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**DAY 91**

**Monday, September 21, 2020**

**Pages 5829 – 5881**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Aggu)

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

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*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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**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**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 Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

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(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

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

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. George Hickey**  
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*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*

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

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Monday, September 21, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak,  
Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George  
Hickes, Hon. David Joanasiq, Mr. Joeli  
Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon.  
Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone,  
Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk,  
Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin  
Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr.  
Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa,  
Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe  
Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms.  
Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa): ...(no  
audio)...

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation):  
...(inaudible)... Before we proceed with  
the orders of the day, I wish to make a  
statement.

**Speaker's Statement**

As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,  
I welcome Nunavummiut who are  
following the broadcast of our  
proceedings today.

We are living in uncertain and troubled  
times, and all members look forward to  
the day when we can welcome our  
constituents and other visitors back to  
our Chamber.

I do wish to take this opportunity to note  
a joyful milestone. On June 11, Arctic

Bay Elder Qaapik Attagutsiak celebrated  
her 100th birthday.

>>*Applause*

Elder Attagutsiak has been nationally  
recognized for her contributions to the  
nation's efforts during the Second World  
War. Her strength inspires us all, and I  
ask all members to join me in paying  
tribute to her.

It's amazing that someone can reach 100  
years of age. There was also another  
person in Iqaluit who attained 109 years  
of age, and I ask my colleagues to pay  
tribute to Inookie, who recently passed  
away.

I also ask members to join me in  
welcoming our two new colleagues  
representing Baker Lake and Kugluktuk.

>>*Applause*

I now wish to take a few moments to  
note a number of matters.

As members are aware, the configuration  
of our Chamber has been modified to  
address the current circumstances. I  
remind members that they are welcome  
to wear face masks while in the  
Chamber. For the information of my  
fellow Nunavummiut, the MLAs are  
practising social distancing with their  
seats under the recommendation of the  
chief medical officer of Nunavut.

I wish to emphasize that although the  
world has changed in ways that we did  
not anticipate just a few short months  
ago, the expectations placed on us by  
Nunavummiut remain high.

I urge all members to be mindful of the need to be respectful of one another during our proceedings in both our words and our gestures. We are all here to represent our constituents, not to engage in personal debate. During the current circumstances, we must lead by example.

I also wish to take this opportunity to publicly confirm a recent decision by the Management and Services Board that restricts members from using their constituency budgets for the purpose of travel to southern Canada. I believe that's understandable.

We know that the members will be working hard, as Nunavummiut know, and they will be representing their constituents properly this week and next week.

I will now read a message from the (interpretation ends) Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice. (interpretation) I'll read it in English.

### Money Message

(interpretation ends) I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 45, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 46, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*; and

- Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*.

This would be from Justice N. Sharkey, Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice, for Rebekah Williams, Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut.

We will now proceed to the orders of the day, but before we do that, members, I would like to remind you that the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguq will not be present today.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister, Government House Leader, Minister Kusugak.

### Item 2: Ministers' Statements

#### Minister's Statement 429 – 5(2): Minister Absent from the House

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that we are able to meet again. My colleagues, I rise today to advise you that our ministerial colleague, (interpretation ends) Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, (interpretation) will be absent from the House for the duration of this sitting with proper excuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Premier, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 430 – 5(2):  
Nunavut's Response to COVID-19**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you. We're going to be back on TV again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in times of uncertainty and great change, people and communities tend to show the truest versions of themselves. In mid-March the whole world was faced with a new, unprecedented challenge as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and everyone had to adapt quickly to an unparalleled new reality.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen firsthand how Nunavummiut and our communities have responded to this uncertainty and this needs to be acknowledged, from businesses across the territory opening early to accommodate our elders, to new business models and entrepreneurs finding ways to adapt and survive, to communities pulling together to keep food programming going for school aged children and elders.

We have seen the dedication of our public servants working from home while balancing caring for their children and families, as well as those who were needed in our offices and showed up every day to perform the essential services needed to keep our government running. These people literally kept the lights on and ensured necessary programs and services ran as smoothly as possible for the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen communities come together to organize innovative, socially-distant events to keep their residents happy and safe. We saw Inuit

organizations offer programming and supports to Nunavut Inuit to ensure minimal negative impacts during this period. We saw our residents stay vigilant in practising and upholding the public health measures to keep one another safe and well.

Mr. Speaker, while the pandemic has been draining and difficult for everyone, I really do want to commend the efforts, ingenuity, resiliency, and great strength of so many Nunavummiut over the last several months. You have shown how truly committed we are to one another and our collective well-being, and I am so proud of all of you. Thank you to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 431 – 5(2):  
Thank You to Health Care  
Professionals during COVID-19**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to my two new colleagues.

Along the same lines as the Premier, Mr. Speaker and members, health care professionals have been at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here in Nunavut it has been no different, and our staff's hard work and dedication have been vital to keeping Nunavut safe and healthy these past several months. All our staff, from frontline health staff to those behind the scenes doing work such as enhanced cleaning, deserve commendation for

continuing to rise above and beyond for the good of all Nunavummiut.

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

>>*Applause*

**Hon. George Hickey:** Mr. Speaker, while our public health measures have been effective, the strength of Nunavummiut has not gone unnoticed. Nunavummiut's continued support and efforts have been key in our ability to stay protected from COVID-19. Mr. Speaker and all members, it is important that Nunavummiut remain diligent and adhere to public health recommendations, such as proper handwashing, social distancing, listening to the advice of health officials, and most importantly, to stay home if you are sick.

Mr. Speaker, the past year has not been easy and at times the public health measures have created hardships, but Nunavummiut's health is our shared responsibility and we all have made sacrifices. These sacrifices have helped keep Nunavut one of the few places on Earth yet to have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of our health staff and Nunavummiut for their diligence and cooperation in keeping Nunavut safe, healthy, and protected from COVID-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 432 – 5(2):  
Thank You to Our Students,  
Parents, School Staff, and  
Education Partners**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and welcome to the new members.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great joy every year when school begins. This enthusiasm for the return to school is shared by students, parents, staff, and district education authority members. Students are excited to see their friends and meet their new teachers. Parents are happy to see their children continue their learning. Staff are delighted to see all the smiling faces on the first day of school.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this excitement to return to school was even greater this year because schools had been closed to students since March, when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to show my gratitude to the entire education community for all they have done during this pandemic. To parents and guardians, thank you for your patience and understanding throughout the pandemic. I recognize the challenges you have had over the past several months and the work required to support learning at home. I appreciate the sacrifices and adjustments you made while your children were not in school. As well, the questions and concerns that parents and the education community raised to the department and your DEAs helped to strengthen my department's school opening plans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to school staff for all the actions they have taken throughout the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, they showed their creativity in developing safe ways to deliver learning packages and healthy food to their students. As schools reopened, their plans for recovery and remote learning will be essential to ensure no student is left behind.

Mr. Speaker, since the start of the pandemic, my department has been working closely with district education authorities, the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, and the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs. I appreciate all the questions, concerns, and comments they expressed in emails, letters, and our regular teleconference calls. These helped shape my department's school opening plans and health and safety guidelines.

(interpretation) Finally, to Nunavut students, I know the past few months have been challenging. You have shown your resilience throughout this pandemic and I know you will get through any challenges this school year may bring. Our future may seem uncertain, but as we continue to work together, no challenge is impossible to overcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 433 – 5(2):  
Recognition of Frontline Workers  
during COVID-19**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the new members. To the people of Quttiktuq, I send you my regards.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Department of Family Services' frontline workers and the work they continue to do to ensure that our programming is available to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Family Services is committed to the well-being of all Nunavummiut. As the nature of our program services requires interaction with the public, our frontline workers have been following the chief medical officer and Government of Nunavut's instructions for the public health emergency.

(interpretation ends) As an essential service, the continued efforts of our income assistance workers across the territory have not gone unnoticed. Working from home was not an option for income assistance workers as cheque printing had to be done in their offices. Many Nunavummiut rely on some form of income assistance to ensure their family's basic needs are met. Income assistance workers have been following the social distancing requirements during face-to-face appointments to ensure that clients continue to be provided the services they rely on.

The Department of Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health, developed a model of support for Nunavummiut who are undergoing the mandatory two weeks of isolation in the isolation hubs. The creation of the social work hub service supports the health and safety of Nunavummiut in the isolation

hubs, promotes well-being, decreases anxieties, and ensures a smooth return to Nunavut. The hub support service is a critical component of the Government of Nunavut's response to COVID-19 related social issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the continued efforts of all our frontline workers and their commitment to ensuring the well-being of Nunavummiut is kept at the forefront during these changing times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 434 – 5(2):  
Support for Harvesters during  
COVID-19**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to highlight the measures the Department of Environment has taken to support harvesters during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, my department was pleased to provide a one-time \$25,000 grant to each hunters and trappers organization in Nunavut to help provide country food to their communities. We were able to support harvesters who rely on hunting for their income as well as provide country food to Nunavummiut facing the challenges and uncertainties brought about by the global pandemic. The grant allowed for organized community harvests through the

purchase of fuel and hunting supplies. Alternatively this money could also be used to purchase country food to distribute to communities.

Mr. Speaker, the department recognizes that many Nunavummiut rely on the income generated through harvesting and related activities. To help our hunters, wildlife offices have implemented a social distance procedure to allow harvesters to sell their pelts by appointment to ensure continued revenue and support during this difficult time.

Nunavut hunters are a vital part of every Nunavut community. The country food they provide to their families and communities is economically and culturally significant. This \$25,000 grant ensured that hunters were still able to go out on the land and support their communities during COVID-19; and this was especially important for our elders and those unable to harvest by themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 435 – 5(2):  
Community Futures Funding**

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, many Nunavut businesses have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses have told us that they require assistance and support to remain operational during these challenging times.

In response to this, my department has taken steps and implemented several initiatives to help businesses manage the impacts. One such initiative is a recently formed partnership between my department, the Canadian Northern Development Agency, and the Nunavut Community Futures Association. Under this partnership, our organizations have signed \$3,933,000 agreement that will provide Nunavut businesses with access to a loan fund that provides alternative financing options to assist with businesses' operational costs.

The loan fund is being administered by the Nunavut Community Futures Association, in direct partnership with the three designated regional Community Futures organizations in Nunavut, which are the Baffin Business Development Corporation for the Qikiqtaaluk, the Kivalliq Business Development Centre, and Kitikmeot Community Futures Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, eligible Nunavut businesses can now apply for loans of up to \$100,000 to assist with ongoing operational support. These loans are interest-free and partially forgivable if paid in full by December 2022. Longer loan terms are also available, subject to conditions.

Mr. Speaker, this investment is a very good example of Pilimmaksarniq, how our government can work collaboratively with our partners in the Government of Canada and with development agencies that are so vital to the health and well-being of our businesses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 436 – 5(2):  
Housing Construction Contracts  
Related to COVID-19**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Construction in Nunavut is always a logistical challenge. This year is no different. I am pleased to say today that COVID-19 has not stopped or slowed our construction program.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation knows that delays place a burden on Nunavummiut on housing wait-lists. That is why all public and staff housing builds are moving forward as scheduled. The corporation plans to build 116 units this year and an extra 130 next year.

The corporation recognizes the challenges our contractors face. Southern workers must isolate for two weeks before arriving in the territory. Separate isolation hubs have been set up in Quebec City and Ottawa for these workers. We need not worry that they will take space away from Nunavummiut wanting to return home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our contractors and government partners. Even in the face of unprecedented challenges, we can see that through Havaqatigiingniq/Ikajuqtigiingniq, we can always overcome whatever we face.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all the hard-working staff at the corporation and our local housing organizations who continued to work

through the global pandemic providing housing services to Nunavummiut. As well as continuing with maintenance and service calls and delivering programs, local housing organization staff delivered 50,000 bars of soap and other cleaning supplies to public housing tenants in all of our 25 communities. I commend all our staff for coming together during this health crisis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements are done. Going to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main, and next will be the Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Main.

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

#### **Member's Statement 655 – 5(2): Appreciation for COVID-19 Response**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be back in the House.

Mr. Speaker, during our sitting back in March, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, there were concerns, questions, and perhaps some fear. Five months have passed and the issues we had back then are still there, but regular members are of the view that Nunavummiut should be happy that we have come to this day without the coronavirus coming into our communities.

The regular members have expressed their appreciation to our Premier and his ministerial colleagues, as well as all the government employees, including all the

employees of the hamlet, Inuit organizations, and private businesses for providing support to Nunavummiut to date due to the coronavirus. We have to be proud and celebrate the culture of Nunavummiut being showcased, and perhaps there is more recognition amongst Canadians in some way.

However, I don't have only good news to say. The regular members would like to remind Nunavummiut of the recommendations made by the Department of Health that we still must follow because the coronavirus is still very dangerous to Nunavummiut, from children to elders.

Also, the regular members are anticipating further hardships in the coming months and throughout the winter. We will overcome the coronavirus only by working together. Let's work even harder on overcoming the coronavirus for the future well-being of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

#### **Member's Statement 656 – 5(2): Reflections on Being Elected to Represent Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and acknowledge a great number of people. I would like to begin by first thanking you all and the Members of the Legislative Assembly for the very warm welcome that you have extended to me.



Although I am very excited to have the opportunity to work on behalf of the community and people of Kugluktuk, I recognize that there are many challenges ahead. I am grateful that I can count on your experience and that of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, both of my grandparents had the honour of serving as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing our community prior to division. Their commitment to public service has been an inspiration to me throughout my life. I want to express the community's appreciation for their many contributions.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessors: Donald Havioyak, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Peter Taptuna, and Mila Kamingoak. I have some big shoes to fill.

Mr. Speaker, there are many amazing people in Kugluktuk whose accomplishments should inspire all of us.

Millie Kuliktana is an educator whose work in the field of language and culture has earned national recognition. Like many other Nunavummiut, Millie has been going through the experience of being away from home in order to receive complex medical treatment. Millie's double-lung transplant was successful, and the community has been praying for her to make a full recovery. Millie has asked that her words of appreciation for the dedicated medical professionals at home and down south be

expressed in this House, and I am proud today to do that on her behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured and humbled by the opportunity to use my voice in this House to speak on behalf of Millie and all residents of the constituency. Although there is not a lot of time remaining in the life of this Assembly, I am committed to advocating for action in such areas as mental health, elder care, suicide prevention, economic development, wildlife management, environmental protection, health care, and housing, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavut communities face similar issues and the global pandemic has only made it more challenging to address them. We have a lot of work to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 657 – 5(2):  
Reflections on Being Elected to  
Represent Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation to the people of Qamani'tuaq for entrusting me with the great honour of representing them in their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by first giving thanks to our good Lord for protecting and guiding us.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honour to represent the constituency of Baker Lake in this House. There are so many people to acknowledge today. I wish to thank my parents for having been able to witness my swearing-in ceremony in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, both of them were born on the land and lived a traditional lifestyle as children. Over the years they have both made many significant contributions to the community through their work with different organizations and institutions, including this Assembly.

>> *Applause*

I have been inspired by their dedication to ensuring that our people achieve progress in a manner that represents our traditions and values.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank my better half, Marilyn, for her steadfast support. She is my rock and her strength is an inspiration as we raise a family together.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that I am joining this Assembly in the latter half of its term and I know that there is a steep learning curve ahead of me. I am confident that I can count on you and my other colleagues for advice and guidance as we work together.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the many contributions of my predecessor, who I have known and worked with for many years.

Mr. Speaker, as you have noted, these are difficult times. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many

frontline workers in Qamani'tuaq and other communities across the country who have been working tirelessly in recent months during the global pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I want to clearly state that I am committed to working closely with our local leadership and agencies and that my door will always be open to them.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the colleagues.

Baker Lake is a community that has made tremendous progress in recent years. I am committed to supporting that progress and for being a strong voice in this Assembly as we work to address the many issues that need our attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member Nakashuk, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 658 – 5(2):  
Appreciation for COVID-19  
Response**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to express

my appreciation and I remember the residents of my community today in Pangnirtung.

I rise today to acknowledge individuals and express my appreciation. After our spring session, we started bringing up concerns about the COVID-19 outbreak. Within the past six months there have been frightening situations across Canada and the rest of the world.

However, I rise today to express my appreciation to our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Patterson, and to our government leaders, especially Premier Savikataaq and Minister of Health, Minister Hickes, who is also the Minister of Finance, for their steadfast and ongoing work towards protecting Nunavummiut from the COVID-19 virus.

