



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**5th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 72**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**

**Pages 4526 – 4591**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Quttiktuq)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister of  
Human Resources*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
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**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Aboriginal  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

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

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
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**Cathy Towtongie**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, November 7, 2019  
Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickee, 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): Before we proceed, let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): People of Baker Lake and Nunavut who are watching and listening to the proceedings, please feel welcome as the Legislative Assembly Nunavut reconvenes.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 342 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Development  
Corporation – President and CEO**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The people of Quttiktuq are in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and thank the 11 years of dedicated service of Darrin Nichol as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Over the years Mr. Nichol has given excellent guidance to the Nunavut Development Corporation, board, staff, and our clients and served our territory to the fullest capability and has been very successful working with various business entrepreneurs as well as investing with new business ventures. Mr. Nichol has accepted a new challenge with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Nunavut Development Corporation and the department will be seeking a new president and chief executive officer through open competition and look forward to people applying for this very important position.

On behalf of the government and the Nunavut Development Corporation board and staff, we wish all the best for Mr. Nichol and thank him for all the hard work he has done. Our Chairman, Donald Havioyak, and I will miss his leadership and hope to find someone as enthusiastic and dedicated a person to fill those huge shoes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.



**Minister's Statement 343 – 5(2):  
Long-term Service Award  
Recipients – 30 Years or More  
with the Government of Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank our employees who have dedicated more than 30 years to the Government of Nunavut. These devoted public servants will be honoured with long-term service awards at a recognition ceremony on December 2, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, these employees have dedicated their careers to our government and have made enormous contributions to their communities and our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals who have dedicated 30 years of public service to Nunavut, and if I mispronounce anyone's name, I'm apologizing ahead. Thirty years of service:

- Harry Adams, Department of Education;
- Helen Akana, Department of Education;
- Richard Armstrong, Nunavut Arctic College;
- Mary Audlakiak, Department of Education;
- Kenneth Beardsall, Department of Education;
- Elizabeth Himga, Department of Health;
- Joan Killulark, Department of Health;
- Sheila Kolola, Department of Human

- Resources;
- Paula Kringayark, Department of Education;
  - Mavis Mulgrew, Department of Education;
  - Ida Nakoolak, Department of Health;
  - Julia Okatsiak-Josephie, Department of Education;
  - Kathleen Okpik, Department of Education;
  - Meeka Qamaniq, Department of Education;
  - Donna Spence, Department of Health;
  - Don Tattrie, Department of Community and Government Services;
  - Elizabeth Tologanak, Department of Education;
  - Joeli Tongak, Department of Education; and
  - Edwin Zebedee, Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize these employees who have 35 years of service. Thirty-five years is a long time.

- Saimata Arlooktoo, Nunavut Arctic College;
- Tirak Etidlui, Department of Education;
- Lena Metuq, Department of Education; and
- Dimaris Saimaut, Department of Health.

Finally, with great appreciation and admiration, I recognize two employees with more than 40 years of dedicated service:

- Oopah Arnakallak, Department of Education; and

- Mary Ellen Thomas, Nunavut Arctic College.

Colleagues, please join me in recognizing their valuable commitment and dedication to the Government of Nunavut and thanking them for their years of service. We congratulate these long-term service award recipients and cannot express how much we appreciate your contributions to Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I thank these employees. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 344 – 5(2):  
Long-term Service Award  
Recipients – 20 to 25 Years**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues, as well as the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut takes great pride in recognizing the long-term service of our employees. The GN's Long-term Service Awards is an annual event to honour those employees with 20 years or more continuous service. This year's event is scheduled for December 2, 2019. Long-term service award recipients are based across the territory and work in all our GN departments and public bodies.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the following employees who have dedicated 20 years of public service to Nunavut. I hope I don't mispronounce their names and I do apologize if I do. We are proud of the

following employees who have served for 20 years:

- Tommy Adams
- Nancy Akerolik
- Mary Angidlik
- Silas Arnagna'naaq
- Gou Arnaquq
- Susie Arnaquq
- Rebecca Attagatalukutuk
- Corinne Attagutsiak
- Alexander Baldwin
- Louisa Barrieau
- Christine Ellsworth
- Patricia Bligh
- Jennifer Birmingham
- Nathan Caskey
- Angela Chislett
- Alain Chouinard
- Pelagie Darehshoripour
- James Demcheson
- Camilius Egeni
- Donna-Lee Ekpakohak
- Nora Evaglok
- Clara Evalik
- Jamie Flaherty
- Taqialoo Garson
- Tiffany Gauthier
- Graham Gavin
- Glenn House
- Lizzie Iblauk
- Samo Issuqangituq
- Geela Jaw
- Jacqueline Jordison
- Mike Kaiyogana
- Kathy Karlik
- Clara Kolit
- Darlene McPherson
- Paul Nagmalik
- Abbie Natseck
- Martina Ningark
- Elisapee Nowdluk
- Lillian Okpatauyak
- Rhoda Q. Palluq

- Aime Panimera
- Larry Qilluniq
- Michael Rafter
- Elaine Saittuq
- Levina Sanguya
- Martine St-Louis
- Robin Strutz
- Andrew Tagak
- Lena Maness Tagak
- Elsa Tatty
- Elijah Tigullaraq
- Angela Tulugarjuk
- Gilles Verreault
- Tony Villebrun

We are proud of them.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we still have employees who have served even longer. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the following employees who have dedicated 25 years of public service to our government. I do not want to mispronounce their names, Mr. Speaker:

- Richard Arcand
- Debbie Eleehetook
- Louise Flaherty
- Doreen Hannak
- Carolina Hidalgo
- Kathleen Irwin
- George Koonoo
- James Kreuger
- Madeline Manitok
- Holly Mercer
- Mary Munick
- Christine Nukapiak
- Julia Tautuajuk
- Margaret Taylor
- Martha Willie

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and all

Nunavummiut, we thank the recipients for making a difference in their communities and our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. On behalf of the Legislative Assembly, we congratulate the individuals who were just recognized by the Premier and Minister Kusugak.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 345 – 5(2):  
Canadian Institute of Health  
Research Grant**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that country food is critical for the well-being of Nunavummiut. In fact we know that country food is nourishing, and people say that they feel good after eating country food.

That is why I am thrilled to share the news that the Niqivut Silalu Asijjipalliajuq program has received a team grant of \$1.5 million over four years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, specifically through the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes. Mr. Speaker, this program, whose name translates to "Our food and climate change," is a made-in-Nunavut research project developed to address the vital issues of climate change and food security in the north. Specifically the project seeks to explore how Inuit knowledge and values, alongside the traditional practices of preparing and preserving country foods, can be used to strengthen Inuit food sovereignty and

food security in a changing climate.

Mr. Speaker and members, the project team is comprised of representatives from the Department of Health, working alongside a number of partner groups that include the Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, University of Alberta, the Iliasaqivik Family Resource Centre, the Iilitaqsinig Nunavut Literacy Council, and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre. Together this robust team will work with community knowledge holders to implement a comprehensive approach to sharing the stories of country food preparation, eating of all animal parts, and country food as medicine. Under the *Turaaqtavut* priority of *Inuusivut*, this work will support safe and healthy country foods and self-reliance enabled by both traditional and contemporary knowledge and tools.

Mr. Speaker and members, we eagerly anticipate the findings and progress that this project will make over the next four years, and we thank the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 346 – 5(2):  
Invitation to the Official Signing of  
the Nunavut Arctic College-  
Memorial University  
Memorandum of Understanding**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour. Joanase Tinashlu was watching the proceedings, so I send you my regards.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend an invitation to all members as well as the public to join Nunavut Arctic College for the official signing of the memorandum of understanding with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, this event will solidify the relationship and partnership between our two institutions. This ceremony will take place tomorrow, November 8, 2019, in Building A of the Nunatta Campus on the first floor at 10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I stood in the House last session to inform the members of this partnership, and I am happy to state that this relationship is moving forward in a positive way. Our institutions are committed to working collaboratively to meet the educational needs of our learners, as well as plan for future growth of our programs and institution.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to state that this alliance is just one of the many partnerships that Nunavut Arctic College has with nationally accredited institutions. As you know, the college also works in partnership with Dalhousie University to deliver the BScN Arctic Nursing Program. The college is also in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to deliver the Law Degree Program. We are open to partnerships that provide our learners with the academic opportunities they need to reach for their educational goals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasia.

**Minister's Statement 347 – 5(2):  
Ilannaariit Piqannaariillu – Qilaut  
2019 Winners**

**Hon. David Joanasia** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to be an Inuk today. Mr. Speaker, good day, Nunavummiut and my fellow members.

I rise today to honour International Inuit Day and announce the winners of Qilaut 2019. The songwriting contest contributes to advance our goal under *Uqausivut 2.0* to increase the number, quality, and variety of Inuit language arts and media products that can support language promotion and revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, a total of 24 songs were received this year under the theme of *Ilannaariit Piqannaariillu*. As Inuit, our family and friends play a very important role in our daily lives.

A panel of four musicians representing all three regions reviewed all songs submitted. It was not an easy task for them to select a top ten as there were so many good submissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the top three songs chosen by our judges for originality, creativity, melody, and lyrics:

- First place, *Quvianarmat* by Jo Ellen Etuangat of Arviat;

>> *Applause*

- Second place, *6-muaqpat* by Becky Han & Tracy May of Arctic Bay; and

>> *Applause*

- Third place, *Pittiaruk Uummatiit* by Brenda Anderson of Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

The remaining seven songs were received from contestants from Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, Igloolik, and Naujaat.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you Jo Ellen Etuangat's lyrics emphasizing the importance of keeping our family close-knit:

*“Inuuqatigijavut tigumianginnarlugit  
katimanginnarutta inuusivut  
quvianarmat, inuusivut quvianarmat.”*

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe in the power of music in promoting our well-being. It also creates a strong link between our culture, identity, and language. I commend all participants, congratulate all winners, and thank all artists to be among our greatest ambassadors of our Inuit culture and language to the world. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik, ma'na, koana, merci, nakurmiik*, thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed further with the orders of the day, I would like to note that the Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck, will be absent from the House today due to illness.

Continuing on. Members' Statements.  
Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 531 – 5(2): International Inuit Day**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and residents of my community.

I rise today since this day is specifically entitled International Inuit Day and this is tremendously fulsome. Back in 1977 the late Eben Hopson, an Alaskan native, was instrumental in creating the first gathering of circumpolar Inuit, or as it's known in English as the (interpretation) Inuit Circumpolar Conference, (interpretation) which is when it started. From that small beginning, Inuit have progressed to being acknowledged with global recognition after their efforts starting from 1977 to what is now known as the ICC, or the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

As today is International Inuit Day, let's make use of this acknowledgement by being prideful of the fact we stem from the Inuit and ensure we speak our language incessantly. The global Inuit population probably forms one of the smallest groups, but as arctic peoples, our ancestors strived resolutely to survive. Today with those genes, Inuit again can follow that example and we are still striving to survive.

Let us remain resilient and always be proud of the fact that we are Inuit, and in using our identity as Inuit, we created this territory of Nunavut. This truth should never disappear from history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 532 – 5(2): Reflections on Fall Sitting 2019**

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

Mr. Speaker, firstly I wish to state that today my grandchild, who is my namesake, is celebrating his birthday and I am pleased to share that with you.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge our pages here in the House and employees on the upper floors where our offices are, along with the table officers. I want to also acknowledge them today. I also sincerely wish to voice my thanks, Mr. Speaker, as they provide the foundational grounds for the members to successfully complete their sessions, and we appreciate their assistance as we use that service.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize our interpreters who are behind the scenes, tirelessly working to convey our thoughts so that Nunavummiut can at least get an idea of what we are debating and to ensure all of them understand the proceedings either in Inuktitut or English. I appreciate their hard work. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of them and that is why I rise today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 533 – 5(2):  
Reflections on Fall Sitting 2019**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to express my gratitude to every colleague, as we are on the cusp of completing our fall sitting today and this is our final day of session.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Inuit Day. I'm aware and my colleague just echoed the fact that our language and lifestyle reflect our ancestral roots, and this is indeed Inuit culture.

