we now understand in this House, a healing facility will be built, but it's already evident that it will be many years before it is established, Mr. Speaker.

I would now like to ask the minister and urge him to sign an agreement as soon as possible because we have quite a few years before a facility would be built here in Nunavut. Considering that Nunavummiut have to use that healing centre, can the minister indicate that an agreement will be signed so that we can use that facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my officials are in continual conversation and will continue to do so. When that facility decides and is able to open its doors to outside of Ontario residents, it's definitely something we will explore.

Just for the record, we do have other facilities. As the member mentioned, we do not currently have any residential care facilities in the territory and we're looking very much forward to more deliberations in this upcoming capital approval process to start work on Nunavut's residential care facility.

I do want to state that at this time there is nobody on a waiting list. We make sure that if residential care is deemed as a need for the healing process, we will find them a facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The healing centre uses the Inuktitut language. We know there are many Nunavummiut who speak Inuktitut, and our goal is to have these facilities provide services in Inuktitut, as our government and other entities must operate in Inuktitut. We look forward to having our own facility where the working language is Inuktitut, which is why I strongly urge the minister to have the facility operate in Inuktitut. We look forward to seeing an agreement coming out. I again urge them to work hard on that, as we have to keep our minds on Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, but I will take the opportunity to acknowledge the member's concern. My mental health team has committed, when they're able, to take on outside-of-provincial residents, Inuit especially. They will continue the dialogue. Again, I have to mention that I can't wait to get to the section of our capital asks so that we can start work on Nunavut's addictions and trauma centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 686 – 5(2): Vehicle and Body Cameras for RCMP Officers

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be

directed to the Minister of Justice.

I'll make a preamble to my question. There are cameras in the RCMP cells where inmates are remanded. We saw in the media an inmate in Iqaluit alleging to have been mistreated.

Mr. Speaker, there are good apples and bad apples. We are human beings of different backgrounds, kind of like apples. I want to ask the Minister of Justice: have they considered having body and vehicle cameras for police officers? It's obvious that indigenous people and police officers in Canada come across trying situations, which has been covered in the media. My first question is if installing vehicle and body cameras for police officers has been considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On body cameras and cameras within vehicles, the Department of Justice has been reviewing and researching that information. We know that in the wintertime, if you have a camera, because of the harsh climate, we don't know how these cameras will withstand within the weather or in the vehicles, but we are checking into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Justice for her adequate response to my question. With no research on the

subject, maybe there can be pilot projects in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin regions. With respect to her comments on the uncertainty of the operation of these cameras in cold weather, as was her reasoning, can she commit (interpretation ends) to have a pilot project in the three regions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Qamaniq, for your question. The Department of Justice can research the information and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Continuing on. Replies to Opening Address. Continuing on. Item 10. Petitions. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasie.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 019 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly signed by the people of South Baffin. It is regarding the minimum wage in Nunavut. There are 211 signatures from Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. I would like to present this petition to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Continuing on. Responses to Petitions. Continuing on. Reports of

Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 212 – 5(2): 2020 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Members, in accordance with the authority provided to me by Rule 3, I am tabling the 2020 sitting calendar for the Legislative Assembly for all Nunavummiut. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Tabled Document 213 – 5(2): Qikiqtaaluk and Group of Companies respond to the CBC Article

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to table a letter written by the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and it is addressed to the CBC. It is in response to a recent article titled “Importing modular homes won’t help employ Inuit.”