There continue to be many issues of concern and uncertainty. Nunavummiut continue to question some of the decisions that have been made. However, it is important to recognize the tremendous effort that has been put into keeping our territory, our land, and our people safe and protected from the COVID virus.

When one considers the many factors that have been addressed by our government's COVID response plan, from travel, to education, to store and retail operations and in many other areas, it is truly impressive what has been accomplished over the past six months.

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

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues. I'm almost done.

I just want to again thank the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Patterson, and all the health staff in the communities, those who did the planning, the hamlets, and the stores for preparing a response plan. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by Member for Netsilik. Member Adam Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 659 – 5(2):  
Appreciation for COVID-19  
Response**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today like all of my fellow colleagues to express my gratitude and appreciation to Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Michael Patterson, as well as to all of the hard-working individuals helping to ensure that Nunavummiut continue to have access to essential services during the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, the current state of the public health emergency for Nunavut came into effect on March 20 of this year, approximately six months ago. Shortly after the state of emergency began, the government took a number of

measures to reduce the risk to Nunavummiut posed by COVID-19. One of these initial actions was to restrict public access to government facilities and require all non-essential employees to work from home.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that I speak for everyone in this House when I say that the commitment of those essential workers, who assumed greater risk, continued delivering programs and services to our residents during this period, has not gone unnoticed. We recognize the added pressure imposed on you by the need for social distancing and workplace sanitization and we value your willingness to spend time away from your family during these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Premier Savikataaq and his office as well as Minister Hickee and his staff for truly stepping up during these challenging times, for being present and visible, for accepting personal risk, and most importantly, for effectively leading our government. I would also like to thank Minister Akeeagok, Minister Joanasi, and Minister Sheutiapik and their offices for being present to lead their departments. I would also like to thank the staff of Minister Kusugak, Minister Ehaloak, and Minister Netser for being there every day, providing effective management for their respective departments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to our essential frontline workers who have contributed so much during this most difficult time. All Nunavummiut are in your debt. Your hard work and dedication is greatly

appreciated and I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, (interpretation ends) followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Mr. Qirngnuq.

### **Member's Statement 660 – 5(2): Housing Issues**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut and my colleagues, as well as the new members. I'm sure they feel welcome. I'm very pleased that they are able to participate in this session.

Mr. Speaker, this challenge that we're starting to hear about is what we're discussing. Please speak to possible solutions to support our government and ask questions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue of housing and homelessness. This is not the first time that I have addressed this issue in the House. Unfortunately I do not think that it will be the last time.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that the lack of housing affects all Nunavut communities, and we all recognize that the government has limited resources.

Mr. Speaker, information that is publicly available from the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that a total of 20 new public housing units are scheduled to begin construction in Kugaaruk during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal

years. An additional 10 new public housing units are scheduled to begin construction in Taloyoak during the 2021-22 fiscal year. That is progress for the communities. At the appropriate time I will be seeking an update on the status of this schedule in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, our extreme climate often means that homelessness is not as visible in our communities as it is on the streets of large southern cities, but it is a very real crisis for Nunavut. Homelessness and overcrowding also contribute to health problems. During this global pandemic, we are very concerned about the impact of overcrowding on the spread of the virus.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Qirngnuq.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons also resumes sitting this week. Although I am hopeful that the upcoming Throne Speech will outline new federal investments in housing for the north, I will not be surprised if it does not.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are resources available to help support communities that want to address

homelessness, but it can be a challenge to apply for support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by stating that we know there will be no quick fixes or simple solutions to these issues, but I am committed to continuing to push for progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Mr. Rumbolt.

#### **Member's Statement 661 – 5(2): National Coaches Week**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will know, I take great pride in recognizing the efforts and dedication of our local sports coaches who train, encourage, and support our athletes.

Mr. Speaker, this is National Coaches Week and I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank all the wonderful coaches who have had such a positive impact on the youth and adults of Sanikiluaq and all across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, being involved in a sport is not just about winning medals or breaking records. It is about working hard, following a healthy lifestyle, getting along with your teammates and being a good sport. These qualities carry over into our daily lives and support our general well-being. These are also qualities that make good leaders.

Mr. Speaker, a good coach can make a real difference in a young person's life, by helping them to realize opportunities and reach their goals, not just on the ice rink or the badminton court.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight one individual from Sanikiluaq, Quentin Sala, who has gone from being a young athlete to a young coach and is currently the recreation director in the community.

I am very proud to announce that Quentin has been selected as the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association for his work as a community youth member in the parks and recreation field. He was nominated by the Nunavut Parks and Recreation Association, an organization which supports health and well-being for individuals, organizations, and recreational groups in Nunavut. Quentin will receive his award at the association's awards banquet in January.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nunavut's coaches for their contribution to Nunavut's well-being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Kaernerck.

**Member's Statement 662 – 5(2):  
Appreciation for COVID-19  
Response**

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

colleagues. We're now back. To the members who are absent, I hope you get better, Member Sheutiapik and Member Angnakak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also thank first of all the people of Amittuq. Although we went through a hard time and it seemed like we were giving up, everything comes to an end and I'm sure that will be the case.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment, and the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I thank you all on behalf of the people of Amittuq for your strong support during the coronavirus pandemic.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we weren't sure how we were going to handle the situation. We weren't allowed to shake hands anymore and we had to socially distance ourselves, which is very foreign and it's also kind of strange to be at the witness table when I'm making my statement, but we will keep going.

I would like to further encourage my fellow residents of Amittuq to follow the recommendations during these dangerous times.

I would also like to thank the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for providing financial aid to our elders. I am truly grateful that they extended a helping hand. Again, I would like to urge the government and the Inuit organizations to provide further benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I rose was due to overcrowded homes, as I am also concerned about the coronavirus. We

could see a rapid spread of the disease if there's overcrowding, which has become more and more of a problem. I will have questions for the housing corporation minister at the appropriate time regarding overcrowding and multiplex units. Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 663 – 5(2):  
Homelessness and Overcrowding**

**Mr. Akoak:** *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, (interpretation) my colleagues. Also to the people of Gjoa Haven, (interpretation ends) good afternoon. (interpretation) As well as to my wife and grandchildren who are watching the proceedings, (interpretation ends) Sport, Mamitsiaq, Sunshine, my Little Honey, good afternoon.

(interpretation) I rise today to thank our government for taking good care of our people during the coronavirus pandemic. I thank you immensely, but there is a "but." Please think of the people who are homeless and remember that they don't always have a place to stay, they're going through difficulty, and the number of people with mental health issues is increasing.

I want the homeless people to be assisted in the smaller communities. Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay are usually allocated housing units. I don't want the smaller communities to be forgotten. I'm asking our government to remember the smaller communities. I'll continue to raise this issue so that you will hear it.

I want to help our people who are struggling and are starting to get mentally and physically ill due to overcrowding. (interpretation ends) *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 664 – 5(2):  
Kinngait High School Graduates**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their great perseverance during this COVID-19 pandemic. Not only were they able to continue with their schooling but were even able to graduate. I would like to recognize the grade 12 graduates in Kinngait. On June 18 in Kinngait they were able to celebrate the graduates with a community parade of ATVs and vehicles. Graduating from grade 12 is an important milestone. I would like to recognize the graduates:

- Acacia Turqtuq
- Amanda Wortman
- Saaki Nuna
- Terry Lynn Kenneally
- Meeka Akasuk
- Brian Reid

I also thank their families and teachers. It is now time for these graduates to start looking forward and make plans for their futures, even though we are currently in the middle of a global pandemic. We

wish them well in their futures, regardless if that is here in Kinngait, somewhere else in Nunavut, or outside of Nunavut. If they chose to attend Arctic College or higher institutions, the opportunity is there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for members' statements. I'm sorry. I didn't see your hand. Member for Rankin Inlet, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 665 – 5(2):  
Appreciation for COVID-19  
Response in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to thank the people of Rankin Inlet. During the coronavirus pandemic, the people of Rankin Inlet aren't sitting idle; they're trying to help each other. The hamlet council and workers have provided and delivered cleaning supplies and food and made it all available for the community. The recreation committee has helped to ensure that people can get out and have something to do.

COVID-19 is still very much going around, but it seemed really dangerous at the start and our community residents were understandably concerned about this. The health care workers and nurses have always been dedicated, including the interpreters at the health centre. They have to experience limited travel due to COVID-19. We thank them for their ongoing work. The schools and daycares have been doing a lot more work than they normally would and we thank them.

Let's not forget that the pandemic isn't over yet and you can notice the situation

worsening in the south. Let us all be aware and take this very seriously. We also thank those who have dedicated themselves to deal with this pandemic on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 666 – 5(2):  
Baffin Island Caribou  
Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to address my constituents in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

I apologize that I haven't gone to Clyde River recently. To those who are following the proceedings, I did try to go to Clyde River, but the airline schedule never worked out for me due to restrictions because of the coronavirus. This pandemic has affected everything, especially air travel to the communities. That is why I could not travel to my other constituency community. Let me apologize first to those who are listening to and watching the proceedings, especially in Clyde River. I will go and visit them as soon as I can, perhaps after this session.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a certain matter. In our community, particularly in the Baffin region, caribou hunting is a topic that I always bring up. There have been many concerns, especially in my community, about caribou hunting. At the appropriate time I will ask questions to the Minister of Environment about this.



Mr. Speaker, some of us are concerned about when the caribou harvesting season opens. It opens in July and the routes to caribou hunting grounds can differ vastly, particularly in the Baffin region, perhaps more so in my community of Qikiqtarjuaq. We can't access our caribou hunting grounds for long periods.

We can finally make it to our caribou hunting grounds during the dead of winter. With that being the case, the opening of the harvesting season is inconvenient for us and the quota didn't work out for us last year. We didn't have enough time to meet our quota before the season closed and our tags were given to the communities that went over their quota.

I'm concerned about this issue, so I will have questions for the Minister of Environment, which is why I rose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I finally have no more names on my list, so let's proceed to Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) There are none. Let's proceed to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. However, I remind my colleagues that our Legislative Assembly is only open to the members right now because of the coronavirus pandemic, so there will be no recognition of visitors in the gallery during our sitting. Thank you.

Let's proceed to Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Member Simailak. For the information of the next member, it will be the Member for Kugluktuk. Mr. Simailak.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Question 919 – 5(2): Staffing of Baker Lake Health Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, statistics show that Baker Lake's population grew to almost 2,160 people in 2019, largely due to the opening of the nearby gold mine. This type of forced growth must be taken into account when considering the delivery of essential services in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how many health staff should be allocated to Baker Lake to ensure that the necessary level of services are provided, given that the community has experienced such forced growth in recent years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) I'm sorry.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Same person, but I'll let the Speaker correct it.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's always a financial component to everything we do in here anyway.

Mr. Speaker, to deal directly with the member's question, there are a number of different factors that go into the staffing requirements and any adjustments as populations increase. We

don't see too many populations decreasing, but as we get more health care workers in a facility, it also brings in the challenge of having to make sure that we've got enough capacity in the health centre for the clinical space. As I'm sure all members are aware, some communities have a harder challenge of that than others.

Mr. Speaker, we take a look at the different caseloads, the amount of doctor visits per year, and the amount of staff that is required to meet the demand. There are a number of different factors that go into determining what type of complement that a health centre requires, even the different specialities of mental health, public health, and clinical support. There are a number of different factors, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Member Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having adequate health care staff to meet the needs of a growing community is critical to the health and well-being of its residents. Can the minister describe what specific action plan is underway to fill the vacant positions, if any, at the Baker Lake Health Centre and when he expects all the health centre positions to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I'm sure all members are aware, these are unprecedented times that we're currently dealing with and it's a huge challenge and a massive

undertaking for not just nurse recruitment but other health specialties as well to find people to be able to come to Nunavut to work. It's a challenge at the best of times and it's exasperated with the COVID-19 pandemic that's ongoing right now.

There are a number of different methods that are being used, I believe, and I would have to check back over my numbers, but in the last year there have literally been dozens of full-time nurses who have been hired across the territory and we allocate to make sure that the demands are being met as best we can. We also use contract and through agency nursing. I believe we have 11 agency nurse contracts out there right now. That is even more of a challenge as there is such a demand for the mobile nurses, if I could use that term, Mr. Speaker.

Normally there are recruiting sessions and trade shows that our nurse recruiting staff go to that they can't go to now. The typical method of recruitment is just not available to us anymore. We are continuing to work and I can assure all members, not just the member asking the question, that there is a team of people that is working every day to try to get resources from other jurisdictions, nurses who are on leave or health care professionals who are on leave from their jurisdiction or maybe their facility is not open to full capacity. There are people working every day to try to fulfill the demand that we have. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response there. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how many health staff are currently allocated to the Baker Lake Health Centre and what those positions are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, there are a number of different...there's clinical, public health, dental, there are a number of different positions in the health centre. I don't have the staffing complement of every health centre. If the member wants to come speak to me after, I would be more than happy to get that information for him. Thanks.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Pedersen.

#### **Question 920 – 5(2): Kitikmeot Long-term Care Centre**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to wish my wife a very happy birthday.

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

Mr. Speaker, recent stories in the media have made public the government's decision to build its Kitikmeot long-term care facility in the community of Cambridge Bay. As my colleagues will be aware, there was considerable support

for the building of a long-term care facility in the community of Kugluktuk.

For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister provide a clear and comprehensive explanation for the government's choice of Cambridge Bay for the location of the Kitikmeot long-term care facility? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. It's unfortunate that the information had to come out through the media. I did have a conversation with the SAO and the deputy mayor when the announcement was made. I was prepared to appear before the hamlet council and then unfortunately the travel restrictions came into play and I was unable to travel. As I'm sure the member can appreciate, I have been a little bit busy the last few months.

That being said, I can't get into full details, obviously. As I have mentioned numerous times in the House, it was an unsolicited proposal that was submitted to the Government of Nunavut. I think I was probably one of the strongest proponents of moving forward down this path to see if it was feasible to put in a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk. I met with the mayor and council there a couple of times. My officials met numerous times on the different proposal options and discussions around a long-term care facility in Kugluktuk.

It's unfortunate that after all the risks and the pros and cons were assessed, at the end of the day my responsibility to

seniors is to make sure they have a safe place to live and be cared for. Unfortunately, with all the challenges around health care, as I'm sure it's even highlighted now under COVID on how risky long-term care facilities can be and the struggle that some facilities have had through this pandemic, in fact, highlight even more so the need to have more health services available in our regional hubs for our long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, in 2018 there was a report that was done with Partnerships BC along with Community and Government Services that outlined what type of care needs would be best feasible for Nunavummiut, and at that time it clearly shows in the report that they need to have the regional centres first. It was highlighted. That being said, I did go against that recommendation to continue to explore Kugluktuk as a possibility.

It was just unfortunate with the risks that were associated with having a facility away from a regional hub for the level of care that we're trying to provide to help accelerate Nunavummiut repatriation back to the territory for care. We have to follow the experts' guidelines and the suggestion was to do them in regional hubs, which we approved the Rankin Inlet facility in the last sitting and we are in very initial planning stages for Cambridge Bay right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Mr. Speaker, the community of Kugluktuk had very high expectations that their long-term care project could move forward. Many of

my constituents were extremely disappointed to learn from the media of the government's decision. Will the minister commit to communicating more closely with Kitikmeot communities as he moves forward with plans for the new long-term care facility in the region, especially with respect to any upcoming options for training and employment in the field of long-term care? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I echo the member's comment that it is unfortunate that it came out through the media. I did have a direct conversation with the SAO and the deputy mayor personally to inform them of the decision back in March.

Mr. Speaker, any time the government does a project of this nature, similar to what we have done and are doing in Rankin Inlet, is speak to the community and solicit any feedback and ideas and we're always open to that; all of our government departments are open to direction and suggestions. I would welcome that opportunity as we get into the more detailed planning stages of the facility to look at all different options to support outlying communities. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. Member Main.

**Question 921 – 5(2): Federal Support during COVID-19**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that the Government of Nunavut relies heavily on federal funding. About 80 percent of the Government of Nunavut's funding comes from the federal government, if I recall correctly. The federal government has taken the lead on dealing with the coronavirus across Canada.