I want to express my gratitude in particular to the interpreters, as they try to properly convey our spoken Inuktitut dialects into comprehensible English. They continue to show the veracity of our language and of all the members who voice their thoughts. The work done behind the scenes ensures that our Inuktitut language continues in this House.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for ensuring this session went ahead. Although it was a bit strenuous, we are almost at the end, so I wish my colleagues a safe trip home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 534 – 5(2):  
Custom Adoption Reforms**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you. I am proud of my fellow Inuit, especially with today being International Inuit Day. Inuit are comprised of peoples who occupy the arctic lands of Russia, Alaska, United States, Canada, and Greenland.

Now, in following the grand tradition of customary Inuit laws, which remains in practice in this day and age, I'm referring to the issue of how custom adoption in Nunavut can be modernized. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that this is not a new issue and I want to point out that in 2011 the Auditor General of Canada provided a report to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the report stated that, and I'm sorry for saying this in English. (interpretation ends) "The purpose of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* (ACARA) is to provide a procedure by which a custom adoption may be respected and recognized, and by which a certificate recognizing the adoption will be issued. The Act stipulates that a person who has adopted a child according to Aboriginal customary law may apply for a certificate recognizing the adoption...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, we need to recognize that our Inuit society is changing, and we cannot accept situations that may be endangering children, especially given the unacceptably high rates of sexual

violence in our territory.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, at a minimum, a criminal records check must be conducted on people who are trying to adopt a child under any territorial statute.

I would like proceed with my comments and finish it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

(interpretation) When I raised this issue earlier in our sitting, I was informed that a working group has been established to review the issue of custom adoption.

My forefathers were not remiss in just handing out their born children to any family. The elders were the instigators of the process and they would be involved. Alternatively, if the adoptive woman was barren, then the adoption would occur at birth, with due diligence and in the best interests of the child. Today that diligence has disappeared as adoptions are occurring without any consideration of the prospective parents and whether they are capable of caring properly for that child, and children seemingly become like assets. Neither my ancestors nor yours were that negligent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by very clearly stating that this progress should be a priority before any more children are injured or

someone has committed sexual assault on the children. I will again raise this issue at our upcoming winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 535 – 5(2): Pangnirtung Participants at Upcoming Sports Event**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and residents of my community. I, too, wish to celebrate the fact that today is International Inuit Day and let us celebrate regardless of where we originated from.

Since this is going to be our last fall sitting day, I rise to congratulate the following athletes who are going to be coming to Iqaluit for the weekend from Pangnirtung:

- My son, A.J. Nakashuk
- Nathan Veevee
- Steven Nowdlak
- Ben Alivaktuk
- Tina Evic
- Megan Touya Kilabuk
- Alashua Nakashuk
- Tasha Partridge

Their chaperones will be Umar Kukkadi and Danny Ishulutak.

I wish them success at the games this upcoming weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*



**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

**Member's Statement 536 – 5(2):  
Pirurvik Preschool in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am proud in stating that our language as Inuit is recognized internationally, included as part of the International Inuit Day celebrations, although when we were growing up, we weren't as proud of being Inuit as we once were. We attained Nunavut, thankfully, and our culture and language are slowly returning today.

Although I am stating this fact in my language here, the document I am about to read from is typed up in English, so I will assume that language now.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to applaud Pirurvik Preschool staff and they are:

- Karen Nutarak, co-founder;
- Tessa Lochhead, co-founder/trainer;
- Leah Kippomee, manager/educator/trainer;
- Martha Kunuk, she is on maternity leave right now, but she's one of the trainers;
- Selena Enoogoo, educator;
- Mary Enoogoo, educator;
- Raymee Angnetsiak, educator;
- Julie Pewatualuk, educator.

Mr. Speaker, the Pirurvik Preschool provides early childhood education. The early childhood education is centred and based upon the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles and is enriched through the use of Montessori materials. The Pirurvik Preschool provides a culturally

relevant learning experience guided by *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles, *Pilimmaksarniq*, which allows children to learn at their own pace.

Mr. Speaker, Mittimatalingmiut support this method of education for our children and we have seen results of the children in the elementary school who have gone through this program.

Mr. Speaker, the Pirurvik Preschool team is a laureate of the 2018 Arctic Inspiration Prize to support others with their programming and new programming for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and the training for daycare workers by supporting seven community daycares....

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, for allowing me to proceed.

(interpretation ends) ...and for training for daycare workers by supporting seven community daycares across all three regions of Nunavut.

Ilisaqsvik in Clyde River was the very first preschool to receive the training from Pirurvik and has been successful. This project was funded by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, with the AIP funding, Pirurvik did the next training with the Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik Daycare in Iqaluit and recently completed Naurainnuk and high school daycares in Pond Inlet. Pirurvik will continue. Pirurvik will train the following communities in the future: Rankin Inlet daycare, Arctic Bay daycare once it opens, Igloolik daycare, Cambridge Bay daycare, and Taloyoak daycare.

The Pirurvik Preschool is a place to grow for children, teachers in training, literacy, community capacity, and the dreams of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, *qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 537 – 5(2):  
Results of Poor School Attendance**

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

Mr. Speaker, with today being our final sitting day and in completing the first two years of my mandate as the MLA for Arviat North and Whale Cove, I want to briefly mention the issue of poverty, which exists in my communities and throughout Nunavut.

Now, I believe everyone here understands that poor attendance in school is the basis towards a future laced by poverty, lack of opportunity, and homelessness. That is what the future holds if you don't finish schooling. We all know that.

We are also aware that within Nunavut too many children are not attending school regularly. We also hear of cases from teachers who state that once the weather becomes more frigid, as we start heading towards the winter, more children will not attend classes early in the day, especially after the Christmas break. This isn't the path to success.

We as the residents of Nunavut should not wait for notices from the Department of Education to commit. The (interpretation ends) DEAs (interpretation) should not be what we are waiting to hear from. We, as parents, as fellow community residents, as relatives, as the older or younger siblings, should all consider education as the foundation towards the proper development of Nunavut and towards our long-term future successes.

Now, I have also heard from parents who have experienced this and I took it to heart. I personally didn't complete high school, but I don't want my son to also be a non-graduate like myself. This is the reason why I am fiercely adamant about having him attend school daily. This is good to hear about and education will result in families rising above poverty. If more people completed their schooling and if more parents pushed their children to attend school, I would be quite happy to hear that.

Mr. Speaker, I'm almost done, so I would be pleased if you can allow me to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

statement, Member Main.

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

Now, we all know that there is a comprehensive review ongoing with the Department of Education looking at the causes for poor attendance rates. However, we ought not to wait for the results of this review. Communities can initiate this independently. Starting today or even tomorrow, we can enforce attendance. We as parents, as teachers, as hamlet councillors, our elders, and our youth can all band together to work towards this common goal and change the practices we use today.

The first priority should be this: if you see a school-aged child not attending school, whether they are a youth or with their parents, you should ask them why they're not attending school. "Why are you letting your child miss school?" The answer is what you should listen to because it will provide the reasoning behind this child not attending school. This should be our highest priority. Once we understand the root causes of our fellow citizens' reticence for not sharing that principle, we as fellow Nunavummiut can finally combat the causes of absenteeism and ensure that each community has a plan to eradicate absenteeism in our future.

We want to see 100 percent attendance of all young people in Nunavut attending school regularly. This would greatly change the prospects of Nunavut and allow for its rightful development if we make it our vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 538 – 5(2):  
Announcing the Arrival of Son  
Aviaq**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to announce that my beautiful wife, Hilary Burns, gave birth to a healthy baby boy, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 ounces, late Tuesday evening.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to admit I'm almost exhausted as my wife is, but I'm still overjoyed. I would also like to mention that selecting a name is a difficult and meaningful process. I must say that Simeon was at the top of the list, as were others.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like announce today to the world, to the public that we have just this morning decided on the name and his name is Aviaq Lightstone. Mr. Speaker, we are so happy as our family is growing and that our second son is as healthy as can be. I really look forward to every opportunity that I get to bring him in and hopefully I'll get a chance at this upcoming winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate you, Member Lightstone and your entire family.

Continuing on. Members' Statements.  
Member for Kugluktuk, Member  
Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 539 – 5(2):  
International Inuit Day**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.  
Good afternoon, colleagues,  
Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.  
Happy birthday to my brother.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this  
opportunity to rise today and wish all  
Inuit a happy and joyous International  
Inuit Day.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I am humbly grateful for  
our ancestors who demonstrated strength  
and resiliency in bringing us to where  
we are today. Mr. Speaker, we must  
remember our ancestors when we make  
decisions for the betterment of Nunavut.

Inuit have survived across the  
circumpolar world in some of the  
harshest conditions on our planet. Inuit  
from Greenland, Alaska, the Northwest  
Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, and  
Nunatsiavut share an amazing heritage.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we can learn from each  
other, support each other, and share our  
strengths. I encourage my colleagues to  
celebrate this special day. Not only are  
we as Inuit in a position to protect our  
heritage, but we all can work together  
towards a positive future. *Koana*, Mr.  
Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members'  
Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet  
South, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 540 – 5(2):  
Proud to be Inuk**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day,  
colleagues.

Today I also rise to express my thoughts,  
as I haven't risen for quite some time  
and rarely stand to voice my perspective.  
I stand today as a proud Inuk and for  
being a resident of Nunavut, which is  
one of the most endearing things to  
make one proud.

I wish to thank the very many Inuit who  
were instrumental in creating Nunavut.  
We rarely ever hear about the people  
who attained that achievement and  
actually some are present here today. I  
recognize Mr. Quassa and many others  
who worked tirelessly to ensure we  
would become Nunavut. We had  
interpreters, negotiators, and various  
other employees from all over who  
contributed. I am remorseful that some  
of them are no longer present to hear our  
words of gratitude, but I am so  
appreciative and will forever be thankful  
to the end.

As Inuit we are the single largest  
landowners, although we are also the  
smallest population in Canada. This fact  
alone should be the basis of our pride.  
Mr. Speaker, since we are very few, I  
wonder how we can praise one another.  
We must always help those in dire straits  
or undergoing stressful situations  
without putting other Inuit down as we  
are a very tiny group overall.

Mr. Speaker, until recently Inuit were still living in iglus and sod houses and we have people present who grew up in them, yet today Inuit move in the digital world of cyberspace. Perhaps that's not the case today, as the government's network is down.

>> *Laughter*

However, our children are getting quite adept at playing with their cellphones. In the future years to come, I am unsure what further capacities they will grab since I cannot even imagine trying to play with the gadgets they use today.

Prior to concluding my statement, I wish to inform the residents of Rankin Inlet that we shall soon be travelling home as our meetings are ending today. I appreciate the fact that they wait patiently for our arrival. It is impossible not to get homesick when you're attending sessions, albeit not because we are not welcomed, Mr. Speaker. I am so grateful to Iqalumiut for constantly wishing us a good stay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 541 – 5(2):  
Sinaaqpagiaqtut/The Long Cut**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and commend the Embassy of Imagination project that has run another successful project in the community of Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, Sinaaqpagiaqtut – The Long Cut, produced a two-part procession that began this summer in Cape Dorset, in Kinngait, Nunavut, and continues in Toronto, travelling from the Bentway to 259 Lake Shore Boulevard, where sculptures, banners, and wearables by Kinngait youth from Peter Pitseolak High School made in collaboration with Oasis Skateboard Factory School are on display.