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is beneficial that the Assembly as well as the public is able to read the contents of the letter, and I ask that all the members do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – Mental Health Act – Second Reading

Hon. George Hicks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 36, *Mental Health Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speak, this bill provides for a modern, culturally appropriate *Mental Health Act* for Nunavut, and in particular provides for:

- the provision of mental health and addiction services by the Government of Nunavut;
- the reporting of events which may have an impact on mental health;
- the notification of suicide attempts;
- voluntary admission, involuntary admission and community treatment of individuals with a mental disorder;
- the rights of individuals with respect to mental health services;
- an independent Mental Health Review Board; and
- the appointment and functions of rights advocates.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Member Main. All those in favour. I’m sorry. To the motion. All those in favour. Mr. Main. Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sorry for the confusion.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) I apologize.
(interpretation ends) Happy Halloween.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I have a brief comment. Mental health services are extremely important in Nunavut and we are all aware of that. I am pleased with the bill that the government has introduced and I look forward to working hard on this with my colleagues in Nunavut. I believe we're all aware that the provision of mental health services needs to be addressed. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member Main. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 36 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Continuing on. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Bill 37 – Legislation Act – Second Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 37, *Legislation Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. As I mentioned earlier, Bill 36 and Bill 37 will be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.
(interpretation ends) Bill 36 and Bill 37 are referred to the Standing Committee

on Legislation.

(interpretation) Continuing on. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 8, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:48 and
Committee resumed at 16:13*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): 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 8, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations for the Department of Environment, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Savikataaq, please introduce your officials. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Jimmy Noble Jr., the DM of Environment, and to my right is Nikki Nweze, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Noble, is it? Your first appearance in Committee of the Whole, please welcome.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Yesterday we did our opening comments from both sides. Any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to thank the department for providing a response to the request for information that the Standing Committee on Economic Development submitted. We requested a lot of information and thank you very much for providing that.

I just wanted to make a brief comment that right now my constituents in Arviat are experiencing high levels of polar bear-related issues. I'm interested to see how this department can collaborate with other departments to help to address those in the long term. (interpretation) That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to bring to the Minister of Environment, I believe he knows it, the wildlife officer in Chesterfield Inlet does the polar bear patrols and he uses his own vehicle. Right now Chesterfield Inlet will experience a lot of polar bears. I'll be asking him questions on that later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments? Seeing none, we're on Environment. Program Management. Any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, good evening, and welcome.

I hate to repeat myself, but I feel like I must give credit where it's due. As I stated in the last year and the year before, I really appreciate everything that your department has done in improving the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park. It has changed dramatically since I was younger and the whole community and the tourists really appreciate it. Once again thank you. You guys have done a great job and I look forward to seeing what it will be like another 10 years from now.

I have one question and it's similar to what my colleague, Mr. Main, brought up and it's the polar bear issue.

Typically Iqaluit hasn't really seen a lot of polar bears in the area, but in the last five years there have definitely been a spike in polar bear sightings. My one question would be whether the minister had considered incorporating an alarm in the park to notify clients or campers if there are polar bears in the vicinity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can just get clarification on whether he wants individual, small, little alarms for people who are in the camps or sort of an alarm system for the whole camp so I can better answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that the park does cover a large area. I think individual alarms would be cost prohibitive. I was thinking maybe three dispersed alarms to notify anyone in the park if there is a polar bear that has been spotted in the area. I think something along those lines would be ideal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The park staff do regular patrols to see if there are any bears around. Not to belittle the situation, but we don't have an actual system where we would know a polar bear is in town. You can have devices like motion

sensors, but any movement would set them off. They do patrols and if there is a bear sighted, not even within the park but anywhere close to the park, the park officials would inform anyone who is in the park and they would do a public service announcement for all of Iqaluit anywhere if there was a polar bear sighted near the park, in the park, or anywhere close to the city of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Last year the Legislative Assembly approved \$370,000 in capital funding for the purchase of mobile equipment for the 2018-19 fiscal year. I would like to know what kinds of mobile equipment have been purchased and which communities they're located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We won't be able to purchase any mobile equipment with the funds we have now because that budget is for 2020-21. Once the funds are approved for the equipment, like skidoos, ATV, boats, and such, managers will be looking into it and we will do some research as to which communities need what equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Minister of Environment misunderstood my

question. I said that earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$370,000 in capital funding for the purchase of mobile equipment during the 2018-19 fiscal year. My question is: as of today, what items of mobile equipment have been purchased by your department and in which community are they located? We already approved it in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry for the misunderstanding.