My first question is... (interpretation ends) My first question is: in which specific areas has the federal government given the Government of Nunavut support to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, to date the federal government has given us funds to help us out in the health department and in the airline departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that work on the coronavirus is still advancing within Canada. More funding will be required by the Government of Nunavut in the coming months and we expect that. I'm now asking what other federal

funding and to what programs the Premier anticipates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We expect to receive funding in the coming months from the federal government for health care, air transportation, and opening of schools. We are currently in discussions with them. We know we will get that funding, but we still don't have it. The initial funding we got was \$516,000 at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Once we got that funding, we got \$30.8 million for health and we got another \$5 million for airline transportation. That's the funding we have received to date. We're expecting to get more funding, but the funding amounts we have received are \$516,000, \$30.8 million, and \$5 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. My last question is: considering what the federal government has done and the funding that it has provided to date, can the Premier say that the federal government fully understands how much the Government of Nunavut struggles with health and housing? Does the federal government seem to fully understand that when we look at their response to the coronavirus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking questions so that Nunavummiut will understand properly. Yes, the federal government fully understands our situation. I always say that Nunavut is unique and we get less funding per capita. The premiers of Canada fully understand and fully support Nunavut and the northern territories. They fully understand and are aware that the funding we get should be increased.

Occasionally the funding we're going to be receiving is on a per capita basis. With a small population in Nunavut, we get very little funding. For example, when we got the first funding, of the \$500 million allocated for all of Canada, using the per capita formula, Nunavut got \$516,000 from the \$500 million. The federal government is fully aware of that and we have ongoing discussions through teleconferences and they fully understand. I want to thank all the premiers in Canada for their support for Nunavut and they are fully aware of our uniqueness in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Towtongie.

**Question 922 – 5(2): Air Transportation**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the proper recognition. I say “good day” to the

people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is well aware, many of Nunavut's smaller communities receive regular scheduled air service from only one or two commercial airlines. Mr. Speaker, Chesterfield Inlet is one such community.

Before the COVID-19 global pandemic struck us, Chesterfield Inlet received a number of flights each week. However, one of the many negative consequences of the pandemic has been a reduction in the number of flights. I believe that the airline's schedule for October will see only a small handful of flights to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has been providing direct funding to the airlines. Can the minister confirm how much funding to date has been provided to Calm Air? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time what you state is true that we are going through a unique time during the coronavirus pandemic. There are two airlines that the Government of Nunavut has travel contracts with, Canadian North and Calm Air. In the Kivalliq, Calm Air is our service provider. With that being the case, we signed an agreement to the end of June, from

February to June. It's a three-month contract. I believe we have spent about \$7 million for Calm Air. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that in normal times the government does not run the day-to-day operations and schedules of the commercial airlines. We're quite aware of that. However, since the government is now providing direct funding to the airlines, which the minister clearly indicated to be \$7 million, I presume that we have a say in their scheduling and service levels to the communities. Can the minister confirm what scheduling and service requirements have been established for Chesterfield Inlet?

I'll say this in English. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm what scheduling and service requirements have been established for Chesterfield Inlet? Since we do pay a cost to the airlines, do we have a say in their scheduling and service levels to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in somewhat of a dilemma right now. As you know, for the first three months, we reached an agreement with the two airlines, which did include reduced travel to every one

of our communities and had the ability for the airlines for them to determine where to travel and with reaching basic government needs, which our main focus was on medical travel.

We are right now still, as you might have guessed, and what the Premier mentioned is that we are anticipating more money from the federal government. There was an announcement that the federal government was going to help support our airlines and that was for the period of six months.

Currently our government is still in discussions with the two airlines that will cover from July to December and within those discussions, our terms and conditions such as scheduling for communities. Every community that is serviced in Nunavut, as it is our road link, is part of the discussions that are taking place right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for his response. The Government of Canada recently announced \$75.0 million in funding to "support essential air access to remote communities." It's for the first six months and maintaining these essential services through an investment of up to \$175 million over 18 months is needed. Chesterfield Inlet is one of these remote communities. Can the minister clarify what long-term support may be forthcoming from the federal government that would allow for service enhancements to communities like

Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member just quoted about Transport Canada's announcement yet has been decided exactly of those northern and remote communities that are impacted in this country. We are asking for a certain amount to have us included in this. We have not seen the breakdowns of it yet and until we do and until our discussions with the two airlines are done, I really can't say whether we're going to impose on the times and tell them to go to certain places.

Those discussions are very sensitive and very time-sensitive also, but from our government, we need that essential service travel. Both the airlines and our government and the federal government acknowledge all that. It's just those discussions need to take place and that needs to be agreed upon. There are two aspects to it. We need the federal government to detail that \$75 million and they also need to tell us what their 18-month plans are in order for us to make these determinations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, followed by the Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Keyootak.

### **Question 923 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have brought up the issue of caribou management in the Baffin region, which is causing issues for us in some way, especially for my constituency communities. The opening of the harvesting season wasn't timely for us last year. It's not only last year, but it was particularly an issue last year.

We found out that some communities didn't reach their caribou quota, some communities reached their quota, and others went over their quota. The communities that went over their quota were given tags from communities that didn't reach their quota. My community's caribou harvesting season is probably causing the most inconvenience when the opening date is the same everywhere. When we're talking about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, this doesn't sit well with us. The hunting areas on land and sea are quite different.

Can the minister provide clarification? I do know that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board mainly deals with this area. Has the minister worked with them on that or has he done anything else with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, the caribou tags are renewed on July 1 every year.



The polar bear tags, caribou tags, muskox tags, all those tags are renewed on July 1. They begin on July 1 and the quotas for caribou, muskox, and polar bears are allocated to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Wildlife Board. (interpretation) They divide the tags between the communities.

I'll use the caribou quota as an example since he was asking about that. The Government of Nunavut allocates 215 caribou tags to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and they divide it up into the communities. Each community then decides at the local level when the quota system will open. Some communities will delay their opening according to the hunters and trappers organization. They will decide on when to open the caribou quota, but the quota system opens throughout Nunavut on July 1.

We know that those tags that are not used up have to be allotted elsewhere since only 215 tags are assigned to all of Baffin, but the communities will decide when to open the caribou harvesting season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Mr. Speaker, for my other constituency community, we can't go hunting immediately from the community due to the route being inaccessible, especially in the fall. The community will close the harvesting season in October during caribou mating season. We take that into consideration and so we don't start in

October. From October until around January, the route to our caribou hunting grounds is inaccessible. It's only in January when we can finally reach our caribou hunting grounds due to the ice forming later.

Perhaps it's up to the communities. The minister did state this. Maybe the communities can get preapproved if they want to change the opening of the harvesting season in looking at the local conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I stated earlier that the communities will be getting their caribou tags on July 1, but it's up to the local hunters and trappers organizations to set the open and close dates of the harvesting season. When they are allocated to the communities, they are open from July 1 to June 30, but if the communities would like to close the harvesting season, it's up to them. If the community is allocated caribou tags, then it's up to the community to determine when it opens and closes through the local hunters and trappers organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Akoak.

#### **Question 924 – 5(2): Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act**

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

Mr. Speaker, alcohol and drug abuse is causing significant harm to the community and people of Gjoa Haven. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Gjoa Haven, I recently had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the municipal council on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, during this meeting, we held extensive discussions about the problem of bootlegging and the sale of illegal drugs. I emphasized to council the importance of the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, which I helped to pass into law during the previous Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted her department's work to bring this important legislation into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Congratulations to the newly elected members and I welcome you to this House.

Mr. Speaker, the forfeiture office, as Mr. Akoak mentioned, the legislation was passed. The office has been set up. Henry Coman is the director of the forfeiture office. Work is underway to set up this forfeiture office. This includes the drafting of regulations and operating principles/procedures. The department is working diligently to get the office up and running.

Between COVID and malware, we have experienced some delays and we have staff to get the necessary policies and

regulations in place. We hope that we can start taking files within the new year. Policies are being prepared. Information sharing between the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP has been drafted and is undergoing final approvals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I questioned her on this, she told us that it would be operating probably end of September of this year.

Earlier this year I joined with other Members of the Legislative Assembly to approve the Department of Justice's 2020-21 main estimates, which included \$229,000 in funding for the new forfeiture office. Can the minister confirm how much of this funding has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The level of detail that the member is looking for as to how much has been spent, I don't have that level of information, but I can tell you that the office of the forfeiture has been set up. As I stated earlier, because of COVID, the staff had to work from home. We have been working diligently with the RCMP and the Government of Nunavut, our Department of Justice on working on policies and procedures. I can get the information for the member, but that's

the information I have for the member right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alcohol and drug abuse is a problem throughout the territory. It is important that the work of the civil forfeiture office benefit all communities, not just the capital city and the regional centres.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice's business plan indicates that the purpose of the program is to "deter and disrupt unlawful activities, and to either compensate victims or reinvest forfeited funds to support other community-based wellness programs." In that quote, "compensate victims," victims are usually the children and the ladies who are looking for a place to stay. Homelessness; they don't have a place to go. That's what I see as the victims in the statement. They do need help.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what criteria her department will use in determining which programs will be eligible to receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The director has commenced discussions with Community and Government Services with goals of establishing a memorandum of understanding so that Community and

Government Services will have the ability to dispose of forfeited property other than money and in the same manner as surplus Government of Nunavut property is disposed of currently.

The forfeiture office has also been working with a group called the National Civil Forfeiture Executive Committee and the forfeiture office is a part of this committee. This committee shares contact information, best practices, and latest court decisions. This will help determine how the Government of Nunavut will prepare its policies and procedures to ensure that our policies and procedures are established. The director of forfeiture represented Nunavut at these meetings in November 2019.

Due to the current pandemic of COVID-19, there have been no other in-person meetings, but the department is working on establishing, as I stated earlier, policies and procedures, working with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 925 – 5(2): Housing Issues**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier today, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement today, there continues to be a severe shortage of housing in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, information that is publicly available from the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that a total of 20 new public housing units are scheduled to begin construction in Kugaaruk during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years. An additional 10 new public housing units are scheduled to begin construction in Taloyoak during the 2021-22 fiscal year. Can the minister confirm whether or not the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted this schedule? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you hear me? It's hard to tell with this.

As I indicated earlier during my minister's statement, the housing corporation was scheduled to start the construction phase this past summer and they have started. We're going to build 10 housing units in Kugaaruk for 2021, and we don't have any plans to begin construction in Taloyoak other than the ones that were planned for 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that adequate response. (interpretation ends) As I also noted in my member's statement, the problem of homelessness is very severe. Although I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation does not build homeless

shelters, can the minister clarify how the NHC works with community-based organizations and municipalities to access federal support from entities like the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Patterk Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We feel for the homeless people in Nunavut and also the women who have to utilize the shelters. We work closely with the Department of Family Services to access or to leverage funding from the federal entities. We have built two homes in Iqaluit with the help of the Department of Family Services. We bought two buildings, not large, but we were able to access some funds from the federal government. We do want to have a close working relationship with the communities and the Department of Family Services in order to address homelessness and women's shelters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All communities are facing challenges.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the *Blueprint for Action on Housing: Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 2016,

just under four years ago. Can the minister update the House today on when the next Annual Status of Housing Report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the housing strategy that we have prepared, we can only address the 60 recommendations by working together. It is quite a huge task and what we have planned won't surface overnight, but I can say that we will be tabling the report in the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Nakashuk.

#### **Question 926 – 5(2): COVID Isolation Hubs**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question this afternoon to the Minister of Health regarding the coronavirus isolation hubs that have been established in separate regions or travel hubs.

I do recognize that a lot of information regarding the government's COVID response plan has been made available through the government's website and the regular press conferences that have been held since the pandemic began. However, not everybody has access to

computers. There has to be some information made available.

I would like to ask for some clarification about the operation of the isolation hubs. Can the minister describe how many isolation hubs are currently in operation, where they are located, and who is required to stay in them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we have isolation hubs operating in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Yellowknife. As far as who has to go through them, it's basically everyone entering Nunavut that is not under a critical worker status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately the second part of my question didn't go through in terms of how long the government intends to run the isolation hubs. That was the second part of the question.

However, to also mention some of the concerns that have been brought forward by Nunavummiut, we have heard a number of issues, including food being provided to travellers that is not always fresh. We have also heard of security guards working in one of the isolation hubs being tested positive for COVID-19, potentially exposing Nunavummiut who would be travelling home. There have been concerns about behaviour

both towards the travellers and by travellers.

Can the minister describe how the isolation hubs are currently operated and what steps are being taken to address these types of concerns being brought forward? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Minister Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member just outlined a couple of the most common concerns that we get from our isolation clients. Obviously we have literally put thousands of people through these isolation hubs. I think there are almost 770 people in isolation right now, and in meeting their dietary requests, it is impossible to make everyone happy and it's an unfortunate reality. We do our best. We make sure that if any dietary specific needs, such as allergies or other medical conditions like diabetes and things like that, are addressed when the people check in to make sure their dietary needs can be met.

With regard to the second part of the member's first question, we don't have a timeline. Unfortunately Nunavut is not the lead in COVID response across the country or the world. We do have to rely upon the practices of our southern neighbours to make sure that our residents can travel safely home. There were a lot of accolades earlier for Dr. Patterson and his team and justifiably so. These haven't been easy measures.

The issue typically surrounds a lot about alcohol, which has been a factor. For the

medical travel hub in Winnipeg, we were able to control that a lot better because they're under medical travel conditions, but the reality is that people who enter isolation are the general travellers. They're entitled to obey the laws and privileges of the jurisdiction they're in. We work with our mental health team and with our addictions team to help people through any issues. We have spent close to \$2 million in support services through mental health and nursing for people going through isolation.

I can assure the member that these concerns are recognized. One of the methods that we have taken to help address them through our contract with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, they have on-site people that any complaints or issues can be brought forward right away. I believe that as of September 10, there were about 304 complaints brought to our attention, of which approximately 24 are still unresolved. I know everyone doesn't have email or web access, but there is an isolation relations website that people can contact or through the patient relations office, they will help direct you to the appropriate people.

Again, I really can't thank people enough for the hardship that they're going through. I haven't had to do it and I can't imagine the complexity of being in a room for 14 days. The stresses that are associated with that and everything else, just the unknowns of what's going on right now are straining to the best of us. I truly support the member's questions and I know I support the staff that are working really hard to help people navigate through this challenge, but I can't thank everyone that goes through isolation enough. They are the

ones that are protecting Nunavummiut, not us sitting in this room. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind members that if they try to keep their questions shorter, perhaps they will get more concise answers.

Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for explaining that very clearly. I completely understand and I also expressed my appreciation for the fact that the coronavirus hasn't reached Nunavut yet. I'm pleased and grateful for that, but we like getting more information on how we can protect ourselves further.

This will be my final question. We hear about critical workers that are not required to stay at the isolation hub. Can the minister clarify how many critical workers have travelled into Nunavut since the pandemic began and what steps are taken to ensure that these individuals do not present any risk of transporting the COVID virus into the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact number right in front of me. I did have it on an email that I was going through earlier today. I believe there are approximately 5,200 people have applied for critical worker status, of which approximately 70 percent were approved under different parameters and they're anywhere from health staff to somebody

who has to go to a community to fix a generator or numerous other initiatives. There would be no need for them to stay at the isolation hub. They wouldn't be covered under any of our travel. Some hotels still are open to the general public, so maybe it's a possibility that critical workers could be staying at a hotel that has an isolation hub contained within it, but they wouldn't be part of the isolation hub clientele. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I remind the members... . Mr. Main.

### **Motion 078 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Gjoa Haven, that the time for question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Lightstone.

### **Question 927 – 5(2): Recognition of Essential Workers**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and are in relation to my member's statement, where I paid tribute to the many essential workers in Nunavut who put in an extraordinary effort during the early weeks and months

of the pandemic to ensure that our residents can continue to be able to receive health care and other critical public services.

Mr. Speaker, in many cases employees had to take on significant extra duties to address capacity shortfalls and other gaps. Even as the initial fear and uncertainty of the pandemic began to wear off, many essential workers continued to put in long hours and I know of many that continue to do so today.

My first question for the Premier is: does the government agree that those employees who were deemed essential during the initial work-from-home phase of the pandemic should receive additional recognition to compensate for their efforts aside from statements made in the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did thank our workers here in the House and I have also thanked the essential workers and all the GN workers who have had to adapt to COVID-19.

When any essential worker or any other worker puts in more hours than their duty day, if they're within the collective agreement to get overtime, then they get overtime and if they're managers, then they work within their conditions, and I thank them all. We value our public service workers and we wouldn't want anyone to be overstressed and burned out. We want the essential workers and all workers for the public service to work within their limits.