Also on view are photographs and videos documenting the procession which animates and reaffirms the tethering of Kinngait and Toronto through waterways, art markets, artistic collaborations, and the night sky.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, these artists were involved in this initiative and I especially want to voice my appreciation to the people from my constituency, so I wish to recognize the following:

- Parr Josephee
- Cie Taqiasuk
- Saaki Nuna
- David Pudlat
- Janine Manning
- Kunu Pudlat
- Kevin Allooloo
- Salamonie Ashoona
- Taqialu Pudlat
- Ooloosie and Adamie Ashevak
- Jaimisie Pitseolak
- Pitseolak Pootoogook
- Evie Kelly

Also, I wish to acknowledge the participation of Mathew Nuqingaq while they were in Cape Dorset conducting a (interpretation ends) parade (interpretation) showcasing the various types of beautiful artworks. I also thank the two project coordinators, Alexa

Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson.

Further, (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize the generous support from the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Program, Canadian North Airlines, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Cape Dorset District Education Authority, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Canada House, British Museum, Ontario Arts Council, Government of Nunavut, TakingITGlobal, and the XYZ Storage for making it entirely possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 657 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's Activities**

##### **Return to Oral Question 676 – 5(2): Staff Housing**

##### **Return to Oral Question 688 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, my constituents in Cambridge Bay, my colleagues, visitors in the gallery, and Nunavummiut. Happy International Inuit Day.

Mr. Speaker, I have three returns to oral

questions: 657 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's Activities, asked by Pat Angnakak, MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu; 676 – 5(2): Staff Housing, asked by Adam Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-[Manirajak]; 688 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq, asked by Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, these returns are quite detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read and distributed to all my members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members, do you agree that the documents be received by the House? Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

(interpretation) As the Speaker and Member for Baker Lake, I wish to recognize visitors in the gallery who are from Baker Lake. Baker Lake residents have travelled here for the (interpretation ends) Arctic Winter Games hockey tryouts. (interpretation) I am also quite pleased that they are here to watch the members at work here in the Legislative Assembly. Although they are very young people, they are still people you want to succeed. I ask them to stand as I state their names.

Samantha Putumiraqtuq.

\*Please refer to the Appendix for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 657 – 5(2), 676 – 5(2), and 688 – 5(2).

>> *Applause*

Rayna Joedee.

>> *Applause*

Shawna Laugher.

>> *Applause*

Haley Hachey.

>> *Applause*

Ken Paungrat.

>> *Applause*

Their chaperones are Mahasi Nateela...

>> *Applause*

...and Megan Hachey.

>> *Applause*

Please feel welcome in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.  
Member for Aivilik, Member Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my minister's statement, I alluded to the representatives of the Memorial University of Newfoundland who are here today. They arrived to sign the MOU that I mentioned previously in our spring sitting. I will try to announce their names, although I should firstly apologize if I inadvertently mispronounce their names.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my minister's statement, I alluded to the

MOU between Nunavut Arctic College and the Memorial University of Newfoundland. We had a delegation come for the signing ceremony and I apologize if I do not say their names properly. We have:

Dr. Susan Dyer Knight.

>> *Applause*

Dr. Noreen Golfman.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Glenn Blackwood, who is the Vice-president of Memorial University.

>> *Applause*

Dr. Robert Shea, Associate Vice-president, Marine Institute (Academic and Student Affairs).

>> *Applause*

Dr. Ross Klein, Interim Dean, Faculty of Social Work. He has a nice vest too.

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Ashlee Consolo, Director of Labrador Institute.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Paula Dyke, Associate Director of Communications, Marketing and Communications.

>> *Applause*

Welcome. I would also like to welcome to the House our president, Pauloosie

Suvega, who has worked really hard with the staff that come here, and Ms. Becky Mearns, who is our vice-president, and Jesse Jacobs, who is our director. Please welcome them to the House, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Further, Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to recognize these visitors who have left. My paternal niece and my maternal niece have just left the building, but I wanted to acknowledge them earlier. Our youngest sibling's daughter was here, Susie McKitrick, and my paternal niece, who is my younger brother's daughter, Myra Netser.

I also recognize my older brother's daughter who is adopted and lives in Arviat, Ms. Jo Ellen Etuangat, and her younger sister who is here and I have forgotten her name...Adrienne. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut while you are visiting. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Member Lightstone. Oops. Member Hickes.

>> *Laughter*

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought that Elections Nunavut did another boundary change on me or something.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I reside here in Iqaluit and represent a constituency here in Iqaluit and we often have visitors, but I would like to make special mention today of not only a constituent but a friend and neighbour. Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to recognize Mike Salomonie. He is a fantastic man and a great neighbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasia.

**Hon. David Joanasia** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person was the winner of the Qilaut 2019 contest. I would like to recognize Jo Ellen Etuangat. Although she was already recognized, I want to welcome her to the gallery.

Further, we have some employees from the Department of Culture and Heritage sitting behind me, Saa Pitsiulak and Tocasie Burke. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Please feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often that we see our people from Arviat, so it is a joyous occasion today. I would like to



welcome my fellow residents of Arviat, Jo Ellen, Adrienne, who were already recognized, and Jewel Kuksuk. Please stand up, Jewel. Welcome to our Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery, those who were recognized. Recognition of Visitors in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I have no more names on my list.

Before we proceed, I apologize to Member Hickes, who is the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk. I think we were a bit laid back in that case.

Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

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

#### **Question 723 – 5(2): Inuktit Language Instructors**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Education.

During the previous week we heard several announcements that were pleasant to hear regarding the students in the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Teacher Education Program (interpretation) that will begin offering courses specifically within languages and that certifications will be presented to these future teachers who will be teaching the Inuktitut language and various courses.

Due to that announcement, we have recently heard about the shortage of teachers in Nunavut. Although I won't

state the number, it is rather large. My first question is: to date, how many teachers do we have in Nunavut who can speak Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aggu for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, with respect to our teacher shortage, when we're trying to proceed with bilingual education, we have identified that we would need approximately 450 teachers who can speak Inuktitut. We anticipate that with this strategy we are following through Nunavut Arctic College and the MOU that will be signed with the university, it will help tremendously in making progress towards that goal.

There are almost 800 employees working in our schools, but I would need to look into how many are Inuit or can speak Inuktitut. Once I have that information, I can get back to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is International Inuit Day, I believe this is a very good question to ask. I stated earlier that with Arctic College providing the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, we expect that the future students will be taught using the Inuktitut language. Does the Minister of Education speak with the Minister responsible for Arctic College or has he spoken with him to see how

the Inuktitut language can be used to train Inuit teachers? Has he asked that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, under the MOU as well as through the courses offered through Arctic College, we have enacted changes to ensure the results are bilingual teachers who can use either language. We want to try to make more improvements throughout the delivery of the Teacher Education Program so that they can have good materials to use. It's obvious that we will have to work on it further.

Yes, I will be having discussions with my ministerial colleague from Arctic College and we will be working together. I also welcome the Member for Aggu to come and witness the signing of the agreement tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that adequate response. I very much look forward to the signing ceremony tomorrow and I hope that it proceeds well, of course.

As my final question, within our schools, I believe there are various teaching positions. As an example, different positions exist within the school. They have guidance counsellors in the schools. Most of the people who speak Inuktitut serve as assistants and help our students. What are their actual roles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member is talking about *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*. In recent weeks they were here for various types of training, such as professional development, with a focus on how to help students through counselling. *Ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* provide mental health or guidance counselling.

Mr. Speaker, I went and spoke at the meeting and I noticed that most of them were Inuit and I could speak to them in Inuktitut, which was a source of pride. The other staff members were either counsellors or in other positions. We want to see more Inuit in those positions and we are making plans to try to get those positions filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 724 – 5(2): Cancer Care**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to you all. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about cancer care in Nunavut today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

In September the media reported on a new initiative from Nunavut's Department of Health to streamline cancer care for Nunavut residents by assigning specifically trained doctors to patients. Can the minister provide further information on this initiative and clarify

how it will improve the level of cancer care for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the benefits are quite self-apparent. The least times you have to talk to a different medical professional and you have to go over your story or your history, that's where the benefits of having that repeated contact with the same health care professional allows people to make sure that they're getting all the opportunities for access to care as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The media article indicated that we don't have the ability to treat cancer patients in Nunavut. Treatment such as chemotherapy and radiation is currently only provided in hospitals in the south.

Can the minister clearly explain whether it is staffing, equipment, availability of pharmaceutical supplies, or other specific factors that prevent Nunavut's health care professionals from delivering cancer treatment in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this question. It is currently the case where we have to send people out for care, and I have said it before and I have heard it before as well that we should be able to do some cancer

care here in the territory. I have my officials working on different options of what levels of care we can provide in the territory.

The member brings up a few different issues with it, some parts, maybe not all of them, but the majority of them; the staffing, the training, and the equipment. There are very dangerous drugs if not taken or dosed properly that are used in cancer care very aggressively. I do look forward to further announcements in this House in the future that we can start delivering cancer care in the territory.

I do want to emphasize that we have, here in Baffin region, a very great relationship with the Ottawa hospital, their cancer care team, and they're working proactively with us. They recognize that we need to provide cancer care here in the territory, like a number of services that myself and my officials are working very hard to look at providing additional care in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that there are many different aspects to cancer care, from prevention, to screening, to diagnosis, to treatment. It is a complex disease which manifests itself in different ways and affects people differently. However, I do believe that any opportunity to improve cancer care in Nunavut should be followed up on, and I do commend the health staff for their work in this area.

The minister just commented earlier that he is open to exploring options, perhaps,

to provide cancer treatment in Nunavut so that patients don't have to travel out of the territory for their chemotherapy and radiotherapy. However you say that word; I can't say it. I'm wondering if this type of illness in people is getting more. Are the numbers increasing when it comes to people having to travel outside of the territory when it comes to cancer treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this as an issue. It's a very important one, not just with our partners in Ontario but the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, a national organization that we have been working very closely with to develop more cancer care programs. Mr. Speaker, when we're looking at providing the levels of care, we're going to continue to work very closely internally and with our partners and stakeholders to look at providing care more in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, with our population size, fluctuations can vary from one year to the next. We do have a population that's getting older. In a lot of categories, I'm happy to say that we're below the national average, but because of our small population size, just a few cases can skew those percentages. With regard to the numbers, they're variable and quite subjective, so I wouldn't be able to comment on the specifics on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 725 – 5(2): Absenteeism in Schools**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Earlier I spoke about absenteeism in school. My first question to the minister is: how is the Department of Education currently dealing with absenteeism in school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, we work with the district education authorities on policies and having an (interpretation ends) attendance policy. (interpretation) The Inuuqatigiitsiarniq Policy is included there. The district education authority develops the policies, but we support them when they make these policies so that they are done properly and other incentives, such as prizes, for our children to attend school. We deliberate with them in that regard, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We know there are policies, but when they are not accompanied by further funding or resources, then these policies are just good on paper and impossible to implement.

The minister is aware that the district education authority in my constituency

community of Arviat has already requested more money through a proposal to the Department of Education. They wrote a proposal and so far I don't know if they have been provided any funding to use on absenteeism in school because I haven't heard anything.

My second question is: is there funding available from the Department of Education that can be directed towards dealing with absenteeism in school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for his question. Mr. Speaker, we provide financial assistance to the district education authorities. For instance, if they want to set money aside for school attendance, I think they can do that, but I would have to look into it further. They might have the authority and I want my colleagues to be aware of that.

On top of that, I have heard different district education authorities use incentives for attendance. If they have 100 percent attendance, they may be eligible for a draw to win prizes. I want him to know that they can do things like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for saying *ma'na* to me. It has been an idea, but in other countries, (interpretation ends) money talks. (interpretation) There are draws for bicycles for good

attendance in Arviat, for example. However, in other countries, if your child attends school on a regular basis, then you will be given money by the government. Has the Department of Education considered doing that as a pilot project in Nunavut? If they do consider doing it, can Arviat be the first community, or Whale Cove? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the district education authorities are given different types of authority, but I can say that we will try to work closer with the district education authorities, especially the newly elected members, as there are some new members.