From this current year that we are in right now, we have purchased eight snowmobiles, four ATVs, one UTV, three ATBs, one trailer and one boat trailer, one small boat and an outboard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. She also asked: where did they go? Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, for 2018-19, for the Kivalliq first, we have one snowmobile in Arviat. I will go by community first, what they got, it's just easier, I think. For Arviat, one snowmobile, one small boat, one boat trailer, one utility trailer, and one outboard; for Baker Lake, one snowmobile, one ATV; for Chesterfield Inlet, one snowmobile.

We will go on to the Kitikmeot region: Cambridge Bay, one snowmobile; Gjoa Haven, one ATV; Kugaaruk, one snowmobile.

On to North Baffin: Arctic Bay, one

snowmobile; Igloolik, one snowmobile; Pond Inlet, one snowmobile. South Baffin: Cape Dorset, one UTV and one utility trailer; Sanikiluaq, one ATV and one utility trailer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. The next name of my list, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are reviewing the capital plan for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River, the total budget is said to be \$7 million over ten years as part of the creation of the park. It includes \$4.5 million for a new park office that will administer this park. Will this office provide visitor services or are there any plans in place towards visitor services? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this new Agguttinni Territorial Park includes funding from the Government of Canada of \$4.7 million and we are also contributing the same amount. The largest portion of the funding will go towards the construction of the building or in English, (interpretation ends) the visitor centre, (interpretation) where the visitors would approach to see what the park resources are, and there will be staff as well. The highest expenditure is towards that new centre and the funds are spread over four years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I then understand that due to the park being the largest in Nunavut's system of territorial parks, has the concept of a visitor centre or central park administration been considered or is it for another purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite grasp the gist of his usage of the term "tuqqaqtarvik," so I would like to ask him what he means so I can understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, as I used our dialectal term for that facility, but with the number of territorial parks increasing and this new park establishment with an office, I was asking if it would become like a headquarters for all territorial parks in Nunavut. I ask because it will become the single largest territorial park north of us. I want to know if it will be a central territorial parks office. I hope it is clear now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's clarification of that term. No, the office wouldn't become a central parks office for all of our parks, as it will operate separately and specifically for the park as the funds are for the Agguttinni Territorial Park. This office will only administer that park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move entirely to a different tangent. Now, in some of the communities we still lack conservation officers and in some cases it has been many years since a conservation officer landed in our community. Our community of Qikiqtarjuaq is amongst those that are waiting for that position to be filled. Are we still not at the stage where we can anticipate a conservation officer being hired in Qikiqtarjuaq? We haven't had a conservation officer for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's along the lines of operations and maintenance, but Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the question has to do with operations and maintenance, but I can respond to it. We are currently working with the Department of Human Resources and the housing corporation to fill the vacant position for the conservation officer in Qikiqtarjuaq. Even though the conservation officer position is not filled, there are conservation officers that go to the community to perform the duties and when there is a request for the conservation officer to go to the community, they will do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I would like to ask a question under page I-3. It mentions environmental protection, as well as fisheries and sealing. The question I would like to ask about is at the beginning of this sitting, I asked about the bowhead whale that was found dead. We have to protect our wildlife, whether it's on water or land. I wonder how that is understood.

Mr. Chairman, please advise me if it is not the appropriate place to ask my question. I'm sure the Minister of Environment is aware of the situation. I wonder how this was handled. That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. It's along the lines of environmental protection. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we are not really dealing with the bowhead whale that was found dead. It is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We haven't been informed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans if they investigated how the bowhead whale died or why it died. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure we will get more information in the future.