You say not just thank them here in the House, but I would like to thank them again. I'm glad that you are there for us, for Nunavummiut. We need you and we are thankful that you have been there and you are still there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. Months have passed since the Government of Nunavut reopened its offices. I'm aware of situations where essential workers have had almost no time off despite the additional pressures of the pandemic. I understand that for some essential workers, it may be by choice. However, due to operational requirements, many essential workers are unable to take a significant amount of time off necessary to recharge and are facing burnout at unparalleled proportions.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that Nunavut is at risk of losing key workers due to burnout. I recognize that our government is facing significant fiscal pressures, but I believe that there are ways that we can acknowledge contributions of employees without breaking the bank. One area is time off. The next question I would like to ask is: have the Premier and his cabinet colleagues considered rewarding essential workers with additional leave as well as assurance that it can be utilized in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to get into operational requirements or operational operations, but I can assure the members that we value these workers. One of the initiatives that we had this summer that came from cabinet was to encourage Nunavummiut to stay within Nunavut and take time off that we had...I don't think there was a real name for it, but COVID summer bonus days where the public service, if they applied for annual leave, for every four days they took off, I believe that's the number, every four days they took off, we gave them one free day. We did do that and I believe that was until the end of this month, I think. We are doing stuff.

I can't speak to if an essential worker is going to be given annual leave, but just any workers, including essential workers, can apply for annual leave and due to operational requirements, if operational requirements let them take the time off, then I encourage them to take time off. As I stated earlier, we don't want anyone overworked. We don't want essential workers or anyone from the public service to be stressed beyond their capabilities. We want a healthy working individual and we want a healthy working environment for all our workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Your second supplementary question,  
Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier for his comments. I do believe it's very important that we ensure that no

employee, especially those that are essential, is overworked or stressed. Mr. Speaker, I believe that our hard-working, essential workers deserve some bonus leave. Now, I would like to ask the Premier if he would commit to bringing up this discussion with his cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, our essential workers are facing many challenges and their requests for annual leave are being denied due to operational requirements. Like I said, I would like to ask the Premier to commit to having a discussion with his cabinet colleagues about the option or the ability of creating bonus days for essential workers and along with those bonus days, assurance that it can be used in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to commit to operational requirements like that. If any worker, including an essential worker, is denied annual leave due to operational requirements, obviously there has to be a very good reason for them to be denied. I'm not going to get into operations, but I don't want burnout. If a critical worker needs time off, apply for it. State your case because we don't want burnout. We value our employees.

Like I said earlier, we want healthy working workers that work for us. We want a healthy work environment and to go with that, we want healthy workers to have the care that they need given to them. There are services available if someone is getting burnt out or stressed out at work. Take advantage of what's

offered by the GN in terms of helping employees out with mental health or burnout. Take advantage of that.

Please don't overwork yourself and don't get burned out. It doesn't do the government any good for a GN employee to get burned out and it doesn't do the employee any good. Work within your means and work with your supervisor to work things out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Tununiqu. Member Rumbolt.

**Question 928 – 5(2): Air Transportation**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, one of the many negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the inability of Nunavummiut to travel outside of their communities.

Sanikiluaq's unique geography has made a bad situation even worse for my constituents, as there is no way for them to currently travel to other Nunavut communities on a commercial flight without first going through the south and a 14-day isolation period. I would like to add that Sanikiluaq has gone from six flights a week to just two.

As the minister will recall, I recently wrote correspondence to him on the important issue of establishing an "air bridge" between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit. In his reply to me, the minister indicated

that the government is "exploring potential options to address this issue." Can the minister describe today what specific options are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge that this community is very unique in terms of having to travel outside of the jurisdictions and that's really highlighted in the pandemic. Another part of our region is almost in that same situation where they have to travel outside of the jurisdiction to come back to Nunavut. Those are highlighted as part of this pandemic because every province and territory has their own different rules.

With the airline measures that we're taking, I think it has given us an opportunity to look at "Okay, what do we do? How do we service our own community when we're in this situation?" Sanikiluaq has given us that opportunity. One of those options is to travel within Nunavut, either to Iqaluit or to Rankin Inlet, one of the two as a possibility, but I don't want to really speculate or try to confirm that because we rely on the airlines for those travel routes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Economic and Development Transportation will be aware, the Acting Minister of Family Services, whom I am sure the minister

knows very well, wrote a letter to me last week in response to my concerns regarding the Income Assistance Program. In his reply to me, the Acting Minister of Family Services stated that, and again I quote, “the shortage of workers in Sanikiluaq has been impacted by the lack of flights into the community.”

Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation describe how he is working with other departments to identify and address the impact of travel restrictions on the delivery of government programs and services to my constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to assure the member that the Acting Minister of Family Services did consult with the Minister of Transportation while that letter was being drafted to ensure that there is consistency in terms of our wording. I wanted to assure that.

It has created huge program challenges, especially with income assistance or income assistance workers that we lost in Sanikiluaq, but that needs to continue in the communities. I applaud the department for being creative in terms of using a 1-800 number to call the regional office to ensure those programs are up and running, but the underlying thing is that we do need staff to travel there and the only way we have been able to do it is through charters.

I think this has brought the Government of Nunavut’s departments a lot closer too in terms of how we deliver service to Sanikiluaq. That’s one of the ways that we’re trying to find ways of continuing to deliver our programs and services. I think this is definitely an area that we need to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague stated earlier, on August 6, 2020 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$75 million in new funding to support “essential air access to remote communities.” The announcement also indicated that the federal government would be “Seeking bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to ensure continuity of services for at least six months.” Can the minister update the House on the status of Nunavut’s bilateral agreement and will he commit to tabling a copy of the agreement in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation], Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Minister of Transportation, Mr. Speaker.

The bilateral meetings are still ongoing. As I mentioned earlier, there are 140 communities in remote and northern communities. That’s quite a number of provinces and territories that are affected, but for our portion, we are still having ongoing dialogue with Transport

Canada in terms of coming up with a bilateral agreement. The terms of those agreements will determine whether I can table it here or not. It's a very sensitive bilateral agreement because it does involve airlines and it does involve our government operations, along with dollars that are attached to it. Until that agreement is done will we determine whether to table it or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 929 – 5(2): Marine Transportation**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and my colleagues. I am proud of the two new MLAs and I welcome you. My voice is a bit low as I have a bit of a cold.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I very much thank the minister for being able to visit our community last month and he was able to meet with the hamlet and the hunters and trappers organization. I regret not being able to be in our community at that time.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Pond Inlet's new marine facility continues to be under construction and the community is very much looking forward to this critical infrastructure becoming operational.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Pond Inlet's... . (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update today on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timeline for the construction and opening of the new Pond Inlet marine facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I visited the community and the progress is very good to see. I wish that all our communities were able to get that. With that being the case, they were delayed for a bit this summer and they are fully under construction. We were expecting to open the facility this year, but presently they will be doing an inspection. We will be able to identify it at the time, but presently it seems to be in delay. It seems to be slated for 2021. That's the status right now, but we are keeping a close eye on the project. That's what we're doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the response. For my next question, (interpretation ends) as the minister is aware, the Government of Canada contributed \$30.0 million towards the construction of this essential new infrastructure. The Government of Nunavut has been responsible for funding the remainder of the project.

Can the minister indicate if the Government of Nunavut will require any supplementary funding to complete the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I don't think we will be asking for supplementary funding, but that's going to determine in terms of as the work progresses. There's still a lot of work that needs to be done with this project and I commend Community and Government Services for managing this project, but at this point we're not looking at a supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the tender for the Pond Inlet marine facility was awarded in May 2018 to Tower Arctic. The tender documentation specified that the Inuit labour requirement for the project was 15 percent. The tender also indicated that "providing on-the-job training for Inuit workers is a contractual obligation." Can the minister provide an update today on the actual level of Inuit employment that has been achieved for the project, and can the minister clarify what trades training and apprenticeship initiatives for Inuit residents of the community have been undertaken as part of the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact which trades are going to get trained and the percentage in terms of for Inuit. That's all through as part of the project that's taking place. While it's still there, the numbers will be fluid. I don't have an actual percentage, but I can definitely commit to having discussions with the member on the very specifics, probably along with my colleague in terms of the project management side. Right now, as far as with the documents that we do have, we do have about 23 percent of Inuit in that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Kaernerik.

### **Question 930 – 5(2): Issues with Overcrowding**

**Mr. Kaernerik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation regarding overcrowding in multiplex buildings.

Also, due to the coronavirus, I wonder if the housing corporation has looked at how they can work with the Department of Health.

My first question for the minister is: have you considered moving people in overcrowded homes to a bigger housing unit? Let me ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the chief public health officer of the Department of Health and we just worked with him on reduced hours for local housing organization staff. We worked closely with them.

With respect to his question, the overcrowding issue is dealt with by the local housing organizations where the people who are in housing units that are too big are asked to trade with people in overcrowded units. That's what they work on. This is an ongoing issue and we're working on it.

Mr. Speaker, as of today, housing is a serious issue and I thank the people. To date 2,971 people are on the waiting list for housing in Nunavut. We're continuing to explain to the federal government of our need for assistance, but they move very slowly. As you now, before the federal government assists us, overcrowding will always be there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though it's a difficult task, I would like to further encourage the housing corporation. My two constituency communities are in that state right now and it's probably like that all over Nunavut. The minister knows that I spoke about mould remediation and that it affects the health of the tenants. People get ill and it affects their

health. Another danger is posed by the coronavirus for those with breathing problems, which is unacceptable. I have received many letters urging me to work harder on that.

I'm now turning my attention to overcrowding in houses, which also poses a risk. That's why I said I wonder if you're going to keep constructing apartment buildings. You referred to over 2,000 units. Is the housing corporation going to keep constructing apartment buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. Now, with the five-plex units that we get built, due to the limited financial resources we get from the federal government, we build five-plex units to stretch that money further. We will continue with this method of construction until we have caught up with the housing waiting list and address overcrowding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to commit to the Assembly that... . When he was an MLA, he was looking into the whole HAP program and homeownership. I would like to have the minister commit to the Assembly that if he can reincorporate under the blueprint action

to start building these single units. Can the minister commit to the House?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We at the Nunavut Housing Corporation look for ways in terms of how we can address our acute housing crisis and certainly one of the things that when I went on to the Executive Council, that was one of my top priorities is to introduce a comprehensive homeownership program, which we saw prior to Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I'm really pushing for this program and we hope to have something before we dissolve. That's all I can say, but we are working diligently in terms of coming out with a comprehensive homeownership program for Nunavummiut. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will now proceed to Item 7, but before we proceed further, we will take a 20-minute break. For your information, snacks and refreshments will be served in the Nanuq and Tuktu rooms.

(interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:13 and resumed at 16:37*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Going to Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Main.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

### **Written Question 069 – 5(2): NHC Capital Carry Forward March 31, 2020**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the subject is the NHC's capital carry forward.

In response to my previous written question, I was happy to see a slight reduction in the amount of unspent capital funds, but the fact remains that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is still carrying over amounts in excess of \$100 million.

I also noted in the response to my previous written question that the NHC indicated that "The major expenditure of the construction projects approved under the fiscal year's budget will not reflect on the NHC's financial statements until one to two years after this approval. This is a result of the GN budget cycle, approval and operation procedures." This represents a flaw in the system that needs to be addressed.

Every community in Nunavut is facing a housing shortage and if the Nunavut Housing Corporation is unable to construct new units in a timely fashion because of the GN budget cycle, approval and operation procedures, I highly recommend that the corporation find a means to address it.

I would like to remind the minister that I will continue to ask these questions until the Nunavut Housing Corporation figures out a way to build units in a timely fashion and reduce its delays which lead to the \$100 million

\*See Appendix for full text of Written Question 69 – 5(2).

carryovers. For this reason, I would like to request updated information on the budget and expenditures of each capital project.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is detailed at four pages and I would like to request that it be entered into the *Hansard* as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone's written question be entered into the record as read?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. There is an agreement.

(interpretation) Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Written Questions.  
(interpretation) I believe there are no more. Let's proceed. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions.  
Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

### **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

**Return to Written Question 060 –  
5(2): Use of Contract Services to  
Perform Functions Intended for  
Indeterminate Employees in 2016-  
17**

**Return to Written Question 061 –  
5(2): Use of Contract Services to  
Perform Functions Intended for  
Indeterminate Employees in 2017-  
18**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am presenting returns to written questions 60 – 5(2) and 61 –

5(2), as requested by the MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak in February.

Mr. Speaker, the MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak asked that his questions be read into the *Hansard* as they were quite detailed, and I too will make a similar request with respect to my answers because, as you can see from these two documents, they are quite lengthy, these two documents in front of me.

Mr. Speaker, the questions posed by the MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak resulted in a large and time-consuming project for my department and the Department of Culture and Heritage translators. Between these two documents, there are almost 500 pages of answers.

Mr. Speaker, even though there are no trees in Nunavut, I am still concerned about cutting down too many and so I arranged with the Clerk to have them presented to each member using a USB key instead of on paper, otherwise it would be close to 10,000 pieces of paper.

I want to take a moment to thank my staff at CGS who pulled all of this together.

**Speaker:** There's a call for a point of order.

There was a point of order. What is your point of order? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's comments and statements are irrelevant and/or repetitive. As per the rules of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to call a point of order on that account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 60 – 5(2) and 61 – 5(2).



**Speaker** (interpretation): Upon review, the point of order cannot proceed. We will just proceed. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, I just want to take a moment to thank my staff at CGS who pulled this together, even though they were still recovering from ransomware and even though they were dealing with the difficulties associated with this pandemic, they worked hard throughout all of that to pull this together.

I especially want to recognize the translators with the Department of Culture and Heritage for the effort by them to get this document to us. One document was in their queue for about four months due to the size and volume of information, and the timing of doing this.

Mr. Speaker, given the extraordinary amount of effort that went into these documents, I urge all members to read them with care. I especially look forward to seeing a report or similar research from the MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak so that we can all gain insight into what he is trying to accomplish with this line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 062 – 5(2): Climate Change Incentive Programs**

**Return to Written Question 063 – 5(2): Activities of the NNI Policy Review Committee**

**Return to Written Question 064 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut Budget Development Process**

**Return to Written Question 065 – 5(2): Dental Services**

**Return to Written Question 066 – 5(2): Community Health Centre Staffing**

**Return to Written Question 067 – 5(2): Court Interpreter Staffing**

**Return to Written Question 068 – 5(2): GN Uranium Policy Statement**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the remaining seven returns to the written questions that were asked during the winter 2020 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Let's proceed to Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. There are none. Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 284 – 5(2): Correspondence Concerning Air Travel to Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the many negative impacts that

\*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 62 – 5(2), 63 – 5(2), 64 – 5(2), 65 – 5(2), 66 – 5(2), 67 – 5(2), and 68 – 5(2).

the COVID-19 pandemic has had is on the ability of Nunavummiut to travel outside of communities. As I stated earlier, Sanikiluaq's unique geography has made a bad situation even worse for my constituents, which is why I'm tabling today a number of letters concerning this issue, all of which I encourage members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Tabled Document 285 – 5(2):  
Correspondence from Charlie  
Inuarak**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have the honour today of tabling correspondence that I have received from one of my constituents, respected elder Charlie Inuarak. The correspondence concerns the importance of good nutrition to our health. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Inuarak has requested that I table this correspondence in the Legislative Assembly, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 286 – 5(2): 2019-  
2020 Annual Report of the  
Representative for Children and  
Youth**

**Tabled Document 287 – 5(2):  
Elections under the  
Supplementary Retiring  
Allowances Act Filed by the  
Members for Baker Lake and  
Kugluktuk**

I have two documents to table. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The first document is the 2019-2020 *Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth*, and the second document is elections made under the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. (interpretation) Thank you.