However, we will be trying to put together the (interpretation ends) registration and attendance policy toolkit (interpretation) so that all the district education authorities can have a better understanding of that and how they can improve student attendance. Perhaps we want better communications between the communities, for example, having bicycle draws or other programs. We want the DEAs to better communicate with each other as to what they use in their schools on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 726 – 5(2): Marine Safety**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the topic of the safety of our waters. I feel that we need more clarification on what is in place to make sure that our waters and marine wildlife are protected.

Mr. Speaker, today's technology can let you see what is going on in the environment even though the authorities may not always let you know.

Can the minister elaborate on how his department works with his counterparts in the federal government to ensure the safety of our marine environment?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is involved in a couple of major tables that are involved with all the authorities: one is with the Canadian Marine Advisory group and that's all the groups that have the regulatory bodies that meet, gather, and see what they can come up with; the other one is through the Arctic Security, which reviews what activities are going to take place in the Arctic. There are a number of bodies we are involved in and these are the two that I just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in an earlier statement, a number of marine mammals

have been spotted dead on the shore on our land. We as a territory must have some sort of safety regulations to ensure that our animals are protected from the risks and dangers posed by the different marine craft that are travelling through our waters these days.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying that those who are travelling are doing anything bad, but I'm saying that we don't want anything to happen to our animals and our waters.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify what regulations are currently in place to regulate the marine traffic that is in our surrounding waters?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the regulations and legislation, when it comes to marine, rests with the federal government. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans have a number regulations and legislation in dealing with protecting our Canadian waters, which includes Nunavut. Through that we have agreements with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with our conservation officers in terms of overseeing or assisting in terms of marine mammals, and also from our own government, as members have raised a number of times that cruise ships go to areas where Nunavummiut don't want them to go.

Through our *Marine Tourism Regulations*, I'm happy to say that there have been two communities that have asked areas not to be disturbed and that would be the community of Pond Inlet

and the community of Clyde River, where there are very sensitive narwhal areas that communities do not want... Working with partners such as our Arctic Expedition cruise ship operators, they comply with those, but there are different vessels that are coming and I continue to raise that with our federal counterpart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the information on protected areas for wildlife in two communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my statement and questions during our sitting last fall, a cruise ship ran aground near our community and spilled a lot of fuel in the water, then just this summer a fishing vessel was spotted in that same area.

Can the minister tell us how our government is working with our federal counterparts, using the advantages provided by modern devices and technology, to improve safety in our waters for marine traffic and marine wildlife? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend our federal government for continuing to improve in terms of vessels in our waters, especially the arctic portion had not been regulated and now they're moving to more regulations. It's one that they are starting to put devices where it's on real-time and starting to see vessels and what type

of vessels there are. The majority of the vessels are complying with those.

There's a certain threshold in terms of when those devices are on, which vessels go, one of the good things and something that happened to my constituent is a vessel was spotted in one area that is very sensitive to that area. My constituent raised it and we checked through and we were able to help get assistance from the Coast Guard and find out what that ship is there for and why.

Thanks to these devices and thanks to our Internet, if any of your constituents sees any of the vessels that are there and you have a question on it, please raise it. If they raise it to the right authority, such as the Coast Guard or Fisheries, if they don't have access to that, go to my department and we will definitely look into it. Our government is very keen on finding those out too. Thank you for the questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to respond. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 727 – 5(2): Qikiqtarjuaq Community Freezer**

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

Mr. Speaker, I previously pointed out that both of my constituency communities have received community freezers that are specifically for the community's usage. I believe it is now understood that in my home community

of Qikiqtarjuaq, some of our local hunters are forced to endure long trips, perhaps longer than most communities, to reach their hunting grounds and they really require more assistance.

Additionally, the route can sometimes lead to lengthy delays, especially in the fall and spring seasons, as either you have to wait for ice to form or break up to reach your hunting grounds. I believe they have to travel the farthest to reach the prime hunting grounds, and we subsist on mainly marine mammals, particularly during the summer season.

Mr. Speaker, we have received a community freezer in our community to be used by the whole community. The old freezer broke down and caught fire. Even though they have a new freezer, they're still not using it today. This is causing consternation amongst some of my constituents, especially by hunters. Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit to working with the hamlet and HTO to ensure the community freezer becomes operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Yes, the only way to ensure it works is through cooperation. I will task some of my officials to look into this matter to get the current status and how more assistance can be provided to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clearly identifying the work required.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister also inform us in advance about when he would be able to start working with the local hamlet and HTO? When can they expect the communication that will commence the work and assistance from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also to the member for speaking about that. I will have it looked into immediately, although I cannot respond as to the current status. However, once I have the information, I will draft a letter to you and your local mayor on this matter and what assistance has been provided up to now. The briefing note doesn't specify it here, but once I get the update, yes, I will communicate with the affected parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 728 – 5(2): Protection of Cached Meat**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

As Inuit we cache our meat to save for winter food. At times in the fall we cache the meat before the ice freeze-up



and sometimes after the ice has formed, we would go get the meat. It's our culture as Inuit. Caching meat is very hard work. We have to spend money to go out hunting, of course, on items like gas, naphtha, ammunition, and grub.

Mr. Speaker, today there is a large population of polar bears that find and eat the cached meat. The first question I would like to ask is about the possibility of the Nunavut government providing compensation for the loss of cached meats from polar bears. Mr. Speaker, this is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with him that we've had numerous caribou and marine mammal cached meats that polar bears and foxes get into. In the Kivalliq we have grizzly bears that get into our cached meats.

The government currently sets aside funds to go towards compensation for cabin damages or other equipment damaged by wildlife, but we don't have any specific funds set aside for the loss of your caribou cache or marine mammal caches that are eaten by wildlife. At this time our government doesn't have funds set aside for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During ministers' statements there was mention of a \$1.5

million fund available over a four-year period related to food security or to study if contaminants are becoming common. I didn't quite understand the purpose.

The Government of Nunavut should take into consideration the loss of cached meats to wildlife and have a pot of funding that hunters can apply to. The hunters who cache their marine mammal meat or caribou meat are trying to save it for the winter months, but polar bears just eat the cached meat.

Would the minister agree to consider this issue to allow hunters the ability to apply for compensation if their marine mammal or caribou cache is eaten by wildlife sometime in our future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every community has existing hunters and trappers organizations, and my preference would be to have the HTO board voice their concerns via correspondence to the Department of Environment, then we would be able to look into the matter. However, at this time we don't have funds specific to eaten meat caches. We would need to carefully look into the factors prior to considering that request by working with the HTO board on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I want to state that since the HTO board has to submit

their request via correspondence to move this forward, I am urging all Nunavut HTO boards to write to the Minister of Environment to review this matter of hunters losing their hard-earned caches to polar bears and to ask the Government of Nunavut to set up funds specifically for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was just a comment.

**Speaker** (interpretation): He stated it was just a comment. Oral Questions. Continuing on. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

### **Question 729 – 5(2): Foster Parents in Nunavut**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. My question this afternoon is for the Acting Minister of Family Services.

This is regarding the recently released 2018-19 *Annual Report for the Child and Family Services Act* based on the legal requirements. The report was released on August 22 of this year, so it was just recently released. That document shows a steady increase in the number of children receiving services from the department since 2015-16.

My first question to the minister is: can he clarify what specific areas of service for children are in growing demand and what steps the government is taking to meet the increased need for such services as foster care and other types of care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for asking about this matter. Based on the information I have received, the funds are paid for foster care of apprehended children and the review was undertaken to see if the rates can be increased. Further, prospective foster parents undergo rigorous testing, such as criminal records checks and (interpretation ends) vulnerable sector checks. (interpretation) That's what they have worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't really respond to my question. Although they mention what they're planning, improvements haven't been identified, but I want to ask this other question. In looking at the report, it indicates that 146 children and youth were in foster care as of March 31, 2019. I am very grateful for the foster parents who open their homes to children and youth who need a safe and comfortable place to stay. It is also important that these homes support children and youth within their own language and culture, which is very important to the communities.

Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to ensure that Inuit foster homes are given first priority when the Child and Family Services Division is considering the placement of Inuit children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're trying to increase the number of foster care homes and we're currently looking for more foster homes. We are currently having meetings with the communities in order to increase the number of foster care homes so that the children and youth will stay in their community. We will also be setting up a training program in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully recognize the foster care being provided locally. I support Inuit foster homes, especially where they can keep children safe. I have also recognized that many children and youth are placed with family or extended family as often as possible. There are many people in the community who volunteer to care for children and youth.

This is the last question I would like to ask the Acting Minister of Family Services. I'll just say this in English. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to ensuring that Inuit children receiving services through the Child and Family Services Division, who cannot be placed with immediate or extended family, will be placed in Inuit foster homes? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is our end goal. That is something that we're trying to do. In terms of trying to keep families together

is our priority, but in events that they are required for foster families, our department is trying to increase recruitment and retention of foster parents, especially in the communities and especially if they're Inuit to be housed under Inuit. That is the priority of the department that they're trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 730 – 5(2): Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act**

**Mr. Akoak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, and my fellow residents of Gjoa Haven.

First of all, I say "hello" to my wife, as she is being forced to endure hardship at this time, as the RCMP was called but it was over 45 minutes before the RCMP arrived. (interpretation ends) You should not be making hardship for a 64-year-old lady, a very friendly lady. We should not make them wait that long to get help. (interpretation) I really wanted to voice that concern here.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, we passed Nunavut's new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* during the previous Legislative Assembly. This important new law provides the government with new tools to fight drug dealers and bootleggers, who prey upon our communities and they do prey upon the communities.

When I raised this issue over a year ago in the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that her department needed to first fill the position of director of the forfeiture office.

Mr. Speaker, I noted that the government held a competition for this position earlier this year. The closing date for applications was April 19, 2019. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on whether or not this competition was successful? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the member for his question. I, too, feel your pain, as I feel it in my community as well. Alcohol affects a lot of people in our families and our homes.

Mr. Speaker, as of July 22, 2019, the Department of Justice has hired a director of forfeiture and his name is and help me welcome Mr. Henry Coman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information and welcome to the new director.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a clear timeline for when the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* will be brought into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Akoak, for your question. The next steps for the forfeiture office are to prepare policies and procedures, place protocols and agreements with the RCMP, and drafting regulations and policies. Our target date to make our forfeiture office operational is September 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although there's a timeline that you just brought up, I wish it was sooner, but thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Section 33 of the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* provides for the creation of a new special fund called the "Forfeiture Fund." The purpose of this fund is to provide support to community wellness programs and other recipients. Mr. Speaker, what progress has her department made in drafting the new regulations that are required to bring this fund into operation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Akoak, for your question. The policies and procedures for the forfeiture office are currently being prepared. Once these are prepared and in collaboration with the RCMP, they will come to cabinet for review and for us to look at to ensure that the

policies and procedures that this forfeiture office will be able to carry... . As I stated earlier, by September 2020, hopefully we will have all these policies in place for the director of forfeiture to follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 731 – 5(2): Departmental Policies**

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

As the minister will recall, his department's Seal and Fur Programs Policy came into effect in May 2017. Schedule A-2 of the policy concerns the department's Fall Incentive Program, the stated purpose of which is to provide "financial support to harvesters of wolf and wolverine in the fall of each year for pelts that are sold in the previous year, whether privately or through the Fur Assessment and Advance Program."

Mr. Speaker, on September 9 of this year the government announced that its Fisheries and Sealing Division will be transferred from the Department of Environment to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Can the minister confirm that responsibility for the government's fur program policies will remain with the Department of Environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the chance to inform Nunavummiut and reassure them that the fur program run by Environment, the way it is run right now, there will be no interruptions in service. The conservation officers will still be buying fur. The conservation officers will still be buying sealskins, polar bears, all of the furs. That division of fisheries and sealing is staying with the Department of Environment and there will be no changes and no interruption of services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, his department's Support for Harvesters and Wildlife Co-Management Policy came into effect in May 2017. This policy governs a number of the department's programs, including its support to hunters and trappers organizations. Can the minister indicate if his department will be reviewing the funding formula for the hunters and trappers organizations? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bulk of the HTOs' funding comes from the secretariat. I can't recall when was the last they reviewed how their funding policy is and the formula for their funding, but we can bring that up with the secretariat. To the best of my knowledge and my recollection, the funding is adequate to run an HTO in terms having the HTO board and their operations to be operating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the government's 2018 Annual Report on Grants and Contributions was tabled. The report indicates that Kugluktuk's Angoniatic Association received a grant for \$30,000 under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Country Food Distribution Program.