Mr. Chairman, let me move on to something else. In the fall, mainly early winter, the Legislative Assembly approved \$2,039,000 in capital carryovers from last year to this year for renovations to Department of Environment buildings and for territorial parks. Mr. Chairman, I would like to get

an update on the status of this work. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That funding from the carryover from last year has been applied and is being used this year now after approval. I can list off the items separately for the member, but the money is being used right now. For the Katannilik Territorial Park, \$235,000 was spent and they will need to have more funding for this coming winter. The wildlife office in Resolute Bay was going to be constructed at a cost of \$1,421,000. It is being constructed now. That money is being utilized. The wildlife office building in Gjoa Haven is at \$333,000. That money was used this summer. The renovation of the wildlife office in Cape Dorset is at \$50,000 and it was used. Those are all the projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Just to remind the members that we are dealing with the proposed capital estimates for 2020 and 2021. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will base my question on what you just said. The Department of Environment's buildings are going to be renovated in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Which ones are planned for renovations? That's what I would like to know, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That funding is used to renovate wildlife offices. In the past the wildlife offices were renovated in a piecemeal manner. Starting now, the funding will be used to renovate one wildlife office at a time so that it is done thoroughly. In 2020-21 the funding will be for the renovation of the wildlife office in Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I want to start off with praise again. My family and I really did enjoy visiting the park here, the Sylvia Grinnell Park. Once again it was full of people and it was just really nice to see.

My question for you regarding that is I would like to know what the future... I see that there's some money set aside, \$100,000. What are the future development plans for the Sylvia Grinnell Park? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the praise, but I think praise should be given where it's deserved and the staff there do work hard to make it a nice, clean, enjoyable experience when people go there.

For the coming year, the money that we're requesting is going to be used for installation of new trails, signposts, picnic tables, campsites, and washroom facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, it does come down to staff who do the work and that's where my praise was intended.

It's really good to hear that more campsites and that will be developed. I guess that's the one frustration that some people were having in that it is nice to go to, everybody think it's a very... There was like a wait, kind of, to access some of the barbecue pits and things like that.

What about: is there any further thought to the bridge? There was that one time we were thinking about a bridge, like a walking bridge to go over. I think there are quite a few people who would really like to see this developed. I'm wondering if you can tell us what your thoughts are on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not in our plans right now. We can look at it and see what it might cost for a walking bridge. I remember from quite a few years ago that they did have a planned walking bridge, then it got expanded to an ATV bridge, and then they thought they might want a vehicle bridge. It kind of ballooned out, but we can look at that again. I know for a fact that it will not be a cheap project, but we can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear

because I think we need to revisit that again. I think Iqaluit is growing and growing and lots of people want to access the facilities there. Having the opportunity to go to the other side and walking or having a picnic over there, I think, is really good.

I want to ask a little bit about park development. I know this is something that your department is involved in. It seems to me that there are a lot of parks being developed in Nunavut more than ever before, territorial and federal. I'm just wondering: what's the role of the department when it comes to identifying where a territorial or federal park is going to be? For example, is this something that comes from a community? How does the whole process start? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only speak for territorial parks, but the process is the communities request a park and the communities pick a location, and then we have consultation meetings with a community that has requested a park. That's where the process starts.

With the federal side of it, if the federal government decides to make a park, there are all kinds of consultation which is way broader than ours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of more questions regarding the process. I would like to know if the minister can tell us how many more requests are there for

territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any requests to make a park right now, but there are quite a few that are not a park yet and we're working with the communities to get them to the stage where they can become a territorial park. We have no requests that are outstanding from the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us: when there is a request that comes in to develop a territorial park, what kind of land analysis is done, if any, to see maybe what the makeup of the ground is like mineral-wise and for stuff like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally most territorial parks are very small, so we don't do a mineral inventory, but we talk with the communities, the hamlet council, the HTOs, and we have a joint park committee that looks into what they want the park to look like, how big they want it, and what services should be there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I find that quite interesting, only because I wonder, for example... . Maybe we're not supposed to be hypothetical, but I like to

pretend here, if you can bear with me, just to get a better understanding.