Let's proceed. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) I will now recognize the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 079 – 5(2): Legislative  
Assembly Appointments – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the Legislative Assembly make appointments under section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Motion 080 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bills 25, 35, 36, and 37 – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bills 25, 35, 36, and 37 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. There are no more. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 44 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020 – Notice**

**Bill 45 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020 – Notice**

**Bill 46 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – Notice**

**Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – Notice**

**Bill 48 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Notice**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, that Bill 44, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020*; Bill 45, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020*; Bill 46, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*; Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*; Bill 48, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021*; and finally, Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Notice**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, that Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. No. 16. Motions. Mr. Main.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

**Motion 079 – 5(2): Legislative  
Assembly Appointments**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS by-elections for the constituencies of Baker Lake and Kugluktuk were held in August 2020;

AND WHEREAS the new Members for Baker Lake and Kugluktuk have taken their seats in this House;

AND WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the Legislative Assembly make appointments under section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Craig Simailak, Member for Baker Lake, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public

Accounts, and a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Calvin Pedersen, Member for Kugluktuk, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Motions. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again ask for unanimous consent to deal with my motion today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): He is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

**Motion 080 – 5(2): Extension of  
Review Period for Bills 25, 35, 36,  
and 37**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, received second reading on June 5, 2019;

AND WHEREAS Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*, received second reading on October 23, 2019;

AND WHEREAS Bill 36, *Mental Health Act*, received second reading on October 31, 2019;

AND WHEREAS Bill 37, *Legislation Act*, received second reading on October 31, 2019;

AND WHEREAS the bills have been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to the bills;

AND WHEREAS the spring 2020 sitting of the Legislative Assembly was cancelled as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and state of public health emergency in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time in which to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bills 25, 35, 36, and 37 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak briefly in support of the motion that is before the House today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my motion, Bills 25, 35, 36, and 37 have been under consideration by the standing committee since their referral following second reading in the House.

I am pleased to report that the standing committee has been making progress in its consideration of all four bills. The bills are important and complex, and deserve our full attention and consideration.

Mr. Speaker, one of the impacts of the pandemic was the cancellation of our spring sitting. This has necessitated the motion before the House today, which I ask all members to support.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Let's proceed. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill

44, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020*, to be read today for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 44 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 44 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020 – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 44, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill 45, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020*, to be read today for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister seeking consent to allow for Bill 45 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 45 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020 – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 45, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill 46, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, be read today for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 46 read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 46 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 46, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm starting to feel or know what a yo-yo feels like.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to allow for Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, to be read today for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow Bill 47 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill 48, *Forgiveness of Debt Act, 2020-2021*, to be read today for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 48 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays?

There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 48 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021 – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 48, *Forgiveness of Debts, 2020-2021*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Last but not least, Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 50 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 49 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Ehaloak.

#### **Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Going to Item 18. (interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

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

#### **Bill 46 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 46, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. 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 Bill 46 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Bill 45 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020 – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the confusion. I had too many papers I shuffled one in the wrong order.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 45, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2019-2020*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray



the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020.

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 Bill 45 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 47 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2020-2021 – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. 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 Bill 47 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the second time.

This bill... .

**Speaker** (interpretation): Even though I'm not sick, I'm making some mistakes today. (interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. I'm going to recognize the Minister of Finance again and I do apologize to the Minister of Justice, but if she can wait a bit. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and no problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill 44, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020*, to be read today for second reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the... . (interpretation) Let's continue in an orderly fashion. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 44 to receive second reading today. Are there any nays? I see none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 44 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-  
2020 – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 44, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2019-2020*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with section 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

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

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 44 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Just two more.

I seek consent to allow for Bill 48, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021*, to be read today for the second reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 48 to receive second reading today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Hickes.

#### **Bill 48 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Much appreciated, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 48, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts in accordance with section 83 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 48 has been referred to

the Standing Committee on Legislation. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to allow for Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, to be read today for the second reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 50 to receive second reading today. Are there any nays?

**An Hon. Member:** Nay.

**Speaker:** Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

(interpretation) Thank you. I heard only one nay. We require two nays. It could have been said louder so that I could hear clearly, but as there is only one nay, I would like Minister Hickes to proceed.

When I asked if there were any nays, I only heard one nay. For that reason, we will just proceed. Minister Hickes.

#### **Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I introduce Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, to be read today for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Liquor Act* to allow brewery permit holders to sell beer manufactured at a brewery under the authority of a cocktail lounge licence and to sell beer directly to licence holders for the purpose of resale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Just very briefly, is this bill something that will have a widespread benefit to Nunavummiut or is it... ? I'm trying to understand the scope, the principle of the bill, whether the benefit from this piece of legislation will go to across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker**: To the principle of the bill, I understand that it's a question the member has just raised and normally, as to the principle of the bill, you cannot really ask the question at this time. This would be more appropriate at the Committee of the Whole process; standing committee. (interpretation) Is that understandable? (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for allowing me to speak to the principle of the bill. The principle of this bill is to update archaic legislation for a type of business that did not occur or didn't exist in Nunavut or the NWT when this legislation was first introduced way back in the NWT days. We are under a full review of our *Liquor Act* in the next year. These are some minor amendments that are unjustifiably creating an administrative burden to the Department of Finance and is limiting business opportunities for the one business that we have under this industry in the territory at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In closing...(no audio)...applicable to any brewery or beer manufacturer in the

territory, just at this point there is only one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill. (interpretation) There are no more. (interpretation ends) All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 50 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

(interpretation) I think I can finally recognize the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek consent to allow for Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, to be read for the second reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to allow for the second reading of Bill 49 today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Ehaloak.

### **Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Labour Standards Act* to provide public emergency leave and family abuse leave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

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

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed.  
The motion is carried and Bill 49 has  
been referred to the Standing Committee  
on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation)  
There are no more. Item 19.  
(interpretation ends) Consideration in  
Committee of the Whole of Bills and  
Other Matters. Member for Gjoa Haven,  
Mr. Akoak.

**Motion 081 – 5(2): Early  
Adjournment**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded  
by the Hon. Member for Tununig, that  
the House adjourn for the day. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Going to Item 22. (interpretation ends)  
*Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

(interpretation) The motion is in order,  
I'm sorry, and the motion is not  
debatable. All those in favour. All those  
opposed. The motion is carried and we  
will go directly to Item 22.  
(interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*.  
Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a  
reminder that tomorrow morning at nine  
o'clock there's a meeting of the Regular  
Caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for September 22:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the  
Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 45
  - Bill 46
  - Bill 47
  - Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

## 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Tuesday, September 22,  
2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:26*

## Appendix – September 21, 2020



For this reason, I would like to request updated information on the budget and expenditures on each capital project.

1. Provide the Capital budget appropriated April 1, 2019 for each of the following projects for the 2019-20 fiscal year;
  - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
  - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
  - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
  - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
  - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
  - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
  - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
  - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
  - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
  - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
2. Provide the Capital expenditures incurred during April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 for each of the following projects;
  - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
  - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
  - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
  - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
  - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
  - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing



- g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
  - h. NHC 12 - Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
  - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
  - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
3. Provide the amount carry forward from March 31, 2020 to April 1, 2020 for each of the following projects;
- a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
  - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs - Nunavut
  - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit - GN Funds (public housing)
  - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
  - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs - Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
  - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit - Staff Housing
  - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
  - h. NHC 12 - Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
  - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
  - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices

Figure 1 - historical budget/expenditures and carryovers

NHC Capital Budget and Expenditures												
	2016-17				2017-18				2018-19			
	Carried Forward to April 1, 2016	Capital Budget 2016-17	Capital Expenditures 2016-17	Remaining Budget	Carried Forward to April 1, 2017	Capital Budget 2017-18	Capital Expenditures 2017-18	Remaining Budget	Carried Forward to April 1, 2018	Capital Budget 2018-19	Capital Expenditures 2018-19	Remaining Budget
NHC 01	6,873,000	3,382,000	1,776,000	8,479,000	8,479,000	2,558,000	552,000	10,485,000	9,885,000	3,900,000	872,000	12,913,000
NHC 02	4,324,000	4,000,000	4,800,000	3,524,000	3,524,000	4,000,000	4,150,000	3,374,000	4,623,000	4,000,000	4,126,000	4,497,000
NHC 05	12,791,000	14,208,000	10,364,000	16,635,000	16,635,000	11,403,000	18,969,000	9,069,000	14,329,000	10,632,000	17,152,000	7,809,000
NHC 06	28,250,000	5,000,000	14,034,000	19,216,000	19,216,000	5,000,000	9,741,000	14,475,000	14,475,000	5,000,000	10,850,000	8,625,000
NHC 09	284,000	500,000	243,000	541,000	541,000	500,000	264,000	777,000	241,000	500,000	258,000	483,000
NHC 10	1,026,000	500,000	169,000	1,357,000	1,357,000	500,000	32,000	1,825,000	1,825,000	500,000	268,000	2,057,000
NHC 11	33,000	1,020,000	1,173,000	120,000	120,000	1,049,000	1,051,000	122,000	122,000	1,064,000	1,110,000	168,000
NHC 12	529,000	116,000	9,000	636,000	636,000	116,000	13,000	739,000	26,000	116,000	12,000	130,000
NHC 13	19,712,000	45,549,000	18,106,000	47,155,000	47,155,000	65,137,000	32,234,000	80,058,000	75,398,000	42,955,000	49,991,000	68,362,000
NHC 14	225,000	4,700,000	698,000	4,227,000	4,227,000	4,900,000	3,581,000	5,546,000	5,546,000	1,380,000	4,815,000	2,111,000
	<b>74,047,000</b>	<b>78,975,000</b>	<b>51,372,000</b>	<b>101,650,000</b>	<b>101,650,000</b>	<b>95,163,000</b>	<b>70,587,000</b>	<b>126,226,000</b>	<b>126,226,000</b>	<b>70,047,000</b>	<b>89,454,000</b>	<b>106,819,000</b>

4. Figure 1 above identifies that NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement – has drastically lower expenditures than planned. NHC loses numerous public housing units due to fires, why are expenditures so low?
5. Figure 1 above identifies that NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – has budget remained stagnant while NHC continues to deny applicants due to insufficient funds.
  - a. When was the last time this project has seen an increase in the budget?
  - b. There is significant demand for this program, why has NHC not increased it?
6. Figure 1 above identifies that NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program - budget remained stagnant at \$500,000 a year, while lapsing roughly 50%. Why has this budget not been adjusted to meet demand, and reallocated to other priority areas?
7. Figure 1 above identifies that NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing - budget remained stagnant at \$500,000 a year, while lapsing a significant amount on average in excess of 50%. Why has this budget not been adjusted to meet demand, and reallocated to other priority areas?
8. Figure 1 above identifies that NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program - Staff Housing - budget remained stagnant at \$116,000 while lapsing nearly 90%. Why has this budget not been adjusted to meet demand, and reallocated to other priority areas?



## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone**

**Asked of: Honourable Lorne Kusugak**

**Number: 60-5(2)**

**Date: February 24, 2020**

**Subject: Use of Contract Services to Perform Functions  
Intended for Indeterminate Employees in 2016-17**

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Below are the responses to your written questions posed on February 24, 2020. We have answered your questions to the best of our ability given the level of detail you have asked for and the current limitations and pressures due to COVID-19.

As I noted during the Committee of the Whole (COW), the information that you have based your questions on predates my time as the Minister of Community and Government Services (CGS). Since I became Minister in November 2017, I have provided direction to my Deputy Minister to address many of the issues that you have raised. Therefore, many of the issues you have raised are either no longer valid or are being addressed through proactive measures to reduce the reliance of the Government of Nunavut on contracted IMIT resources.

For example, as you can see from the table below, the number of contractors utilized each year by CGS for IMIT has decreased since I have become Minister. This information either has been or will be reported in future Procurement Activity Reports (PAR):

	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
# of contracts	63	105	65	46
# of people	43	43	34	33*

\*As four of these resources were assigned to assist with recovery efforts from Ransomware, this number would have been 29 and not 33, which represents a decrease of 33% since I became the Minister late in 2017-18.

I have also directed my team to undertake the following strategic initiatives that will help to ensure that the Territory has the best IMIT support possible given the challenges that all governments have in recruiting and retaining people with this skill set:

- HR Initiatives:

The IMIT department has made significant efforts in recent years to advertise and recruit positions and has initiated 60 hiring processes since 2018. Some of the reasons that most of these competitions have been unsuccessful include:

- *High Demand, Low Supply* – Many IMIT positions are specialized and require high levels of education, formal training, and years of experience. These resources are in high demand throughout Canada and the world. Highly qualified and skilled IMIT professionals are in short supply and positions are difficult to fill.
- *Competitive Salaries* – Because IMIT professionals are in short supply, they can demand a high level of compensation. Many jurisdictions supplement the salaries of their IMIT professionals as an incentive, much like we do for nurses. As the Government of Nunavut does not undertake this practice for IMIT professionals, we must often rely on consultants.
- *Misunderstood* – There appears to be a misunderstanding about the types of resources required in some of the IMIT positions you have inquired about. These positions often require someone with more than a community college diploma and/or university degree – they also need many years of experience and additional certifications. As such, it is important to stress that the use of IMIT contractors does not take jobs away from Nunavummiut. If the skill set required to fill these roles was available in the Territory, contract resources would not be required. To suggest that using contractors from the South for IMIT positions takes jobs away from Nunavummiut is like suggesting that hiring Doctors from the South takes jobs away from Nunavummiut.
- *Long-Term Vacancies* – There is a total of 13 positions that have been vacant for longer than 2 ½ years, all of which are specialized. The area of expertise required for these positions is specific, advanced, and in demand throughout Canada. The 13 positions that have been vacant for more than 2 ½ years include:

- Project Manager, Operations
- Senior Technical Special Lead (Applications)
- Manager Solutions Delivery
- Technical Architect – Systems
- Technical Architect – Networks
- Security Analyst
- Application Analyst
- Desktop Analyst
- Network Analyst
- Systems Analyst
- Technical Specialist (Telephony)
- Senior Internet Working and Security Specialist
- Informatics Technician (Baker Lake)

Additional measures being undertaken to staff as many IMIT positions with as much local talent as possible include the recent development of a CGS-specific Inuit Internship Program. Through this new program, three internship positions have been dedicated to IMIT to bring in entry-level staff and develop their skills over time. CGS has also prioritized the Direct Appointment process for Inuit employees throughout the department, including IMIT.

- Due Diligence in the Procurement Process:

As Minister, I have been clear about the need for the IMIT branch to be diligent about following procurement requirements and I can assure you that my staff who work in procurement are dedicated to ensuring that the rules are followed. IMIT contracts are the result of invitational competitive processes where all vendors on the SOA list are invited to respond to our needs.

- RFP with Gartner:

As noted during COW, I have asked my staff to seek independent, objective advice about how to optimize IMIT delivery in the Territory, including the best way to resource that work. As such, we have entered into a contract with Gartner to help us identify options that include the optimal number of contract resources required to perform the work.

- Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) Technician Diploma Program:

CGS has been working closely with NAC to fund and deliver a program that will begin again in fall 2020. This program allows the GN to train and employ local Nunavummiut in some of the positions required in IMIT (CGS currently has six graduates of the program working in the department). While the program is a good start to ensure that there are more

opportunities for beneficiaries to qualify for entry-level technical and professional positions, it should be emphasized that it is a feeder program that is good for some GN IMIT positions, but not all. It is anticipated that the entry-level NAC program will eventually lead to a program that offers the kind of advanced training that students would need to work in senior IMIT positions.

Note that my departmental officials are available to meet you in person to discuss the progress we are making and will be happy to answer any remaining questions you have. At that time, they would be happy to hear your analysis of the information you have been provided so far and if you have specific ideas about how we can continue to improve. It is important to me for everyone to have a good understanding of the Government of Nunavut's IMIT function so that Nunavummiut are not confused by any inaccurate or ill-informed statements that may be made in the Legislative Assembly on the topic.

**Question (1):**

Figure 1 below shows a sample listing of contracts from the 2016-2017 procurement activity report. Please provide the following for each:

- a. The start date of the contract (some of the previous dates were not provided or were later than the end date)
- b. The end date of the contract
- c. Scope of work
- d. Description of Task
- e. Identify whether work is a One-time project, multiyear project or ongoing task
- f. Estimated number of days to complete work
- g. Daily rate
- h. Per diem costs
- i. Accommodation information (staff housing, other leased unit or hotel) and cost, and if applicable any recoveries
- j. Number of flights and costs associated
- k. Any other relevant factors in determining the estimate
- l. Total estimated price
- m. Name of subcontract resource
- n. Actual number of days to complete work
- o. Breakdown of total actual cost
- p. Portion (days) of work done in Nunavut
- q. Portion (days) of work done outside of Nunavut
- r. Identify if a contract is renewed/ reposted/ extended because the contractor was unable to complete the specified task with the specified time

**Response (1):**

See Appendix 1 - Question 1-16-17-21APR2020

**Question (2):**

For the positions listed below (i-xx) provide the following:

- a. When was the last time the position or a **similar function** was sent to Job Evaluation for review?
- b. When was the last time the position or a **similar function** was sent to Recruitment and Staffing for advertisement?
- c. What is the current, or most recent, job evaluation?
  - i. Senior Business Systems Analyst
  - ii. Senior Data Communications Administrator
  - iii. Senior Database Administrator
  - iv. Senior Delivery Systems Engineer

- v. Senior Enterprise Architect
- vi. Senior Network Engineer
- vii. Senior Project Manager
- viii. Senior Sharepoint Developer
- ix. Senior Sharepoint Developer Architect
- x. Senior System Administrator
- xi. Business Systems Analyst
- xii. IT Project Manager
- xiii. Project Manager
- xiv. Senior Business Analyst
- xv. Senior Business Analyst/ Project Manager
- xvi. Senior Data Communications Engineer
- xvii. Senior Information Technician Project Manager
- xviii. Senior Project Manager/ Business Analyst
- xix. Senior System/ Network Engineer
- xx. Senior Technical Project Manager

**Response (2):**

**See appendix 2**

**Question (3):**

For the contracts listed below, provide rationale for not having the work completed internally.