Can the Minister of Environment describe the extent to which the Department of Environment and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation work together in the design and delivery of policies and programs that concern hunters and country food? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any programs that affect one or more department, each minister and the staff under them work with each other to make sure that the program will run smoothly and that the program will deliver what it intends to do. We work with all ministers and the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation] and the Minister of Environment do work together on any programs that are closely related. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 732 – 5(2): Income Assistance Reforms**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I want to ask another question to the Minister of Family Services. My question is regarding income assistance.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2016 the government tabled a report on the review and reform of income assistance. The report contained 20 proposed reforms to the Income Assistance Program. The first question I would like to ask the minister is: (interpretation ends) can the minister update on how many of those 20 proposed reforms have been implemented to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate receiving questions on this matter. Of the 20 proposed reforms, nine are reported to be completed while the others are still being developed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the information. A number of my constituents and other members have stated that income assistance clients are very uncomfortable with being required to provide their bank statements to income assistance workers. Many feel that this (interpretation ends) policy is a violation of their privacy.

(interpretation) Can the minister clearly

explain why income assistance clients are required to show their bank account details and bank statements when their application for income assistance is being assessed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This touches on the (interpretation ends) privacy (interpretation) rights of our income support clients. I'm quickly trying to find which area the information is under. The issue referenced is still being reviewed, but I can have it looked at. However, any privacy matters being dealt with are very important, so I will look into that matter with our fine officials. It may be too much of privacy right infringement, which is why it isn't included in my briefing notes. I will look into this and report back to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I understand the issues that the income support recipients are facing, and I understand the policy that has been implemented to ensure that the assistance is there for the clients.

One of the reforms suggested in the government's "Reducing Dependence" report addressed the policy that Nunavummiut had to spend all of their savings to qualify for income assistance. As a result, the *Income Assistance Regulations* were amended in 2017 to allow applicants with no dependants to

have \$500 in assets, while applicants with dependants to have \$1,000 in assets. Will the minister commit to reviewing these exemption amounts and increasing them as the cost of living continues to rise? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On her second supplementary, I just want to make it clear that on the privacy side, it is still part of the assessment process that's under review. It is still under review.

When it comes to the exemptions for the first \$500 of the assets and for the first \$1,000 for the households with two or more persons, I believe that's part of the recent changes in the regulations. If I am mistaken, I will correct to the House on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Motion 057 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended by an additional 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Question 733 – 5(2): Corrections Act**

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

As the minister will recall, Nunavut's new *Corrections Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly during our recent spring sitting and received assent on June 6, 2019. Can the minister provide a clear timeline today for when the new legislation will be coming into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct that the new *Corrections Act* was given royal assent in June 2019. It is anticipated this could take up to one to two years to complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow, that's a long time, one to two years. I guess there will be future questions on why it would take so long.

As the minister will also recall, a number of amendments were made to the proposed new *Corrections Act* during the standing committee's consideration of the bill concerning disciplinary boards and other matters.

Can the minister indicate how much

progress has been made to date in appointing the new investigations officer, an independent position that has important oversight responsibilities within the corrections system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. The investigations officer corrects the amendments to the *Corrections Regulations*. The corrections investigation officer position, we're conducting initial evaluations, the development of a job description, we're receiving direction on job evaluation, and the timeline is for the position to be filled by spring 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to know. During last Friday's sitting of the House, the minister announced the creation of inmate "peer councils" at the Baffin Correctional Centre, an approach that she indicated would be consistent with the principles of restorative justice. Can she clarify if she has any plans to extend this initiative to other correctional facilities in the territory, and can she describe how this initiative fits within the new legislative framework of the *Correction Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ehaloak.



**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The peer counselling that's taking place at the Baffin Correctional Centre is currently new to our facility. This being a pilot project within the Baffin Correctional Centre, we're hoping and I'm hoping that we can extend this program to our other facilities. It falls under our mandate where we take care of each other and we use culturally appropriate healing processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 734 – 5(2): Inuit  
Employment on Nunavut Housing  
Corporation Construction Projects**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I had to check to see if he's in the building first.

>> *Laughter*

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister and his officials for answering my questions during standing committee by correspondence. I had some questions during the meeting about Inuit employment and the response helped me understand it more. When the housing corporation was constructing housing units in 2018-19, the lowest rate of Inuit employment was at 20 percent and the highest rate of Inuit employment was at 40 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I remember being told in the previous years that it used to be around 65 percent Inuit employment for

the housing corporation's construction projects. In Arviat we heard that at one time in the past they built houses with 95 percent or very close to 100 percent Inuit employment at that time.

My first question is: when Inuit employment is between 20 and 40 percent these days, is it okay with the minister or will more consideration be given to make the percentage higher? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for asking about that matter. In those days during construction season, they had labour-only contracts and that's why the Inuit labour content used to be at 95 percent or even more than that. It used to be that high in Coral Harbour and now it's a lot lower, but I really support the communities. I want the percentage to be very high and I wouldn't mind if it was 100 percent Inuit labour, as we have experience in building houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had a target of 85 percent Inuit employment within our government. From my understanding of the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy, the minimum requirement is supposed to be 15 percent Inuit employment. The question I have to the minister is maybe the housing corporation needs a new policy. Can

they consider having 65 percent as the minimum Inuit employment or 50 percent or higher Inuit employment when the housing corporation builds housing units? Can that be considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some communities have very busy workers during construction season. I know there are skilled construction workers in Arviat, as well as in Naujaat, Coral Harbour, and Rankin Inlet. They have very good builders. I can't say much about Baffin Island since I'm not familiar with it, but I have seen many Inuit in Iqaluit working during construction season. If we can look at the communities where houses are going to be built and they have a high number of skilled workers, I do want to see a high percentage of Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the NNI Policy, there are different components. The ownership of the company is one component, the Inuit labour is another component, and there are other things that go into bid adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at these lists of companies here, from where I stand and from where my constituents sit, the ones who speak to me about this issue, the labour component is by far the most important at the community level. Given the issues around Inuit-owned

companies, what I will call real Inuit-owned companies and paper Inuit-owned companies, will the housing corporation consider using the exemption clause in the NNI Policy or consider using the exemption clause in order to focus more on getting more jobs and more benefits to the local people in the communities where housing units are being built? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The NNI Policy (interpretation) is held by NTI and they inform us of which companies are Inuit companies following that policy. We follow that policy.

However, I would really like to see the people in our communities, whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit, as there are a lot of non-Inuit that we have adopted into Nunavut whom we have welcomed, and they should be helped to work. They are quite able to work, so I'm really pushing for that too. I assure my colleagues of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 735 – 5(2): Mental Health Support**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken a number of times in this House of the desperate need for mental health services in the

community of Gjoa Haven. I do recognize the hard work of the mental health workers on the ground and the specialists that do fly in for visits. However, sometimes an individual's situation is so extreme that they themselves don't recognize their own need for counselling or support.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify, under our current health system, what steps should be followed to refer an individual for mental health counselling and treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The absolute first step is to ask for help, whether it be an individual or a family member. You can talk to the health centre and the mental health staff that are in there.

I just did the first reading of the new *Mental Health Act*, and I look forward to working with our colleagues to strengthen our mental health legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many communities have minimal resources to deal with mental health issues. While we certainly appreciate the work of our health professionals and the mental health workers who provide counselling for those who request it, there are very few resources at the community level to help those who desperately need mental health treatment but don't or won't or cannot seek it.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain what steps can currently be taken to ensure that an individual with severe mental health issues can be referred to a mental health facility outside of the community to receive the professional help that they do need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; we're continually struggling to make sure that our mental health positions are filled across the territory in our health centres. We recognize the importance of having those services available. Mr. Speaker, we have gone to some steps of increasing the budget for mental health, to add additional PYs, both paraprofessional and professional.

Mr. Speaker, like I said, anytime somebody feels that they're struggling with a mental health issue or you know someone who is, speak to the professionals at the health centre. Mr. Speaker, they can help direct a path of making sure that the appropriate care, no matter how high a level, whether it be ultimately needing to go to an outside facility, it all starts at the local health centre with the local mental health staff. They will know which direction and what resources are needed and make sure that the help is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. I also would like to add that there are

some people who want to go see the mental specialist, but they have to go to a place where there are people around. In my community the mental health office is right at the health centre, so sometimes they get embarrassed to go through there, right through the waiting room to the office of the specialist. Sometimes you have to look into that situation too.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the government has just introduced Bill 36, *Mental Health Act*, which proposes different ways to address the kinds of situations that I have just described.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reviewing what community-based mental health resources are currently available and ensuring that additional resources are provided to address situations where individuals with severe mental health issues cannot make decisions for themselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickeys.

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Speaker will indulge me a little bit, I would like to address the comment that the member made in his preamble. Mr. Speaker and everyone out there, there is no shame in asking for help.

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

>> *Applause*

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Mr. Speaker, if you're seeking help, there should be no barrier put in your place by any type of public shaming or embarrassment. Asking for help is a sign of strength; it's

not a sign of weakness.

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

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Mr. Speaker, to respond directly to the member's question, we're continuously evaluating our staffing needs. As I mentioned, we do struggle in certain areas and we're continuously working on not just to provide mental professionals but to consistently provide mental health professionals. That is what our ultimate goal is so that when you build a relationship with a mental health professional in your community, they get to know you and you get to know them inside and outside of the office.

As I always say, I always encourage all of our health care staff to integrate themselves into the community, to take advantage of our land and our people that I always say are our two biggest strengths. I encourage the member to keep highlighting what a great place it is in Nunavut to live and to work, and I strongly encourage the member to keep pushing me and pushing us.

We are working very hard, but at the same time we can't lose focus and we want to make sure that in all levels of health care, but especially mental health in this day and age as it's being more recognized as an illness, not a weakness, we continuously strive to provide the best resources we can to our population. I thank the member again for again drawing attention to this issue. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Niaqunnguu, Member Angnakak.

**Question 736 – 5(2): Accreditation of Nunavut Health Facilities**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My third question of the day and my last one for this sitting. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, like most hospitals across Canada, the Qikiqtani General Hospital undergoes a regular accreditation process which evaluates a hospital's various services against a series of specific standards that are accepted across Canada. An independent accreditation team issues a report indicating whether the hospital is accredited along with any recommendations.

Can the minister provide an update on the Qikiqtani General Hospital's current accreditation status? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My mind is getting a little foggy, but I believe I did a minister's statement on that topic during this sitting that we are fully accredited. In fact we raised our rating and it is at now the highest rating ever in the Qikiqtani General Hospital's accreditation scoring. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had my question in the back pocket for a couple of days, so I thought I would use this opportunity to make it a little bit more public.

Mr. Speaker, although the Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay health facilities are not technically hospitals, they are large facilities which do provide services to residents in each region that go beyond the services of a regular community health centre. Can the minister confirm whether or not these other regional health facilities also undergo an accreditation process and, if so, what is their current accreditation status?

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm excited about this one. This is something that we are actually, very recently after we finished with the accreditation of the hospital, exploring how the accreditation is for all health centres across the territory. I can say at this time that there is no accreditation examination of our health centres, but it is something that my officials are seriously looking into now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, while it is not clear that community health centres, as you said, undergo a regular accreditation process, there are quality assurance procedures and policies which should be followed to ensure that standards are met and risks or safety issues are addressed.

In 2017 the report by the Auditor General of Canada on health services in Nunavut raised some concerns regarding the number of incidents relating to patient care at community health centres and recommended that the department “ensure that its procedures for assuring and continuously improving the quality of its health care services are implemented according to departmental policy.”