Let's say that I would like a territorial park. I am from a community and I've got the backing of the hamlet and everything, and we want to develop this territorial park. Maybe fast-forward a few years later, some community member have found out that in that territorial park is full of diamonds, but it's a park, so you can't go in there and prospect and do all of that. It's why I asked if any analysis is ever done. Do you think this is an issue that will come up in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For her hypothetical question, my hypothetical answer is it's very unlikely that that would happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of your department's 2019-2020 capital estimates, the standing committee recommended that your department begin the practice of preparing an annual report to the House on its expenditures and activities that relate to Nunavut's territorial park system. Your predecessor committed to providing these reports. When will the first annual report be tabled in this House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can work and our goal will be the winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm also wondering: how do you track visitors to the park and, if you track them, what are the numbers? Who is visiting? Which park is the hot one where everybody wants to go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess they go through the visitor centres. It would be harder to track in the smaller parks, but by far the one that is utilized the most is the park right here, the Sylvia Grinnell River Park. Of all the territorial parks we have, this is the most utilized one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is where I would like your feedback. I guess the way that the department analyzes how many people are visiting the park here is really through... . There's like, I don't know what you call it, a corridor, a wire, or something on the roads. Every time a car passes over, it dings. I'm assuming there's a little bit more complicated way, perhaps, in the communities when it comes to tracking who is in your parks because I would assume that you would need to know at all times who is in the parks so that if anything should come up, you know how many people are in the park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know exactly how many people are in the park at any given time. We would have a good idea of how many are there when the staff are there, but in the evenings and if there's no staff working or in some territorial parks where they have no staff, then we wouldn't be able to know how many people are there.

If there are any safety issues in any of the parks, there are conservation officers in every community. They would step in, in that role to make sure that there are any safety issues that anyone within the park or within the general area is notified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Just lastly my last question, when it comes to a territorial park versus a federal park, other than the ownership, I know one is the federal government and one is the territorial government, what are the similarities and differences of the two parks, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my last question.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're both called parks.

>> *Laughter*

That's the common denominator. I guess the difference is with territorial parks we decide on the rules and regulations for that park and the national parks, the federal government does that. It's easier to make a territorial park than it is to

make a national park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Last name on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have that many questions. My first question is on the renovation of wildlife offices. Again thank you for all the additional information here. It's \$750,000 a year and then on appendix 4 of the letter you provided, you mentioned all the issues around getting renovations done to wildlife offices. It mentions here that there are a number that are in poor condition and need to be fixed up. It also talks about in here the issues why you can't get them fixed up as quickly as you need to.

At the top of the second page it mentions the high cost of construction in the north and public tenders for projects that are prohibitively high and exceeding the budgetary means of the department. Has the department looked at alternative methods of dealing with these needs, specifically purchasing the materials and tendering out labour-only contracts, maybe, which could possibly bring down the cost of doing the renovations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't exactly looked at that, but all the procurement goes through CGS there. Like the letter stated, it's so costly now that we haven't replaced a wildlife office or building in quite a while and that is why we're going to spend more money on

renovations now. We haven't looked at breaking up the contract to material and labour only. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the minister be able to look into alternatives? It could be labour-only contracts, it could be modular construction, just basically trying to find a better way to do this. I know there are number of communities still waiting for upgrades to their wildlife offices. (interpretation) I'm asking whether there are alternatives being considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look at those alternatives, yes, we can, but CGS has the overall contract. They're the experts on getting it done for a cost-effective way, but I can work with the CGS minister and work on that.

Our budget is so small, like the total budget we have right now for capital would just make one wildlife office building and there would be no budget to buy the mobile equipment and no money to do the renovations. We're kind of caught in a hard place right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My next line of questioning is on the mobile equipment; wildlife research, mobile equipment. It mentions on the sheet here that it's

pretty important work that's done by wildlife research folks. It says that "The work done by the research team ensures that decisions made regarding regulation of wildlife harvests and resource development that affects wildlife is based upon the best available scientific information and traditional knowledge on wildlife."