- a. Monitor and review cash flow budgets
- b. Review and update job descriptions

**Response (3):**

The services of contract resources may be accessed in instances where the;

- a) Services are highly specialized, and the Department does not have internal capacity to complete (e.g. functions are not part of an existing job description)
- b) Contribution of an external party will enhance the outcome of the project (e.g. providing additional expertise or objectivity)
- c) Nature of the work requires dedicated resources to achieve the necessary outcomes in the required timeframe

**Question (4):**

Please provide a list of all 79 positions in the Informatics Planning Branch as of March 31, 2017, by program (CIO, Director, Manager Solutions



Delivery, 10 positions under Manager Solutions Delivery, Manager Informatics Projects, 6 positions under Manager Informatics Projects ...).

- a) Provide employment status for each position as of March 31, 2017 including whether the position was filled by an indeterminate employee, term employee, casual employee, contractor or was vacant. If necessary, include casuals and contractors in unfunded positions.
- b) For the contracts under the SOA that are "for skill sets that did not exist within the fulltime positions on the organizational chart. The requirement to meet operational needs was beyond the current available skillset, timelines and staffing complement in the teams that made up the organizational chart." Please indicate where those positions/functions would be ideally placed within the organization.

**Response (4):**

- A) See attached - Appendix 3 that list all positions for the Informatics Planning Branch as of March 31, 2017. These are attached as individual files for ease of viewing
- B) See Appendix 4

**Question (5):**

In the return to written question 27-5(2) the Minister stated in response 2-g "In relation to our unfilled positions, the Department was going through a reorganization that significantly impacted the ability to hire new staff until the organizational review was completed and processed." When did this reorganization begin and end?

**Response (5):**

The reorganization began in fiscal year 2014-15 and continued through fiscal year 2016-17.

**Question (6):**

In the return to written question 27-5(2) the Minister stated in response included the organization chart of fiscal year 2016-17. A number of the positions in the chart did not have a position number and were instead

identified at "14-NEW" does this mean that the positions has yet to be sent Job Evaluation/ Recruitment and Staffing/ or Human Resources Information Systems to be created and entered into the HR system?

**Response (6):**

14-NEW is used as a place holder for the creation of org charts that will be used to identify the new structure when submitting a request to cabinet for new indeterminate positions. After cabinet approves the positions job evaluation would do a final review and assign a position number after that point they would be entered into the HR system.

**Question (7):**

In the return to written question 27-5(2) the Minister stated in response 2-h "The team needed access to senior specialists with more than 10 years of experience in managing large enterprise environments. The certifications required to perform these tasks are extensive and not currently available in Nunavut and CGS had to continue to provide the services required and expected by client departments." How many of the subcontractors provided by the vendors had previously been employees of Community and Government Services?

**Response (7):**

There were 2 subcontractors previously employed with Community and Government Services in 2016/17. However at this time there are currently no previous employees in a contract role working for the Information Management & Information Technology division.

**Question (8):**

In the response to written question 27-5(2) the Minister stated "In regards to the reporting structure of contractors, a Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) with the GN establishes a list of pre-approved contractors (individual consulting companies) to provide services in the respective categories and related topics as outlined within the individual RFP's. A SOA is not a contract. It is an agreement between the GN and a supplier, wherein the supplier agrees to provide to the GN, on demand, specified goods and services under set terms and conditions at pre-arranged prices for a specified time period. The contracts that the GN creates as part of the call-up process under an SOA is with specific vendors and not with the individual resources that would be performing the work. The GN has no contractual relationship with the contracted resources and does not provide any disciplinary or performance management functions to

those resources. The companies that are on the SOA have separate contracts with the individual resources and the resources report to them and not to the GN."

- a. Does the call up process include reviewing resumes, and having the subcontractor take part in an interview process?
- b. Do subcontractors receive performance related meetings with CGS staff?
- c. Are subcontractors required fill out timesheets similar to casuals, and submit them to CGS staff ?

**Response (8):**

- A) Yes, the call up process include reviewing resumes, and having the subcontractor take part in an interview
- B) No, subcontractors do not receive performance related meetings with CGS Staff
- C) Yes, subcontractors are required to fill out timesheets on a monthly basis (not bi-weekly like casual employees). We use these timesheets for the purpose of tracking hours worked for managing budgets

**Question (9):**

How many times has a SOA contract estimate been in excess of the \$250,000 threshold, which would require the contract to go through the RFP process?

**Response (9):**

There were no times that an SOA estimate during 2016-17 was in excess of \$250,000.

**Question (10):**

In the return to written question 27-5(2) the Minister's response indicated that almost all of the contracts are for six months or less, is this to ensure that the contract is below the \$250,000 RFP threshold?

**Response (10):**

- IMIT had set-up a schedule were-by the operational requirements were revisited every 6 months to achieve the following:
  - Review the needs of IMIT
  - Review project progress to assess future needs in the short term (next 6 months)

- Compare the needs of IMIT with the results of Hiring Processes success or not

**Question (11):**

Are multiple SOA contracts being used for the same project to ensure it remains below the \$250,000 RFP threshold?

**Response (11):**

No, they are not. Contracts are done as per the response identified for Question 10

**Question (12):**

When a contractor is unable to complete the specified task within the timeframe of the contract is there a consequence, if so what are they?

**Response (12):**

That depends on the reason the task wasn't able to be completed.

\*Go to <https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/RTWQ-60-5-2-EN.pdf> for the full text of Return to Written Question 60 – 5(2).



## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone**

**Asked of: Honourable Lorne Kusugak**

**Number: 61-5(2)**

**Date: February 24, 2020**

**Subject: Use of Contract Services to Perform Functions  
Intended for Indeterminate Employees in 2017-18**

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### **Question (1):**

Figure 1 below shows a sample listing of contracts from the 2017-2018 procurement activity report. Please provide the following for each:

- a. The start date of the contract
- b. The end date of the contract
- c. Scope of work
- d. Description of Task
- e. Identify duration of work as One-time project, multiyear project or ongoing task
- f. Estimated number of days to complete work
- g. Daily rate
- h. Per diem costs
- i. Accommodation information (in staff housing, other leased unit or hotel) and cost, and if applicable any recoveries
- j. Number of flights and costs associated
- k. Any other relevant factors in determining the estimate
- l. Total estimated price
- m. Name of subcontract resource
- n. Actual number of days to complete work
- o. Breakdown of total actual cost
- p. Portion (days) of work done in Nunavut
- q. Portion (days) of work done outside of Nunavut

- r. Identify if a contract is renewed/ reposted/ extended because the contractor was unable to complete the specified task with the specified time

**Response (1):**

See Appendix 1-Question 1-17-18

**Question (2):**

For the positions listed below (i-xx) provide the following:

- a. When was the last time the position or a similar function was sent to Job Evaluation for review?
- b. When was the last time the position or a similar function was sent to Recruitment and Staffing for advertisement?
- c. What is the current, or most recent, job evaluation?
  - Business Analyst
  - Business Analyst Services
  - Business Systems Analyst
  - Information Management Governance Specialist
  - IT Project Manager
  - Project Manager
  - Senior Business Analyst
  - Senior Business Analyst/ Records Analyst
  - Senior Business Systems Analyst
  - Senior Data Communications Engineer
  - Senior Database Admin
  - Senior Enterprise Architect
  - Senior IT Project Manager
  - Senior Network Engineer
  - Senior Project Manager
  - Senior Project Manager/ Business Analyst
  - Senior Sharepoint Developer
  - Senior Sharepoint Specialist
  - Senior Systems Administrator
  - Senior Systems Engineer
  - Senior Systems/ Network Engineer
  - Senior Technical Writer
  - Senior Telecom Lineman
  - Senior Telecomm Lineman

**Response (2):**

See Appendix 2

**Question (3):**

For the contracts listed below, provide rationale for not having the work completed internally.

- a. Callup for Operational and Analytical Services
- b. Creation of a Responsive Strategic Plan
- c. Financial Services
- d. HR Support Document
- e. Job Description Review
- f. Preparation of Land Administration By-Law
- g. Zero Based Budget Preparation

**Response (3):**

The services of contract resources may be accessed in instances where the;

- d) Services are highly specialized, and the Department does not have internal capacity to complete (e.g. functions are not part of an existing job description)
- e) Contribution of an external party will enhance the outcome of the project (e.g. providing additional expertise or objectivity)
- f) Nature of the work requires dedicated resources to achieve the necessary outcomes in the required timeframe

**Question (4):**

Please provide a list of all 79 positions in the Informatics Planning Services Branch as of March 31, 2018, by program (CIO, Director, Manager Solutions Delivery, 10 positions under Manager Solutions Delivery, Manager Informatics Projects, 6 positions under Manager Informatics Projects ...).

- a. Provide employment status for each position as of March 31, 2018 including whether the position was filled by an indeterminate employee, term employee, casual employee, contractor or was vacant. If necessary, include in the listing all casuals in unfunded positions who report to positions in the Informatics Planning Services Branch.
- b. For the contracts under the SOA that are "for skill sets that did not exist within the fulltime positions on the organizational chart. The requirement to meet operational needs was beyond the current available skillset, timelines and staffing complement in the teams that made up the organizational chart." Please indicate where those positions/ functions would be ideally placed within the organization.

**Response (4):**

- a. See Appendix 3



b. See Appendix 4

**Question (5):**

How many of the subcontractors provided by the vendors, had previously been employed by Community and Government Services?

**Response (5):**

There were 2 subcontractors previously employed with Community and Government Services in 2017/18. However at this time there are currently no previous employees in a contract role working for the Information Management & Information Technology division.

**Question (6):**

Provide a detailed breakdown for all of the SOA call-ups for each of the last 10 fiscal years. Including information such as

- a. Subcontractors name
- b. Role of the resource
- c. Location of work

**Response (6):**

See Appendix 5, we are only able to supply the information for the last eight years.

\*Go to <https://assembly.nu.ca/sites/default/files/RTWQ-61-5-2-EN.pdf> for the full text of Return to Written Question 61 – 5(2).



## **Return to Written Question**

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

**Asked of:** Hon. Joe Savikataaq Minister of Environment

**Number:** 62-5(2)

**Date:** February 27, 2020

**Subject:** Climate Change Incentive Programs

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Thank you for your comments and questions. The Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) works closely across the Government of Nunavut (GN) and with the Government of Canada to promote climate change incentive programs available to Nunavut. In some cases, CCS administers federal funding programs on behalf of the Government of Canada to other GN Departments, whereas in other cases CCS works with other departments to promote their existing programs and develop new ones.

### **Question 1:**

Many jurisdictions have tax rebates and credits as well as other incentive programs to encourage citizens to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. What is being considered by our government to encourage Nunavummiut to reduce their carbon footprint?

### **Response:**

- Nunavummiut can apply to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Home Repair Program to obtain financial assistance to reduce both

- energy costs and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through energy efficiency retrofits.
- The Community Energy Planning project, led by CCS, aims at helping Nunavut communities define and implement clean energy projects of their choice. The first four communities to develop Community Energy Plans with the support of the Climate Change Secretariat are Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Kugluktuk and Sanikiluaq. Engagement with these communities is ongoing.
  - CCS is currently drafting a business case to develop a Clean Energy Program for Nunavummiut. This program would provide an incentive to access Qulliq Energy Corporation's Net-Metering program with the goal of increasing the number of renewable energy systems in Nunavut. The target audience of the program includes homeowners, while other recipient categories are also under consideration.
  - CCS, in partnership with Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) and Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC), developed the Energy Wise campaign, a joint energy awareness campaign that promotes energy savings in Nunavut households. The campaign includes radio ads, TV commercials, and social media outreach. Topics of focus are on individual actions that can help Nunavummiut save on energy costs and reduce their GHG emissions.

## **Question 2:**

What departments have submitted funding requests, and what were the requests for?

## **Response:**

- **Federal funds for GN**  
The Climate Change Secretariat provides coordination on federal climate change funding programs that are aimed at GN Departments. The two most significant are:
  - i. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program is funding \$1.7M over four years of climate change adaptation projects across the GN. Projects include:

- Developing a youth advisory committee on climate change (led by CCS);
  - Assessing permafrost thaw in Kugluk Territorial Park and re-locating the ATV trail to a more stable location (led by Nunavut Parks & Special Places); and
  - Monitoring sea-ice through the community-based monitoring program SmartICE (led by the Department of Economic Development & Transportation).
- ii. CCS helped coordinate GN Departments and Agencies to apply for Environment and Climate Change Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund. Nunavut obtained \$31M through this fund for the following projects:
- Nunavut Housing Corporation's "Accelerated Modernization and Improvement Project" to retrofit 1000 Nunavut public housing units;
  - Qulliq Energy Corporation's project "Installation of new district heating systems in Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak", and;
  - Community and Government Services "South Baffin Energy Management Project" to improve the energy efficiency of the GN's owned buildings in the South Baffin Region

**Question 3:**

When will the Government of Nunavut begin to roll out climate change adaptation and mitigation incentive programs?

**Response:**

The GN is currently working on a new climate change incentive program aimed at municipal governments. The new Municipal Green Infrastructure Program (MGIF) will help municipalities develop and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. This program was developed by Community and Government Services in partnership with the CCS and will be launched in the spring of 2020.

**Question 4:**

What incentive programs are at the top of the priority list?

**Response:**

There is no 'priority list'. The initiatives and programs described are all of the current and planned initiatives. A priority, however, will be to continue to work to access additional funding for climate change related initiatives in Nunavut.

CCS is working to identify additional climate change funding opportunities for Nunavummiut to take advantage of. Part of this task is working with federal funders to ensure programs are accessible to Nunavummiut with low reporting requirements, and maximum flexibility.

Thank you once again for your questions. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any further inquiries on this matter.



*Translation to Follow*

**Return to Written Question**

**Asked by:** John Main, MLA for Arviat North - Whale Cove

**Asked of:** Hon. David Akeeagok  
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

**Number:** 63-5 (2)

**Date:** March 12, 2020

**Subject:** Activities of the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti  
Policy Review Committee

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**Question: With respect to the Nunavummi Nagminiqaqtunik Ikaluuti (NNI) Policy Review Committee established under Section 12.0 of the NNI Policy:**

**1a: Between April 1, 2017 and March 12, 2020 who were the members of the NNI Policy Review Committee?**

Between April 01, 2017 and March 12, 2020 the following were the members of the NNI Review Committee:

- Ronald Dewar - representing the Government of Nunavut
- Brad Hicke – representing Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

The NNI Review Committee is allowed and has on occasion invited NTI and GN staff to participate as required based on the issues in the agenda.

**1b: Between April 1, 2017 and March 12, 2020 how many NNI Review Committee meetings were held?**

Three (3) NNI Review Committee meetings were held:

- June 2017
- November 2018
- July 2019

### **1c: What was the Agenda for each meeting?**

#### 1. Agenda for June 2017 meeting

- Information Sharing Between NTI and the GN
- Developing shared understanding of implementation practices, particularly where difficulties are experienced.
- Clarification of the meaning of certain technical terms in the Regulations
- Advising NTI they are short one member for the Tribunal
- Clarification of NTI Inuit Firm classifications
- Further discussion of amendments to the NNI Regulations as were being developed for the amendments proposed in Sept 2017
- Training and employment of Inuit

#### 2. Agenda for November 2018

- To discuss a potential bid cap in major construction projects in situations where bids are from 100% Inuit owned firms where there is no apparent control or management of the Inuit Firms by Inuit.
- To discuss practices within the Government of Nunavut to understand budgeting on major projects where NNI is a consideration
- To discuss the issue of NNI qualifying businesses being required to hold inventory

#### 3. Agenda for July 2019 meeting

- To discuss the situation with 100% Inuit owned firms bidding on major GN contracts where no Inuit control or management is apparent. The GN continues to see a bid cap as an effective remedy.