Can the minister provide an update on how his department monitors the quality assurance process at the community health centres to ensure that health services are of the highest quality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I’ll take the opportunity to thank the work of the Office of the Auditor General in highlighting some of these issues. Some people are scared of audits; I welcome them. It gives us an opportunity to see where there are deficiencies and strengths so that we can focus on needs.

Mr. Speaker, in the last year we had our first ever supervisory of health professionals or head nurses in the communities meet and go through a training program or an update to make sure that that coordination across the health centres is done to provide that consistent level of care. The Auditor General’s report has highlighted that as a need and we have reacted by having more uniform training and regular communications.

With regard to specific of if there are

issues identified in individual health centres, that’s worked through each separate regional director and they do work with the nurses and the staff in the health centres to address any issues. When there’s an opportunity to learn and to share best practices, they do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 737 – 5(2): Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Like they say, good things come in threes, and unfortunately my questions aren’t one of them. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, at the annual Kivalliq Mayors’ Meeting held in September, the mayors passed a resolution regarding Kivalliq mayors’ support for the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable with the understanding that the focus must be on the three pillars and, that is, a road, a fibre connection, and a power line between the jurisdictions of Nunavut and Manitoba.

My first question for the minister is: can the minister provide us with an update on the activities of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. There is a partnership to schedule the roundtable meetings on Hudson Bay and it includes all adjacent communities, from Manitoba and Nunavut, but mainly from the Kivalliq.

Last year, as the member may recall, the meeting was held in Winnipeg. While they were discussing that issue, we had a facilitator who helped us develop a plan to notarize the ways that each party could provide more support for the meetings and if the meetings could become formalized. The recent study was completed and is being implemented.

Further, after the regional mayors' meeting in the Kivalliq, we are also looking at the resolutions and they are being prepared in my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Within the spirit of cooperation, I look at the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Manitoba, as they have different mandates, and just recently an election was held in Manitoba and they elected Premier Pallister, who is now the head of that government.

After the most recent election, has any dialogue occurred between the two governments of Nunavut and Manitoba about the shared responsibilities under the (interpretation ends) Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. I can't speak to that matter currently as I don't know if the respective premiers have met about that issue, but I can state that after the election in Manitoba, to date there hasn't been a national ministers' meeting called yet. Once we have a meeting within this year, as Manitoba's minister responsible for remote communities and I co-chair at the roundtable, I will be able to initiate discussions on how our partnership can grow some teeth and how the parties can better support this process from the Government of Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, with the resolution that was passed by the regional mayors, they were trying to draft up the goal of receiving more funding towards the Hudson Bay roundtable, for example, to fund a position or an office that would administer that. I have no idea what the Inuktitut term is for a (interpretation ends) secretariat, (interpretation) which would then formulate the agenda, the issues, or even a temporary office. If they could be funded, then it would allow the partnership to become more fine-tuned.

Now, has the Department of Community and Government Services identified any funding towards this initiative that is the subject of this request by the resolution? That is my last question on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the recent Kivalliq Mayors' Meeting, the resolutions were just recently tabled in this House during the middle of our session.

The resolution our colleague refers to is about their wish to get a secretariat for this collaborative body between our two areas. As the government we will be able to assess the viability of this request, as previously funding was provided, but it was cut due to the lack of support from the Government of Manitoba.

We will now be reviewing how we can provide funding for this, but if we are able to provide funding, the Manitoba government will also have to provide funding if we want this to move forward. Those are the types of things I will discuss with my ministerial counterpart in Manitoba when we're able to get together. If we meet before the ministers' meeting, perhaps we can discuss that further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues and Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Let's

proceed to Item 5. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a couple of individuals who are behind me. My wife, Sally Kusugak, please welcome her to the House...

>> *Applause*

...as well as our grandson, Howard Uuttuq Kusugak. I would like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Member Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to welcome my partner, Brent Boddy. He's here just for a few days helping me with doing all my cooking and doing all my cleaning while I'm sitting in here in the House. Please help me welcome him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Continuing on with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.



### Item 7: Written Questions

#### Written Question 051 – 5(2):

#### Department of Health Budget and Expenditures V.2

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two written questions today and my first is for the Minister of Health and is a follow-up to my previous question on Department of Health budgets and actual expenditures.

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

1. What is the breakdown of the Department of Health's operations and maintenance (Vote 1) budget as approved in the main estimates by branch and how was each branch budget allocated by division and section in the FreeBalance accounting software budget load for the fiscal year 2019-2010?
2. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's operations and maintenance (Vote 1) supplementary appropriation budget by branch and how was each branch budget allocated by division and section as represented in Schedule B.1 of the public accounts for the fiscal year 2018-19?
3. What are the details of the Department of Health's operations and maintenance (Vote 1) budget transfers by branch and how was each branch budget allocated by division and section as represented in Schedule B.1 of the public accounts for the fiscal year 2018-19?

4. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's operations and maintenance (Vote 1) revised budget by branch and how was each branch budget allocated by division and section as represented in Schedule B.1 of the public accounts for the fiscal year 2018-19?
5. What are the details of the Department of Health's operations and maintenance (Vote 1) actual expenditures by branch and how was each branch budget allocated by division and section as represented in Schedule B.1 of the public accounts for the fiscal year 2018-19?
  - a. For simplicity provide each section's actual expenditures as in FreeBalance for each fiscal year and add the department's year-end adjusting entries not entered into FreeBalance as a lump sum to the department total to match the public accounts.
  - b. Please provide a brief explanation for any variance where actual expenditures are in excess of (+/-) 25 percent of the revised budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Item 7. Written Questions.  
(interpretation) Member for Arviat

North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Written Question 052 – 5(2): Sales of Caribou Meat**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Environment regarding the sales of caribou meat.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are quite detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. For the calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019 to date and divided by region and/or caribou herd, whichever is more appropriate:
  - a) What was the estimated quantity of caribou meat sold through conventional commercial channels (e.g. meat plants and retail stores)?
  - b) What was the estimated quantity of caribou meat sold through informal channels (e.g. social media-facilitated sales and/or direct sales between individuals)?
  - c) What methodology did the department utilize in providing responses to questions 1a) and 1b)?
  - d) What information does the department require to accurately and comprehensively track the quantities of caribou meat being sold in Nunavut?
2. Based on the department's best available information, what are the price ranges paid for:

- a) A whole caribou?
  - b) A kilogram of caribou meat?
3. What specific actions has the department taken to better track sales of caribou meat?
  4. What is the trend in territory-wide caribou meat sales and what specific factors are contributing to this trend?
  5. What specific information concerning the transportation of country food, including but not limited to caribou meat, is currently being reported to the department by commercial airlines operating within Nunavut and what information is currently not being reported?
  6. To the department's knowledge, what specific examples of actions to regulate the private sale of caribou meat have been undertaken or are currently being undertaken by individuals and/or organizations, including but not limited to hunters and trappers organizations?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

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

**Written Question 053 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Solar Power System V.2**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second written question is also another follow-up. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and is in relation to the college's solar power system at the Iqaluit Campus.

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

**Purpose:**

I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College for providing me information in response to my written question during the recent spring sitting. However, it is unfortunate that the information provided was for the solar project that was installed in 1995 and irrelevant. It is also unfortunate that the minister did not respond to my correspondence seeking the relevant information.

Therefore I would like to request once again information on the current Iqaluit solar project so that this information will be public, in the hopes that others may benefit from lessons learned and potentially be encouraged to invest in similar energy initiatives in Nunavut.

**Panels**

1. What solar panel make and model was selected for the Iqaluit project?
2. Why did NAC select these particular solar panels?
3. How does this specific solar panel compare in quality to other make and

models?

4. How many panels were installed and how was that number determined?

**Inverter**

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

**Position**

7. How did NAC determine the position of the panels?

**Installation**

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

**Inspection**

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

**Cost**

13. What was the purchase price of the:
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor performance; and
  - d. other
14. What was the transportation cost of the;
  - a. Solar panels;
  - b. Inverter;
  - c. Additional equipment to monitor

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

### Other

17. Have the solar panels performed as expected?
18. What is the total energy generated from this project so far?
19. How much energy do the panels generate each month?
20. What lessons did NAC learn from the project?
21. If the project were to be repeated, what would be done differently?
22. Are the results from this project helping to inform NAC on how to shape their renewable energy policies as they move forward? Is the learning from this project helping NAC to develop other renewable energy projects?
23. What other relevant information would Nunavummiut gain from NAC's solar panel project?
24. What sort of maintenance has been required on this solar project?
25. Does NAC have end-of-life concerns for solar energy systems?
26. How long do they expect panels to last and can they be recycled at the end of their lifetime?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking consent that his written question be entered into the record as read. Do

members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Written Questions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

### Written Question 054 – 5(2): Security and Violence in Schools

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have written questions for the Minister of Education and they are on the subject of security and violence in schools.

Mr. Speaker, I can read these out, they're not that detailed, but I would ask in the interest of time that they be entered into the record as read.

1. What specific measures and/or procedures does the Department of Education have in place concerning school security?
2. By region, what was the number of "lockdown" incidents in Nunavut schools during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years?
3. Does the Department of Education maintain a reporting or tracking system concerning security and/or violent incidents?
4. Is there a significant trend in student-on-student violence in recent years?
5. Is there a significant trend in student-on-teacher violence in recent years?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Written Questions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

**Written Question 055 – 5(2):  
Community Health Centre  
Closures**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have written questions for the Minister of Health on the subject of community health centre closures. It is a follow-up to a question that was asked about a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

Again I request that these questions be entered into the record as read.

1. For the period from December 2018 to present:
  - a) On how many occasions were community health centres in Nunavut closed during regular business hours to non-emergency patients?
  - b) In which community or communities did the closures occur?
  - c) What was the approximate length of each closure?
  - d) What was the primary reason for each closure?

2. What specific actions has the Department of Health taken to address the reasons provided in the answer to Question 1d) and reduce the number of closures?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Written Questions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

**Written Question 056 – 5(2): Casual  
Employees and Direct  
Appointments**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have written questions directed to the Minister of Human Resources on the subject of casual employees and direct appointments.

Mr. Speaker, these questions are quite detailed. I would again request that they be entered into the record as read.

1. What measures does the department use to guard against potential conflicts of interest in casual staffing actions?
2. How many specific incidents involving casual staffing actions and conflicts of interest have been investigated since the department's formation?

3. What avenues are available for Government of Nunavut employees to report possible conflicts of interest around casual staffing actions?
4. What method does the department use to identify which casual employees are eligible for direct appointment?
5. What measures does the department use to guard against potential conflicts of interest in making direct appointments?
6. How does the department balance the need for reducing levels of long-term casual employees with the need to ensure impartial and open staffing processes take place (i.e. competitions)?
7. For all staffing decisions, what is the department's threshold for determining what does and does not constitute a conflict of interest (i.e. immediate family relation, extended family relation, etcetera)?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Written Questions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

**Written Question 057 – 5(2):  
Alternatives to Income Assistance**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have written questions for the Minister of Family Services on the subject of alternatives to income assistance.

Mr. Speaker, again these are quite detailed. I again request that they be entered into the record as read.

1. To what extent have alternatives to the Income Assistance Program been considered by the department?
2. To what extent has the concept of a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) been considered by the department?
3. What national or international examples of implementing a Guaranteed Basic Income have been considered by the department?
4. Has the department consulted with any organizations in Nunavut regarding the concept of Guaranteed Basic Income?
5. Does the department have any plans to implement any alternatives to income assistance on a pilot project basis? Why or why not?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

Written Questions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

opportunities in Nunavut  
communities with high  
unemployment?