I was going through this and you have quite a few wildlife research locations, including Arviat, and the budget is only \$50,000 a year. That's enough to purchase what? Three snowmobiles per year? (interpretation) My question is: have you considered increasing that amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's \$50,000 for mobile equipment, which doesn't seem like a lot, but most of the research done by the biologist involves helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft and that portion is really expensive. They get their research done, but most of the research is done by air. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Have there been any requests put forward for additional capital funds by the research division in terms of office space or it could be specialized equipment? I probably wouldn't even be pronounce some of the equipment, let alone describe what it's for, but my understanding is that some of the equipment they use is very specialized and quite expensive. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, we haven't received any requests. The member is right that some are very specialized and a lot of the stuff that they do too is shipped out for analysis, so there are budgets for that too. Any request that comes in, we look at all that as part of the whole of the project and whatever project that they're working on for population estimates or population health of a certain species. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My next topic is, I guess they're called wildlife guardian programs and I'm asking about capital. It's a kind of a new type of program. I think there's one operating in Nunavut. I think it's in the North Baffin, but it involves providing equipment and support to hunters or local people to monitor special areas or special parts of the *nuna* or *tariuq*. I'm just wondering if any of these type of programs have come to the Department of Environment in terms of it could be, for example, monitoring caribou migrations or things like that in terms of capital. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the guardians that the member is talking about are a part of the guardians that were hired through the Tallirutiup Imanga IIBA. That's their project and they have not come to us for capital. I imagine that as part of their

IIBA, they have money for operating and for capital, but I can't speak for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final line of questioning is on the issue of polar bear deterrence. Right now in Arviat they're having big issues. It's no surprise; it happens every year. I know that Environment does support wildlife deterrence. It's very important work.

In terms of managing attractives, one of the biggest attractives in Arviat and Whale Cove are the dumps. Right now both of those communities have RFPs that were issued by CGS on planning for a solid waste facility. As those are capital projects, I'm just wondering if Environment is involved in any way in that planning process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community dumps are the responsibility of the hamlet and they work with Community and Government Services. We're not involved in that right now, but I can see your point of it in terms of the bears are attracted to the dump.

In Arviat specifically we have polar bear monitors that work around the clock this time of the year. We have bear traps set up to trap bears that come into the vicinity of the certain areas of town. That's what we are doing as the Department of Environment, but in that RFP that you're talking about, no, we're not involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of the problems, I think, with government sometimes is that there tends to be silos where one department, CGS for example, “We’re the people who deal with dumps,” but you just have to look at Arviat. There are polar bear monitors or deterrence folks there every night this time of year or every day sometimes.

It really would make a lot of sense if Environment was involved on some level with the planning for future solid waste because Environment, you are the wildlife experts. CGS are not the wildlife experts. Whatever they decide to do with the dump will, in one way or another, affect the wildlife attractives. That’s just a request that Environment get involved and, for example, it could lead to development of maybe an incineration facility where waste could be incinerated to reduce attractives.

(interpretation) I’m asking if the departments can consider collaborating with each other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can work with CGS. If they ask about any expertise, we might be able to contribute in terms of their RFP. We’re open to work with them. Our goal is to have the least amount of wildlife and human conflicts all over Nunavut. As the member knows, I’m from Arviat too, so I’m fully aware of the polar bear issues that we have there and we’re doing our best to deal with the

polar bears.

Putting on my hat from many years ago, there was a study done about the amount of garbage that was being produced in Arviat, whether it was justifiable to get an incinerator, and I don’t remember what the results were, but there is a study there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have no further questions. I just wanted to comment that Whale Cove also is in the process of solid waste facility planning, or CGS is, I should say. Polar bears are also an issue with the Whale Cove dump very close to the community. (interpretation) That’s all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you. It was just a comment, but his comment is noted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We’re on Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page I-2. Environment. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank my staff that are here for all the support that they give me and all the people under them who produce the budget and the justifications of how it's produced.

I thank the members for asking good questions so that we can justify our budget, and I'm thankful that they support it and that we will use this money wisely. I know it's a very small budget, but Environment does a lot of work with the little money that they do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, for answering the members' questions. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress on the work we did today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on. Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: 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? Member Kamingoak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): *Orders of the Day* for November 1:

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 (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, November 1, at 9 a.m.
16. Motions (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills >>*House adjourned at 17:09*
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 8
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. On behalf of all of the members who don't live in Iqaluit, every community will be holding their annual Halloween festivities. For some of us, our children and grandchildren will be visiting house to house, so they are in our thoughts and we love them dearly. During this Halloween night, we wish everyone a safe and joyous night.