### **1d: Where was each NNI Review Committee held?**

- June 2017 – NTI Offices in Ottawa
- November 2018 – EDT conference room in Iqaluit
- July 2019 – EDT conference room Iqaluit

### **1e: How many periodic reviews of the NNI Policy have been taken to date?**

The NNI Review Committee jointly determined through discussion that Periodic Reviews would be conducted only when the NNI Review Committee determined that a Periodic Review was required to address a set of special or unique issues, which to date has not occurred. Notwithstanding, the GN has proposed that NTI and the GN begin planning for a substantive and comprehensive periodic review to be conducted in 2022.



Although there has been discussion and correspondence regarding issues concerning the classification of Inuit Firms the GN is addressing the issue through the consultation process as outlined in Section six (6) of the NNI Regulations which allows for consultation and revisions to the NNI regulations.

**1f: How many reports have resulted from periodic reviews?**

The last substantive and comprehensive periodic review was finalized in 2013. The current NNI Regulations were in force in Sept 2017 and the regulations per section 12.7 direct the production of a comprehensive review in 2022.

**1g: What were the contents of the report?**

The NNI Review Committee engaged consultants to produce a substantive analysis of the NNI Policy and contains an overview of the scope of the review, analysis of data relating to the implementation of the NNI, analysis of issues and current practices followed by a summary of objectives and recommendations. The report in its entirety can be found here:

<https://nni.gov.nu.ca/sites/nni.gov.nu.ca/files/2012%20External%20Report%20to%20the%20NNI%20Policy%20Review%20Committee.pdf>

**1h: What is the timeline for tabling the NNI Review Committee reports?**

As soon as they are reviewed by the GN staff and NTI and are considered by both parties as final versions.

**1i: What were the specific recommendations made to date by the NNI Review Committee?**

The recommendations are attached as Appendix A.

Details of the specific recommendations to the NNI, amendments to legislation and regulatory structures and other arrangements are public and can be found here:

<https://nni.gov.nu.ca/sites/nni.gov.nu.ca/files/2012%20NNI%20Comprehensive%20Reivew.pdf>

The NNI Review Committee, desiring an expedient and practical alternate and companion to the Periodic Review, developed, with the assistance of NTI, a procedure to effect changes to the NNI Regulations, amend legislation or regulations and or regulatory structures. The procedure jointly agreed to by the GN and NTI is defined in section six (6) of the NNI Regulations as follows:

## **6.0 Consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Revisions to the NNI**

6.1 The Commissioner in Executive Council may make changes to the NNI in a manner consistent with the obligations of the Government of Nunavut under Article 24 of the Agreement, which requires consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in the development and maintenance of preferential procurement policies, procedures and approaches.

6.2 Consultation with respect to any proposed revisions to the NNI or any policy of the Government of Nunavut aimed at implementing Article 24 of the Agreement requires, at a minimum, that the following procedure be followed:

- (a) the Government of Nunavut shall provide Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated with notice of a matter to be decided in sufficient form and detail to allow Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to effectively address the matter and to prepare its views on the matter;
- (b) the Government of Nunavut shall provide Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated with thirty (30) business days in which to prepare its views on the matter and to provide any such views to the Government of Nunavut. In exceptional circumstances NTI may request an extension of time to respond;
- (c) the Government of Nunavut shall give full and fair consideration to any such views provided by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the matter; and
- (d) the Government of Nunavut shall provide Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated with written reasons for rejecting or varying any views provided by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the matter. The said written reasons shall be provided no later than thirty (30) business days following the decision of the Government of Nunavut on the matter.

6.3 It is recognized that assessment of what constitutes a reasonable period of time with respect to any aspect of the consultation process with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated shall take into account:

- (a) the complexity of the matter;
- (b) the economic significance of the matter;
- (c) special cultural or community sensitivities;
- (d) the need for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to consult regional or other Inuit organizations;
- (e) the availability of leaders or key advisors; and

(f) other logistical factors.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Recommendations of the NNI Review Committee**

The NNI Review Committee met in Iqaluit on April 17-18, 2013 to review and assess the Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) External Report to the NNI Policy Review Committee and in particular to examine and reach conclusions on the issues and recommendations that start on page 99 of the document.

The Co-Chairs and other members of the Committee agreed that the intent was for the BLG Report to be made public as an accompanying document to the Review Committee's report.

The meeting was attended by staff from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Government of Nunavut departments and agencies: Brad Hicke (NTI - Committee Co-Chair), Ronald Dewar (GN/NNI Secretariat - Committee Co-Chair), Mark McCulloch (GN/Community and Government Services), Bonnie Osborne (GN/Community and Government Services), Alastair Campbell (NTI), Travis Cooper (NTI), Christine Klazinga (Nunavut Housing Corp.), Don Hutton (Nunavut Housing Corp.) and Angus Oqallak (GN/NNI Secretariat - Observer).

The Committee considered and arrived at recommendations on 22 issues highlighted in the BLG report, as summarized below: Separation of the NLCA and Business Assistance Components of the NNI Policy BLG Recommendation 1. The GN should restructure the NNI Policy into 3 sections – one responding with the implementation of the Article 24 obligations, one responding to matters intended to assist Nunavut Businesses, and one responding to logistical matters that are common to the other two sections.

2. The GN should rename the NNI Policy to more accurately reflect its scope and intent. The new name could be the Nunavut Preferential Procurement Policy as translated into Inuktitut.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

1. The Committee was in favor of this recommendation and considered it as an issue for implementation as soon as feasible. This would occur during the implementation phase and rewriting/organizing of the NNI Policy.

2. The Committee considered that re-naming the NNI Policy was not required. Bonuses and Penalties

BLG Recommendation

1. Bonuses and penalties should be eliminated in their entirety.

2. Bonuses and penalties should be replaced with: (i) A mandatory requirement in a tender or RFP for a minimum amount of Inuit content. Failure to meet the contractual obligation could, at the discretion of the contracting authority, be a ground for terminating the contract and, more importantly, a ground for preventing the contractor and its principals from receiving future GN contracts for a set period of time; and  
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(ii) A rated requirement to evaluate contractors on past Inuit content achievement. 3. In the alternative to the elimination of bonuses and penalties, the GN should eliminate bonuses and adopt the following streamlined penalty system: (i) Penalties should be applied only in relation to Inuit content. They would be eliminated vis-à-vis project management and training. (ii) Section 12.1(d) of the NNI Policy should be eliminated, such that Inuit labour would be assessed as a whole, rather than assessed separately for Local Inuit labour and Nunavut Inuit labour. (iii) A tiered penalty system should be adopted with graduated penalty levels based on a contractor's number of historical failures to meet the contractual minimum Inuit content requirements. Penalties should escalate from minor (\$10,000) to debarment of the contractor and its principals from bidding on GN contracts for a set period of time. (iv) Contracting authorities should be vested with the discretion to not apply the tiered penalty system in prescribed circumstances. The prescribed circumstances should be set based in consultation with NTI, CGS, NHC and the business community.

4. Contracting authorities should be vested with the express discretion to alter the minimum Inuit content of a particular contract after execution of the contract. Set criteria for the exercise of this discretion should be established in order to ensure consistency among and between contracting authorities when considering requests for alterations.

5. In the event that the GN decides to retain bonuses, the NNI Policy should be clarified to provide that in the event that the minimum Inuit content is adjusted mid-contract, a contractor will only be eligible to receive a bonus if the contractor exceeds the original Inuit content requirement.

6. Contracting authorities must put in place effective monitoring of Inuit content levels during the performance of the contract, which monitoring should include random site visits.

7. Monitoring and enforcement of the minimum Inuit content requirement should be the responsibility of the contracting authority and not the NNI Secretariat. 8. GC55 should be eliminated in its entirety.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

1– 3. The Committee members stated that option #1 would be acceptable, with regard to the current award of bonuses and penalties however this would only work if effective alternative measures were instituted for failing to meet contractual requirements reflecting NNI Policy directives. It was stated that the contracting authorities do not have sufficient resources to effectively monitor contract compliance with regard to Inuit hiring,

amongst other collectable variables. Further discussion led to the idea that the penalties could be eliminated; however there could be a restructuring of the bonuses in order to maintain an incentive for the overarching goal of increased Inuit hiring. One option considered was that the bonus structure could be limited to contracts over a certain \$ threshold. The contract would need to clearly specify the accounting 21

records which would have to be provided by the contractor in order to qualify for an Inuit labour bonus. It would be considered critical that contract authorities would be required to sufficiently monitor projects to ensure compliance.

4. The Committee felt that the contracting authorities should have the authority to alter minimum Inuit labour levels during the execution of a contract, if the contractor requested a change based on the proven insufficient availability of Inuit labour. Guidelines for this would need to be developed.

5. In the event that bonuses are maintained and minimum Inuit labour levels are reduced after a contract has been signed, no bonus should be payable unless the contractor exceeded the original minimum Inuit labour level in the contract.

6 and 7. Are accepted but are currently implemented only to the extent that the contracting authority has the resources to do so. Additional resources are required to effectively meet these goals.

8. The Committee agreed that GC 55 be eliminated, but that the intent underlying it still needed to be met.

The Committee considered that further work will be required to define processes and procedures to clarify implementation of changes in this area.

The Committee considered that non-compliant contractors would need to be penalized by being identified as non-complaint and losing the right to bid on GN contracts for a set period of time. The details of this would require further discussions and elaboration.

#### Minimum Inuit Content

#### BLG Recommendation

1. CGS, NHC, NTI and the business community should engage in an annual consultation to discuss current Inuit labour availability and skill set and the planned projects in the community and surrounding communities. The consultation will help to inform the percentages then set by the respective contracting authorities.

2. The GN should maintain a complete data set of actual Inuit labour achieved in comparison to the level of minimum Inuit labour required.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

1. The Committee agreed that data collection and consultation is required through discussions on regional or community-based Inuit labour availability. This should be semi-annually or more frequently.

2 This recommendation speaks to what contractors actually achieved and although work is ongoing in this area there is more to do. NNI Contracting Appeals Board  
BLG Recommendation

1. The name of the Contracting Appeals Board should be changed to the NNI Tribunal to more accurately reflect the scope of its mandate.

2. The process for dealing with complaints should be changed to the following:

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(i) If a bidder feels that it has been treated unfairly, the first step should be a debriefing with the relevant contracting authority. The bidder should be required to request a debriefing within five working days of receiving notification of the circumstances underlying the issues in question. (ii) The contracting authority should respond to the request for a debriefing in a timely manner and provide the debriefing within two weeks. (iii) If the bidder remains dissatisfied after the debriefing, the bidder may file a written complaint together with supporting materials to the NNI Tribunal within 7 working days of receiving the debriefing. (iv) The NNI Tribunal should then make a determination as to whether there is a reasonable indication that a breach of the NNI Policy took place. If the NNI Tribunal concludes that no such indication exists, it can reject the complaint at that stage. (v) If the NNI Tribunal concludes that a reasonable indication of a breach did occur, it would initiate an inquiry. (vi) The contracting authority should be provided with the complaint and supporting materials and be required to provide a response explaining what events transpired that are relevant to the complaint together with all supporting documents within 15 working days. (vii) Any commercially sensitive information not belonging to the complainant should be disclosed to only the representative of the complainant and not to the complainant. (viii) After the contracting authority's response has been provided, the complainant should be given a brief period of time to comment, such as seven working days. (ix) Once the record is then complete, the NNI Tribunal would analyze the issues and render a decision, in writing, within 15 days following the closure of the record. (x) Oral hearings should not be held unless it is impossible to adjudicate the complaint in the absence of an oral hearing, such as where there are significant issues of credibility or limitations on the ability of the complainant to present its case in writing.

3. Where a complaint is filed, the contracting authority should refrain from awarding the contract, or if already awarded, no work should be performed, pending the determination of the complaint. For exceptional urgent contracts that cannot wait for a complaint to be disposed of, the GN should be allowed to proceed with the contract and work.

4. The GN should appoint three NNI Tribunal members. The members should have expertise in procurement and administrative law or have considerable experience in government contracting. Members should not need to be resident in Nunavut, although that would be ideal. If the required expertise is not available in Nunavut, the members selected should have significant familiarity with government contracting in Nunavut. Members should be truly independent and not chosen to represent the interests of any

group or interest in Nunavut. The appointment process should be changed to ensure that the members appointed owe no allegiance to any particular government, community or business interest. 23

5. Complaints should only be heard by one NNI Tribunal member except where the nature and significance of the complaint warrants a three person review panel.
6. The NNI Tribunal should have access to legal support and on-going training.
7. The NNI Policy should be amended to provide that the recommendations of the NNI Tribunal are binding on the GN, except where, for compelling public policy reasons, the recommendations cannot be implemented.
8. The GN should expand the jurisdiction of the Board include complaints related to registration and re-registration decisions made by both the NNI Secretariat and NTI.
9. The GN should not currently increase the jurisdiction of the Board to encompass all aspects of a GN procurement process, whether or not the complaint is rooted in NNI Policy issues alone. The GN should re-assess the value of such an expanded jurisdiction once a more viable procurement review process is successfully operating.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee considers that the name could be changed to the NNI Appeal Tribunal

The Committee discussed the structure of the existing NNI Contracting Appeals Board. The makeup of the appeals body should be 2 or more individuals with appropriate local knowledge and experience and more specifically a lawyer knowledgeable in procurement law. The GN and NTI could each appoint an individual as a primary member and each appoint an alternate in the event the primary was not available.

The persons on the board or tribunal would be guided by, preferably, a lawyer with a background in procurement law.

The Committee did not agree with recommendations 5 and 8.

All other recommendations would require further consideration and discussion through an implementation phase of re-structuring the NNI Policy.

CGS advised that it will not sign finalized contracts where an appeal has been filed, prior to the hearing of the challenge.

The Committee considers that the process described for the Appeals Board is to be reviewed during the Implementation phase of the response to the BLG recommendations.

BLG recommendations 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are to be reviewed during the implementation review. Bid Adjustments

### BLG Recommendation

1. The current bid adjustments (7% for Inuit Firms, 7% for Nunavut Businesses and 7% for Local Businesses) should be recalibrated to 5% each. 2. A fourth bid adjustment should be added for Enhanced Inuit Firms with an available adjustment of up to an additional 6%. An Enhanced Inuit Firm is an Inuit Firm that is owned, managed and controlled by Inuit, and that has profits that flow directly to the Inuit owners.
  
3. Enhanced Inuit Firms would be eligible for an additional 6% bid adjustment, with the percentage available depending on the level of Inuit ownership, management and control. At 51%, an Inuit Firm would receive 5%. At 52% to 59%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive a 6% adjustment. At 60% to 69%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive a 7% adjustment. At 70% to 79%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive an 8% adjustment. At 80% to 89%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive a 9% adjustment. At 90% to 99%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive a 10% adjustment. At 100%, an Enhanced Inuit Firm would receive an 11% adjustment.
  
4. The Enhanced Inuit Firms Registry should be maintained by NTI in the same manner in which it manages the Inuit Firms Registry, with the addition that the percentage ownership, management and control would be listed on the registry. 5. Registrants seeking Enhanced Inuit Firm status should be required to produce a set list of documentation to demonstrate Inuit ownership, management and control.
  
6. NTI and the NNI Secretariat should require all applicants for registration on the NTI Inuit Firms Registry, NTI Enhanced Inuit Firms Registry and the NNI Nunavut Business Directory to certify to the truthfulness of all information provided in their application and supporting documentation and to certify that there is no additional documentation or information relevant to the assessment of their application that has not been provided.
  
7. The NNI Policy should be amended to include provisions to address the consequences of deliberately providing untrue or misleading information in violation of the certification given, including striking the business from the registry and debarring the business and its principals from applying for registration of any other business for a minimum period of time.
  
8. The requirements for Nunavut Business status should be modified to require that a significant portion of the business' operations be conducted in Nunavut.
  
9. The definition of a Nunavut Business should be amended to: (i) Clarify that the requirements in subsection (i) through (iv) apply not only in the case of partnerships, but also to limited companies, co-operatives and sole proprietorships; and (ii) Clarify the ownership requirements for a co-operative and align the language with that used for Inuit Firm co-operatives.
  
10. The definition of a Local Business should be amended to: 25



(i) Clarify in subsection (iv) that the business has received status as a Nunavut Business (not a Local Business); and (ii) Expand Local Business status to Inuit Firms and not only Nunavut Businesses.