**Written Question 058 – 5(2):  
Unemployment Rates and Labour  
Force**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My  
last written question is for the Minister  
of Economic Development and  
Transportation. It's on the subject of  
unemployment rates and the labour  
force.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is agreement.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the written  
question is quite detailed and I ask that it  
be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Continuing on. Item  
8. Returns to Written Questions.  
(interpretation) Continuing on.  
(interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to  
Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions.  
Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12.  
Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister  
for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister  
Netser.

1. For the calendar years 2017, 2018,  
and 2019 to date and providing a  
ranking from highest to lowest:
  - a) What was the unemployment rate  
by Nunavut community?
  - b) What was the source of data for  
the answer to 1a)?
  - c) To what extent does this  
represent a true measure of  
unemployment in Nunavut,  
considering the tendency for  
individuals to remove themselves  
from the labour force?
  - d) What alternative measures to the  
unemployment rate does the  
department track in terms of  
labour force utilization and  
employment in Nunavut?
2. What specific actions has the  
department taken to target economic  
development and employment

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 240 – 5(2): 2018-  
2019 Annual Report for Nunavut  
Arctic College**

**Tabled Document 241 – 5(2): Report  
on the Review of the Nunavut  
Teacher Education Program,  
October 2017**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation  
ends) I am tabling the 2018-19 *Annual  
Report for Nunavut Arctic College*.

The other one I am also tabling is the  
*Report on the Review of the Nunavut  
Teacher Education Program*, October

2017. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Tabled Document 242 – 5(2):  
Homeownership Program Review  
Report, December 2018**

**Tabled Document 243 – 5(2): 2018-  
2019 Annual Report for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am also tabling the *Homeownership Program Review Report*, December 2018.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. The other one I am tabling is the 2018-19 *Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 244 – 5(2):  
Speaker's List of Outstanding  
Statutory Tabling Requirements**

Thank you, members. I wish to table a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Member for Pangnirtung, Member

Nakashuk.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 38 – An Act to Amend the  
Legislative Assembly and  
Executive Council Act and the  
Supplementary Retiring  
Allowances Act – First Reading**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retirement Allowances Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Continuing on.  
Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retirement Allowances Act*, be read for the second time.

**Speaker:** The member is asking for consent to allow for Bill 38 to receive



second reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* as a consequence of changes to federal tax legislation and to allow the management... .

(interpretation) It's probably best if we take a break, as this is written incorrectly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): It's written incorrectly, so it needs to be corrected. We will take a five-minute break.

>>House recessed at 16:21 and resumed at 16:29

**Speaker** (interpretation): Our meeting will now proceed. Second Reading of Bills. Please proceed, Member Nakashuk.

**Bill 38 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Second Reading**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the*

*Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* as a consequence of changes to federal tax legislation and to allow for the Management and Services Board to issue directives to create a more family-friendly Legislative Assembly and to implement recommendations of the Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits.

It also contains amendments respecting Oaths of Office for members of the Management and Services Board and the Representative for Children and Youth. The bill also amends the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* with respect to elections members are allowed to make. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and as Bill 38 is a House Bill, it is referred immediately to the Committee of the Whole.

Continuing on. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 8, 29, and 38 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 50 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 16:32 and  
Committee resumed at 16:49

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. 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, and 38. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Bill 8, followed by Bill 29 and Bill 38. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 8?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the  
Workers’ Compensation Act –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Bill 8 is *An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act*. I would like to ask Minister Hickey if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. Does the committee agree to let the officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickey, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then continue on into your opening comments on Bill 8. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. With me today, I am very proud to introduce our new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, Debbie Molloy, to my right and your left.

>>Applause

Also with me today is Mr. Matthew Koczur, Manager of Policy and Data Analytics and ATIPP Coordinator. In the gallery we have a number of people, but I do want to make special note of, from the Department of Justice, the Legislative Counsel, Amy Short, who has been very involved in this file. I think the members would appreciate that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I wish to thank the members of this committee for your consideration on Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act*. We feel these amendments strike a balance between privacy and confidentiality of health information, modernizes the language for clarity and transparency, and aids the commission to ensure the sustainability of the Workers’ Protection Fund.

Mr. Chairman and members, this bill amends the *Workers’ Compensation Act* to do the following:

- Clarify the usage of the terms “impairment” and “disability”;
- Add detail respecting who is considered an employer within the scope of the Act;
- Remove the requirement for a primary health care provider;
- Clarify the compensation paid to a dependent child of a deceased worker and also maintenance enforcement garnishments;
- Add employment insurance benefits as a category of remuneration;
- Authorize information sharing and disclose for the purpose of improving the administration of the Act;
- Enable an inspector to inspect health care providers’ records to verify services received; and
- Correct inconsistencies and errors identified in the Act.

Mr. Chairman and members, these amendments in Bill 8 and motions considered today will ensure certain provisions are in compliance with past court decisions, improve operational efficiencies in the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, and clarify language for clearer information and interpretation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing

Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 8, (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the principle of the bill, which the minister described clearly in his opening comments.

As members are aware, the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission is shared between the governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Over the past year similar bills have been under consideration in both legislatures. During this time the standing committee has worked closely with its counterpart committee in the Northwest Territories to ensure that the statutes in both territories continue to mirror one another to the greatest practicable extent. I also note that a number of amendments have been made to Bill 8 to strengthen privacy provisions and address matters of procedural fairness for workers in respect to the appeals process provided for in the legislation.

The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 8 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Are there any general comments towards the bill? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of my constituency to thank the Workers’ Safety and Compensation

Commission for all the important work that you do across the territory. It's a very serious matter when we consider the sometimes very dangerous work that is done in certain occupations across the territory.

Like they say, safety comes first, especially when we consider that every worker out there has family who are waiting for them to come home safely at the end of the day. Thank you very much all your work and I do hope that this legislation will aid you in continuing to support the workers in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. General comments? If not, we will move on. I will ask members to go to your legislative binder to Bill 8.

We are on Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 31. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35.1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 37. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 38. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 8 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 8 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickey, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, I would like to obviously thank Ms. Molloy. First, I would like to thank the committee for making Ms. Molloy's first appearance in front of the Committee of the Whole a pleasant one.

I would also like to take the time to thank Stephen Jackson, who is our head of operations here in Iqaluit at Workers' Safety Compensation Commission, for the great work that his team does to provide... I would like to echo the member from Arviat North's comments and those words are very appreciated by the people who are working very hard to keep our workers safe and so that our industry has expectations to keep their workers safe.

I would like to thank the committee members for the questions and comments and the motions that were considered here today with regard to the Act. All the contributions are appreciated and it only worked to strengthen the legislation for our workers.

I would like to thank, obviously, Mr. Koczkur as well for his appearance here today and for the Department of Justice for all the work that goes into legislation.

People who are watching may think this is a very quick process, but I'm sure, as all committee members know and all the people behind scenes know, there is a lot of work that was put into this legislation. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickey. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for the work that has gone into this bill.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

**Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day – Consideration in Committee**

Thank you. We will now move on to Bill 29 and I will begin by asking Minister Ehaloak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses in.

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

and then continue on into your opening comments. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Acting Deputy Minister Simon Awa, and to my right is Jessica Young, who is our Director of Policy and Planning.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today to discuss Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*.

Currently Nunavut Day is a holiday under the *Public Service Act*, which means the holiday only applies to Government of Nunavut employees.

The intent of this bill is to extend the Nunavut Day holiday, July 9, to all Nunavummiut in territorially regulated industries.

As you are aware, our government had delayed the introduction of this bill until we knew the outcome of the federal initiative to establish September 30 as a national day for truth and reconciliation. If this legislation passed, further consideration would have been required on the part of our government to establish this holiday in Nunavut as well.

Since the federal government's bill was not passed prior to the end of the last federal government, we are now taking the required steps to make Nunavut Day a general holiday in the territory, as we have committed.

In creating a new holiday within Nunavut, it is important for us to give thoughtful consideration to the impact that the creation of the new general

holiday will have on our businesses when making our decision.

Nunavut Day marks a significant milestone for Nunavut and our territory. We should not force businesses to choose between requiring employees to work on Nunavut Day or absorbing the cost of an additional holiday in the event our government were to establish another general holiday.

Nunavut Day celebrates the day the *Nunavut Agreement Act* came into force, which was one of the key steps in the creation of Nunavut. By designating July 9 as a general holiday, we will allow Nunavummiut the ability to celebrate a unique culture and territory together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will now be open to take questions from any of the members.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Main, please proceed.

**Mr. Main (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is in support of the principle of the bill. Recognizing July 9 as a territorial public holiday is the right thing to do, and the standing committee is pleased to be a part of this change. The standing committee also encourages

the Government of Canada to take appropriate steps to provide similar recognition of this important occasion for federal employees who live and work in Nunavut.

The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 29 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Do any members have general comments? Mr. Quassa.

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

The people of Nunavut may have been waiting for this as July 9 has been recognized as Nunavut Day. I am very thankful because we have been waiting for a long time for this. This will be an official recognition of the Act. We should be proud of the fact that we got Nunavut and we will always be proud of it.

It's obvious that every July 9, many people will continue to be full of pride. I thank the department for making it so and that we can recognize the holiday in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Any general comments? If not, I'll ask members to go to Bill 29 in their legislative binders. We're on Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*. Mr. Main, you had a question? Please go ahead.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have just two brief questions here.

The minister mentioned in her opening statement that it's important to give thoughtful consideration to the impact of creating a new general holiday will have on businesses. I'm just wondering what consideration was given to the impact on businesses and specifically what the estimated financial impact of this new holiday will be on the private sector. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. The impact that this will have on small businesses within Nunavut will cost the businesses \$1.2 million yearly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. My next question is on another thing from the opening comments. A statement here says "We should not force businesses to choose between requiring employees to work on Nunavut Day or absorbing the cost of an additional holiday in the event our government were to establish another general holiday." I'm just trying to make sense of that statement there. "...another general holiday," is that referring to the September 30 day that the federal government was recently considering? Just a clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Ehaloak.



**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In October 2017 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated asked the Government of Nunavut to consider making June 21, national indigenous holiday, a holiday. NTI asked that a paid holiday be created for Nunavummiut so that they can take the time off for culture and heritage. National peoples day is currently a statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, so that's why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I answered your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question is with regard to the September 30 day that wasn't passed at the federal level. Does the government have any indication that the federal government will be bringing back this same initiative to establish September 30 as a holiday and, if so, will we have the option of not recognizing that or will we just have to fall into line and add that as a statutory holiday as well? (interpretation) That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the election and now that the government is back, we don't know at this time whether or not they will make September 30 a holiday. If they do make September 30 a holiday for a truth and reconciliation holiday, this government would have to consider whether or not we would make that a holiday as well. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. September 30, if it is recognized as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, now I am thinking in the prevailing authority that exists in the Inuit mind. September is the month where caribou bulls are rutting and they're no good for eating. To me, if this legislation passed, would we as the Government of Nunavut be able to set aside another day that's more applicable to Nunavut as a separate part of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Towtongie, for your question. September 30, if it is passed by the federal government, we don't have to make that day our holiday. We can pick any day, anytime during the year if we want to add another holiday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. We are on clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 29 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree, pursuant

to Rule 62(2), that Bill 29 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ehaloak, closing comments, please.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Department of Justice staff for all the hard work they have done in preparing this piece of legislation. I would like to iterate what Mr. Hickers said about how our staff, in collaboration with other departments, came up with this piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank our legal counsel, Amy Short, who is sitting in the House this afternoon. She is our counsel for the Department of Justice.

I would like to thank all the members for your consideration and all the questions that came up within standing committee. They were great questions.

I look forward to everybody celebrating Nunavut Day. As a proud Inuk of International Inuit Day, I am very thankful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you and your officials for being here and the work that you have done on this bill.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

**Bill 38 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Consideration in Committee**

Thank you. We will now proceed on to Bill 38. I will begin by asking the Speaker of the House, Mr. Mikkungwak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the official in, please.

Thank you. For the record, Speaker Mikkungwak, if you could please introduce your official and then continue on to your opening comments. Speaker Mikkungwak.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right and your left is our Clerk, Mr. John Quirke.