>>*Applause*

Appendix – October 31, 2019



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Joeline Kaernerker, MLA for Ammituq

Asked of: Hon. Patterk Netser, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Number: 624 – 5(2)

Date: Oct. 31, 2019

Subject: Mould Infestation and Remediation

Question: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they again concern the issue of mould, which I brought up on many occasions in this House.

Mr. Speaker, in July of this year the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for a new mould management plan. My understanding is that the contract was awarded in August of this year. In this request for proposal "Targeted mould remediation projects have taken place in 2017 and 2018 in communities throughout the territory. Additional projects will be undertaken in 2019." Can the minister confirm how many housing units underwent mould remediation this year in the communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, maybe the minister can inform us of how many units have been remediated, not only in my riding, but in all of Nunavut.

Response:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide the MLA for Ammituq with a detailed list of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's mould remediation activities thus far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Kitikmeot District

Cambridge Bay

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

- Three units with level 3 mould impacts were remediated at a cost of \$780k. Work in these units is complete.

Gjoa Haven

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

- Five units with level 3 mould impacts were remediated at a cost of \$1.4M. Work in these units is complete.

Kugaaruk

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

- Two units with level 3 mould impacts were remediated
- Roof of one 5-plex was replaced due to mould damage
- Total Cost is \$1.38M
- Work in these units is complete.

Kugluktuk

In the 2019/20 fiscal year

- Two units with level 3 mould impacts are currently under remediation. Tended amount is \$175K.
- Works in these units is to be completed by the end of the year.

Kivalliq District

Arviat

In the 2018/19 fiscal year

- Six units with level 3 mould impacts were remediated at a cost of \$2.7M. Works in these units to be completed before Christmas.

Baker Lake

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

- Seven units with level 3 mould impacts units were remediated at a cost of \$779k. Work in these units is complete.

Coral Harbour

2019/2020 fiscal year:

- Four units with level 3 mould impacts are planned for remediation.

Rankin Inlet

2019/2020 fiscal year:

- Four units with level 3 mould impacts are planned for remediation.

Qikiqtaaluk District

Cape Dorset

In the 2018/2019 fiscal year:

- Six units with level 3 mould impacts units were remediated at a cost of \$1.1M. Work in these units is complete.

Hall Beach:

In the 2018/2019 fiscal year

- Six units with level 3 mould impacted units have been or are currently being

- remediated with a budget of approximately \$570k.
- This work was not tendered. NHC has provided support the LHO by way of mould specialist, a carpenter and additional local workers to supplement the staff of the LHO.
 - Work on four units has been completed. The last two units will be remediated by 2020.

Iqloolik:

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

- Seven units with level 3 mould impacted units were remediated at a cost of \$1.7M. Work in these units is complete.

In the 2018/2019 fiscal year:

- Roofs of one 5-plex and one 4-plex were replaced due to mould damage. Interior remediation work on these units this unit will be completed before Christmas.
- Cost is \$1.2M.

Iqaluit

In the 2018/2019 fiscal year:

- Five units with level 3 mould impacts were remediated at a cost of 1.3M. Work in these units is complete.

In the 2019/20 fiscal year:

- Eight units with level 3 mould impacts units will be remediated with a budget of 1M. Work is planned to begin in November 2019.
- This work was not tendered. NHC will provide support to the LHO to complete the work.

Kimmirut

In the 2019/20 fiscal year

- Four units with level 3 mould impacted units are planned for remediation. Lack of accommodation in the community has created some delays. Intent to commence works early 2020.

Sanikiluaq

In the 2017/18 fiscal year:

Nine units with level 3 mould impacts units were remediated at a cost of \$1.75M. Work in these units is complete.