(interpretation ends) *Iksivautaaq*, I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide opening comments concerning Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

As members will recall, the *Report of the*

*Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 28, 2019 during our spring sitting.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank the commission for its work and to highlight a number of ways in which Bill 38 implements its recommendations.

Bill 38 increases the transparency of members' remuneration by removing the current entitlement to a constituency allowance under subsection 31(1)(a) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and replacing it with a fully taxable work indemnity.

Bill 38 also implements one of the recommendations of the commission by providing that travel and living expenses for attending sittings of the House and meetings of the Management and Services Board, committees, and recognized caucuses are paid only to members who do not maintain residences in Iqaluit.

As members are aware, there has been a growing trend across the country in recent years for legislative institutions such as ours to make greater efforts to accommodate the needs of parents who are raising young children. Bill 38 provides for the Management and Services Board to issue directives in relation to family-friendly initiatives and requires that such directives be made public through tabling in the House.

In addition to including a number of technical and transitional amendments, Bill 38 provides a more regularized schedule for establishing independent commissions to review members'

indemnities, allowances, expenses, and benefits. The next such commission will be established after the election of the Seventh Legislative Assembly.

Bill 38 implements another recommendation of the Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits by providing a longer period of time during which members may decide whether to join the Supplementary Retirement Allowances Plan. It also removes the current five- and ten-year options concerning early payouts, while retaining a measure of flexibility for members in respect to the 15-year option that is currently provided for in the statute.

Bill 38 also addresses gaps in the current legislation in relation to Oaths of Office for members of the Management and Services Board and the Representative for Children and Youth. That concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Speaker Mikkungwak. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to take the opportunity and thank the independent commission, all the members that served on that commission for their work, and particularly I would like to thank them for considering family-friendly measures and considering how Nunavut could catch up to other legislatures across the country in terms of making politics a more viable option for parents with young children such as myself or for that matter, single parents. I know that's a trend across the country, so I'm happy

that this is part of our modernizing the legislature to make it more family-friendly. That's all I wanted to say. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. General comments? Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This should have been clearer when it refers to travel and meal expenses for the (interpretation ends) Management and Services Board (interpretation) being paid only to members who are non-Iqaluit residents. With it only applying to non-Iqaluit residents, please keep in mind that the (interpretation ends) Management and Services Board (interpretation) doesn't only meet in Iqaluit. I just wanted that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the commission for reviewing members' indemnities. They asked good questions and we were given ample opportunity to provide feedback on this issue. Yes, I am happy about this too. We are facing more toward the youth and being more family-friendly. This week one of our colleagues celebrated the birth of his child. Nunavut youth are the biggest section of society and they can be well represented by their peers.

I wanted to say that this will be a benefit and that our indemnities won't be changing much and they will always be transparent. The Speaker will be tabling that information on a regular basis. I

wanted to express my appreciation on the contents of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Akeegok. General comments? If not, please go to Bill 38 in your legislative binders and it's *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Mr. Main, you had a question? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry; I just can't pass up the opportunity to ask a question to the Speaker. It's just so interesting.

Seriously, when it comes to the family-friendly initiatives that are mentioned in the opening comments, the bill itself doesn't spell out what the family-friendly initiatives are. Just for clarification, who will be deciding what specific family-friendly initiatives will be put in place regarding travel and whatnot? It's just a clarification question. (interpretation) It's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Speaker Mikkungwak, please go ahead.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Thank you to Member Main's question. To answer the question, the Management and Services Board will be taking into consideration what is considered by members as part of family-friendly initiatives under that in particular, so the Management and Services Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Speaker Mikkungwak. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification, as being a new member, I don't quite understand it. It's written in English. (interpretation ends) "The next such commission will be established after the election of the Seventh Legislative Assembly." (interpretation) If I understand that correctly, we still have two years left in our term as members. With the (interpretation ends) Seventh Assembly (interpretation) that it's referring to, if I understand correctly, will the commission be established in ten years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Speaker Mikkungwak.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Within a year after the territorial general election to be held on October 27, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to get clarification on page 2 of Mr. Speaker's presentation where it states that "Bill 38 also implements one of the recommendations..." I just wanted to get clarification because it states that "travel and living expenses for attending sittings" such as the Management and Services Board are paid only to members who do not reside in Iqaluit. As I said earlier, as we know, the Management and Services Board also meets outside of Iqaluit. I just wanted to get clarification that this is only talking about the Management and Services Board's meetings here in Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Speaker Mikkungwak, please go ahead.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in sittings... . Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry to the members. It's in reference to sittings of the House and the Management and Services Board, committees, and caucus meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states (interpretation ends) "...the needs of parents who are raising young children." Do they have an age limit? What does "young children" really mean, like from age zero to four? What do you exactly mean by that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Speaker Mikkungwak, please go ahead.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Clerk to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That has not been defined yet. This is why the board will welcome all suggestions from members on what should be the age limit. The one benchmark that I can refer to is based on what's in the House of Commons in terms of them defining benefits in terms of travel for family members, and their benchmark for a child is five years old, but that's one reference.

As mentioned when the members met in Full Caucus, the board will welcome all suggestions from the members so they can take all those comments and put them together to bring back to the Full Caucus eventually for final resolution and hopefully put it into a regulation or policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any more questions? If not, we will move on. Again, we're on Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 38 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 38 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, any closing comments? Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues. For the information of members, if you have any suggestions on this family-friendly legislation, please feel free to inform the Clerk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and Mr. Clerk for answering the questions here today.

I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if you could please escort the witnesses out. As we have completed the committee business, I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. [Report of the Committee of the Whole]. Member Rumbolt.

#### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 8, 29, and 38 and would like to report that Bills 8, 29, and 38 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Member Akoak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Hickes.

#### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

##### **Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 8, *Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

##### **Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day – Third Reading**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 29 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Bill 38 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Third Reading**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 38 is ready for assent.

Before we proceed further, Mr. Clerk, will you please determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

**Assent to Bills**

**Commissioner Nellie Kusugak** (interpretation): I heard and understood as I am an Inuk too, and I am deeply ecstatic today. I appreciate your

advocacy of Nunavummiut and to remind you as I want the best from you all in representing Nunavut and in working together, as it is our only avenue. Thank you all.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*;
- Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax*;
- Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*;
- Bill 30, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021*;
- Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*;
- Bill 34, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2018-2019*; and
- Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

As we look forward to the coming warmth of the holiday season, I wish you well as we share love and happiness with



family and friends.

I wish all members a safe trip home to your constituencies and families, and I look forward to seeing all of you again during the winter 2020 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I thank you. I also thank the interpreters very much. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk:** *Orders of the Day* for February 18, 2020:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To my legislative colleagues, since members will start returning home tomorrow, I share in your joy as you will be returning to your families and those whom endured your absences, such as your grandchildren, your children, your older siblings and sisters, and to all of your relations.

I want to especially note your return to your constituencies as they voted you into this House so they could be represented. I wish you all a very smooth and safe travel.

I am informing all Nunavummiut that (interpretation ends) this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:47*

# **Appendix – November 7, 2019**



## **Return to Oral Question**

**Asked by:** Ms. Pat Angnakak, MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu

**Asked of:** The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation

**Number:** 657 – 5(2)

**Date:** October 29, 2019

**Subject:** Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities

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### **Question:**

Can the minister describe some of the specific work that the QEC has been undertaking to plan for the possible use of nuclear energy in Nunavut?

### **Response:**

In February 2018, the Government of Canada launched the Canadian Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Roadmap as one of the actions under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. During 2018, QEC worked with federal, provincial, and territorial governments as well as other utilities to establish a roadmap on SMR's potential development and use in Canada.

SMR Roadmap engagement sessions were held in Saint John, New Brunswick, Iqaluit, Nunavut and Calgary, Alberta. Invitations were sent to all municipalities, Inuit organizations, and other community and government partners to participate during the May 2018 engagement session in Iqaluit. A summary of the Roadmap project and final report can be accessed at <https://smrroadmap.ca>

QEC's participation in the SMR Roadmap project was to gather information to assess the financial and technical viability of SMRs potential application in Nunavut. At this time, this technology has not been fully developed or shown to be commercially viable. While QEC continues to monitor this technology's development, the corporation is aware that consultation with key stakeholders is a critical component before QEC pursues any alternative energy projects.

**Question:**

Mr. Speaker, one of the standing committee's recommendations was that the QEC make its corporate and human resources policies publicly available through posting on its website. However, the minister's response indicated that "internal corporate policies" will be exempt from this disclosure. Can the minister clarify which of the QEC's policies fall under this category?

**Response:**

Internal corporate policies are those of an operational nature that do not impact the public. QEC's practice is that policies are accessible to the people they apply to. This means that public policies, such as Net Metering and the forth coming Independent Power Producer policies will be online and accessible to the public as those programs include public participation. QEC internal policies that apply to employee behavior, attendance, leave etc. are shared with all employees and available to all employees upon request. These policies will also be published on QEC's new Intranet.





## Return to Oral Question

**Asked by:** Mr. Adam Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak

**Asked of:** The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation

**Number:** 676 – 5(2)

**Date:** October 31, 2019

**Subject:** Staff Housing

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### **Question:**

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 seventeen units remained vacant do to waiting for renovations? If it is 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?

### **Response:**

These units include transient housing and staff housing units. These units were vacated at different times but the oldest unit on the list was vacated in 1985, the most recent property was vacated in 2018. All of

the units requiring major repairs are owned by QEC. Below is a table outlining information on each unit requiring major repairs.

### Updated Transient and Staff Housing Vacancies Requiring Major Renovations

	Vacant (Major Renovations Required)	Vacated	Additional Information
Iqaluit	8 Units		
	670B	22-Jan-2013	On Capital project list for renovation
	670C	22-Jan-2013	Currently online, also on Capital project list for renovation
	670D	22-Jan-2013	Will be online within 2 months, also on Capital project list for renovation
	672A	16-Jan-2018	Capital Project has been approved for renovation of Building 672
	672B	05-May-2016	Capital Project has been approved for renovation of Building 672
	672D	Unknown 15+ Years	Capital Project has been approved for renovation of Building 672
	672E	01-May-2016	Capital Project has been approved for renovation of Building 672
	582	27-Dec-2018	Assessing our options for this property
Igloodik	Lor 67	1985	Will be demolished
Panqrirtung	579	1992	Assessing our options for this property
Pond Inlet	845	March 2014	Assessing our options for this property
Rankin Inlet	2 Units		
	3 Iglu	June 2016	On Capital project list for renovation
	5 Iglu	15-Feb-2016	Capital Project has been approved
Cambridge Bay	1 Amagok	24-May-2018	Assessing our options for this property
Taloyoak	Lot 113	1985	Assessing our options for this property
There should have been 15 units requiring renovations in the previous RTWQs.			
* Due to oversight Taloyoak was listed twice and Kugaaruk was entered into the wrong column as an old transient instead it's been converted into an office space for the plant operators.			



## **Return to Oral Question**

**Asked by:** Mr. Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay

**Asked of:** The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation

**Number:** 688 – 5(2)

**Date:** November 1, 2019

**Subject:** Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq

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### **Question:**

When I asked for an update on the status of this Sanikiluaq project during the Legislative Assembly's winter sitting, the minister advised me that the project had been approved for the 2019-2020 fiscal year but that the tender had not been issued. Can the Minister update me today on the status of this project?

### **Response:**

The DHS project in Sanikiluaq is currently nearing the end of the tender process. QEC expects this project to be completed in 2020-21.



**Question:**

How much fuel consumption will the project save?

**Response:**

Fuel savings and other technical questions will be answered once the project design has been completed. The design phase is expected to be completed in March 2020.

**Question:**

As the Minister may be aware, a subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has also been working on a wind power project in Sanikiluaq. Can the Minister update me today on the extent of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with this project?

**Response:**

The wind power project in Sanikiluaq is a Qikiqtaaluk Corporation project. QEC has no involvement in this particular initiative.