11. The GN should review the utility of sections 11.1(f) and 11.1(g) of the NNI Policy, which extend the Local Business bid adjustment to businesses that do not qualify for Local Business status. 12. The GN should implement immediate standardized data tracking procedures to permit the effectiveness of the various bid adjustments to be fully assessed.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee supports restructuring the bid adjustment percentages.

The Committee recommends that NNI bid adjustments be set as follows: Nunavut Business 5% Local Business 5% Inuit Firm (NLCA) 5% 75% Inuit Owned +3% 100% Inuit Owned +3%

The total possible bid adjustment would remain at 21%, as at present.

One view expressed in the Committee was that the local bid adjustment could be seen to disadvantage smaller companies from the communities, in competing against larger companies in regional centers, on contracts in regional centers.

As part of this discussion the Committee agrees that the requirement for maintaining an inventory to qualify as a Nunavut Business is no longer necessary. The inventory requirement should be removed.

The Committee believes that a Nunavut Business selling goods must operate a commercial retail operation able to provide goods to the public.

Recommendations #4 through #12 to be reviewed during the implementation review.

#### Training

##### BLG Recommendation

1. The training provisions of the NNI Policy should be fundamentally overhauled.
2. The GN should clarify whether the training obligations are aimed as Inuit only, or also Nunavummiut as currently provided in section 7.1(d) of the NNI Policy.
3. The current training provisions should be replaced with a training system that would require a mandatory training obligation on contractors to meet the specific training terms detailed in an RFP or tender.
4. The categories of contracts to which a training plan obligation would attach should be altered. The monetary threshold should be increased to capture larger projects where long-term training can have a more significant impact.

Alternatively, or in addition, the threshold should be based on project duration; with a view to requiring training plans only on those projects that are long enough in duration that training would not impede the timely completion of the work. 5. The training component of the NNI Policy should be focused on pre-existing; third-party accredited training programs only. Contractors should not be obligated to create training programs and contracting authorities should not be obligated to assess the adequacy of the training programs.

6. Contracting authorities should be required in each RFP or tender to detail the necessary training based on the type of contract at issue. The training would be limited to the hiring of a designated number of employees who are enrolled in: (i) An apprenticeship program administered by the Department of Education and provided by Nunavut Arctic College; (ii) A skilled trades program administered by the Department of Education and provided by Nunavut Arctic College; (iii) An accredited training on the job program administered by the Department of Education; or (iv) Any other third party accredited training program as designated by the contracting authority, such as training programs conducted by bodies in other provinces or territories.

7. The Department of Education should maintain a list of accredited programs available both in and outside of Nunavut from which contracting authorities could select appropriate programs.

8. On larger projects (such as the Iqaluit airport), contracting authorities should meet with potential contractors to discuss the projects and to identify training needs and opportunities prior to establishing the training requirements in the RFP or tender.

9. Critical to the functionality of this new training system is the creation of Liaison Officers, who should be responsible for maintaining the list of available accredited programs, maintaining the list of students enrolled in apprenticeship and skilled trades programs and most importantly, acting as a liaison between contracting authorities, contractors, educational institutions and students to ensure that training requirements imposed in contracts are feasible and that appropriate employees can be located for contractors.

10. The Liaison Officer should play an important role in the enforcement of training obligations by acting as a neutral third party who will be able to confirm to contracting authorities what efforts have been made by a contractor to comply with the training requirements if they are not met and whether the failure to meet the requirements is justifiable in the circumstances.

11. The Liaison Officer should work with the contracting authorities, Nunavut Arctic College and contractors to determine whether additional accredited programs should be offered and added to the list of accredited programs for the purpose of NNI Policy training obligations. 27

12. Contracting authorities must engage in proper monitoring and enforcement throughout the completion of the contract to ensure that training obligations are being met.

13. Any unjustified failure to meet the training obligations (as determined in consultation with the Liaison Officer) should have a consequence, which consequences should include a lower score on NNI Policy compliance in future contracts, debarment from bidding on future contracts and/or a financial penalty.

14. The NNI Policy should be amended to include a provision that obligated contracting authorities to include enhanced training requirements for large projects, such as the Iqaluit airport. For such projects, a committee should be created with representatives from the contracting authority, the Liaison Office, Nunavut Arctic College and the contractor community to develop an appropriate training program that will maximize Inuit training and participation on the project.

15. Once the revision training system is successfully implemented, the GN should consider expanding the training obligations beyond primarily construction and large service contracts, keeping in mind that third party accredited programs would have to be available to satisfy the training obligation.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee considers that the current training process described in the NNI Policy is un-workable. This is in part due to the fact that the NNI Policy contains no description or definition of the intended process in scoring the training plans associated with proposals.

The Committee considers that a scaled approach based on the size of the contract would be a better approach.

Contracts in the \$300,000 - \$2 million range would require that the vendor describe the \$ value to be spent in the contract on training. For contracts over \$2 million the vendor would need to identify the % of the total contract value being spent on training. In this situation the training would have to be a recognizable form of training - for example apprenticeships related to skills required in the contract. Own Forces

#### BLG Recommendation

1. The term “own forces” should be removed from the NNI Policy altogether.

2. All entities, whether general contractors or sub-contractors, should be required to set out their intended Inuit labour percentages and be evaluated on those intended percentages for the purpose of being scored on Inuit Content.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee agrees.

A more appropriate phrase would be “Inuit labour value”. The evaluation criteria will focus on the intended dollar value of Inuit labour payroll instead of the use of estimates of Inuit labour percentages. Sole-Source Contracts

#### BLG Recommendation

1. Section 10 of the Government Contract Regulations should be expanded to permit the awarding of sole-sourced contracts where the GN identifies a particular region or industry in Nunavut that warrants special consideration and support to build capacity within the Inuit businesses and among the local Inuit population.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee believes that procurement officials within the government of Nunavut need to comply with existing directions and guidelines already in place. Sole sourcing could be a function accommodated by negotiated contracts with Inuit Firms.

A Set Aside policy could work for Inuit Firms and for Nunavut Businesses. Use of Set-Asides for Inuit Firms

#### BLG Recommendation

1. The GN should implement a set-aside program to restrict identified purchasing opportunities to only Inuit Firms.

2. The GN should create a committee with government officials, NTI and business sector representatives to develop the framework for this program. A number of factors should be considered, including: (i) Whether only Inuit Firms that are Inuit owned and controlled can bid; (ii) Whether the set-aside program should be restricted to Inuit Firms that also qualify as Nunavut Businesses; (iii) Whether the program should be targeted for certain types of government purchases; (iv) Whether the program should be limited to contracts of a certain value; and (v) Whether the program should be developed for Inuit Firms only or Nunavut Businesses as well.

3. If the GN believes that similar assistance is needed for Nunavut Businesses (whether or not Inuit Firms), a set-aside program should be developed to assist those business and/or the current section 11.3 of the NNI Policy should be maintained.

#### NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee sees this as potentially viable and believes that further work on this topic should be part of the future implementation review.

#### Standing Offers and “As and When Required” Contracts

#### BLG Recommendation

1. The application of the NNI Policy to standing offers and “as and when required” contracts should only be done where practicable and consistent with sound procurement management and where appropriate to the particular contract.

2. If there are no clear cost criteria in procurement of this nature, bid adjustments should not be used.

3. Alternatively, rather than use a hypothetical price for the purpose of bid adjustments, the GN could develop a point rating system (as it uses for RFPs) and have a category of points awarded for Inuit Firms, Nunavut Businesses and Local Businesses.

4. Rather than establishing a hypothetical minimum Inuit labour content, bidders should be required to certify that in previous GN contracts they have honoured their commitments to employ the required minimum percentage of Inuit labour and commit to meeting any mandated level of Inuit labour that may be imposed in any call-ups under the standing offer agreement or as required in any “as and when required” contract.

**NNI Review Committee Conclusion**

The Committee considers this to be a complex issue and was advised that CGS is developing a set of standards for this type of contracting. This will then be brought forward to the Review Committee. Bid Repair

**BLG Recommendation**

1. Errors in procurement documentation submitted by bidders (in particular, errors in B2 forms) should be addressed by the GN in one of two ways: (i) The GN can evaluate the bid strictly on the basis of what is submitted. If a bidder fails to complete the bid forms correctly and as a result does not get the benefit of all adjustments they could have received; the bidder would have to accept the consequences of its own error; or (ii) The GN could provide assistance to bidders by verifying and correcting information in respect of the bid adjustments that would apply.

2. If the GN adopts the latter approach, clear language must be inserted into the solicitation documents indicating to all bidders that these corrections will be made.

3. If the GN adopts the latter approach, the contracting authority should show the adjustments made to the bidder and ask the bidder to confirm whether the correction is accurate.

4. The better way to deal with the volume of errors, however, should be to revise the bid forms and/or provide better training to bidders so that they can more accurately complete the forms.

**NNI Review Committee Conclusion**

The Committee was advised that CGS is working to ensure that current practices are compliant with procurement law. The work is underway at this time as a result of a legal opinion provided by BLG. BLG provided their opinion after reviewing the NNI Policy and the existing issues faced by CGS in implementing contracting within the context of the NNI Policy and Article 24.

The practice of bid repair reflects a lack of capacity in the business community in maintaining accounting records and filling out bid forms. Standardization of Procurement Documents and Processes

**BLG Recommendation**

1. The GN should implement one standardized B2 form for all contracting authorities, which should be accompanied by a standardized instruction sheet provided by all contracting authorities to bidders.

2. The GN should develop a standardized set of debrief letters (which include different letters depending on the type of contract at issue) that are sent to all losing bidders within a set number of days after the awarding of the contract. The debriefing letters should disclose the following information:

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(i) The names of all bidders; (ii) The name of the winning bidder, the winning bidder's price and the winning bidder's overall score; (iii) The bid adjustments received by the winning bidder; (iv) The losing bidder's B2 form as adjusted by the contracting authority; and (v) The losing bidder's total score, including the breakdown of the total score received.

3. Procurement processes and contract awards should be centralized in Iqaluit for both CGS and NHC.

4. The GN should implement a standardized data collection procedure as noted below.  
NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee was advised that CGS has standardized a B2 for use in all of their contracts. NHC advises they will work with CGS to ensure standardization of the forms between agencies.

CGS is currently developing a standardized debrief letter. Items (i) through (v) are being worked on.

It was noted and unanimously agreed that the inclusion of the winning score under (ii) will assist in establishing more transparency for the overall procurement process.

Item #3: Centralized procurement can only be done if sufficient PYs are provided. Without sufficient human resources this item cannot be implemented.

Item #4: CGS has implemented this however NHC has not as they do not have the resources to compile this type of data. NHC would require increased human resources to implement this. Data Availability and Collection  
BLG Recommendation

1. The GN should implement mandatory data collection procedures for all contracting authorities on an immediate basis.

2. Data collection should be consistent across all contracts and across all contracting authorities through the use of a standardized data collection form.

3. The data to be collected should include, at a minimum, the data currently being collected by CGS, and in addition, should include the value of work completed by subcontractors and information regarding the subcontractors, the percentage of Inuit labour achieved on every contract, the cost of implementation of the NNI Policy, and the impact of each bid adjustment on the awarding of contracts.

4. The project officer charged with a particular GN contract should be responsible for data collection for that contract in order to ensure accurate data collection.

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5. The NNI Secretariat should be charged with responsibility for data collection and maintenance of a centralized electronic database.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

1: CGS procurement manual contains directions to implement this however NHC does not have the resources in place to fulfill this recommendation.

2: The Committee agrees.

3: The Committee agrees fully with the increased data elements and believes that changes would be required to be done to the GN and CGS database data to implement this recommendation.

4: The Committee agrees with this recommendation.

5: The NNI Secretariat does not have the capacity to undertake this recommendation. Although the intent was agreed to, at this time the Committee also concurs that given the current status of data collection employed by Housing Corp., CGS and QEC that there is currently no capacity for government-wide standardized data collection. The Committee believes that implementing a centralized and standardized database would not be possible given the current situation with the contracting authorities. The NNI Secretariat would need to have access to any centralized database; currently the NNI Secretariat has access to the Contract Reporting Data Base. Application of the NNI Policy to Municipalities  
BLG Recommendation

1. Currently, the NNI Policy only applies to municipal procurements in cases where more than 51% of a particular contract's funds are provided by the GN, as no municipalities are receiving more than 51% of their annual operating funds from the GN.

2. The GN needs to determine whether it wants all or a portion of local government (municipalities, towns, hamlets and villages) procurements to be conducted in accordance with the NNI Policy. If so, the GN should enact the necessary laws or policy changes to do so.

3. If the GN does require municipalities to adhere to the NNI Policy, the GN should set a minimum contract value threshold which if met or exceeded would require local governments to adhere to the NNI Policy obligations.

4. If the GN determines that it wants all or some municipal procurements to be covered by the NNI Policy, the GN should provide training and resources to assist local government purchasing staff to cope with the intricacies and complexities that the NNI Policy presents.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee believes that the municipalities may implement a basic version of the NNI policy on a voluntary basis to comply with the spirit and intent of Article 24 and the NNI Policy, to promote Inuit businesses and Inuit employment.

Some Committee members considered that most municipalities do not have the expertise or resources required to implement the NNI Policy.

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It is understood that there is no existing legislation or policy that requires municipalities to comply with the NNI Policy, and this is not a requirement of Article 24. Application of the NNI Policy to QEC

BLG Recommendation

1. The NNI Policy applies to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

2. If there is any lingering doubt on this issue, the Minister or Executive Council should enact a specific policy or guideline stating that QEC is subject to the obligations of the NNI Policy.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The Committee strongly agrees that there is no reason for QEC not to comply with Article 24 and the NNI Policy. QEC is fully required to comply with Article 24 and the NNI Policy. The GN must take action to ensure that QEC complies with the Policy.

Monitoring and Enforcement

BLG Recommendation

1. The GN should immediately put into place the monitoring and enforcement measures required by the NNI Policy and as more fully detailed in the report in terms of meeting the minimum Inuit content obligations and training obligations.

2. The GN should amend the NNI Policy to empower the GN to debar a business and its principals from bidding on contracts for a set period of time in the event that the entity is found to have violated the spirit and intent of the NNI Policy. While similar debarment provisions should be contained in the NNI Policy related to specific breaches of NNI Policy obligations, this provision would act as a catchall for any observed inappropriate conduct.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

Contracting Authorities require increased PYs in order to implement this recommendation. Currently the primary contracting authorities, NHC and CGS, do not have sufficient human resources to properly monitor projects. Changes to the NTI Inuit Firms Registry and NNI Nunavut Business Directory BLG Recommendation 1. The NNI Secretariat should not require applicants seeking re-registration to submit supporting documentation in the absence of a material change to their business. The NNI Secretariat should accordingly revise its renewal requirements and processes to align with those used by NTI.

2. The NNI Secretariat and NTI should extend the validity of their respective registrations to three years.



3. The NNI Secretariat and NTI should share relevant documents submitted by applicants in order to alleviate the burden on applicants and facilitate the greatest possible information sharing between the two organizations. This can be accomplished through a shared document database or restricted website housing the documents.

4. The NNI Secretariat and NTI should adopt a policy whereby any applicant found to have provided inaccurate information for the purpose of improperly obtaining registration is barred from registered the business at issue or any other business in which the applicant is a material stakeholder for a set period of time.

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5. The NNI Secretariat and NTI should assign registration numbers to all registrants. 6. The NNI Tribunal should be vested with the jurisdiction to make recommendations on the decisions of both the NNI Secretariat and NTI to deny registration or to deny a renewal application. Community Education on the NNI Policy and its Implementation  
BLG Recommendation

1. The GN should provide better education within the community to enable businesses to better understand the meaning and operation of the NNI Policy in respect of procurement and contracting opportunities.

2. The GN should provide appropriate and on-going training to government officials about the application of the NNI Policy in the context of any procurement or contracting activity.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

The NNI Secretariat is anticipating an increase in its human resources capacity and is planning to do a series of community workshops as a part of ongoing community education in Public Procurement and the NNI Policy. Translation of Procurement Documents

BLG Recommendation

1. The GN should make the Nunavut Tenders website available in all official languages.

2. If stakeholders want to have specific procurement documents provided in one of the official languages other than English, recourse should be made available to draw upon to translate the document in a timely manner and the deadline for the submission of bids and proposals should be extended by whatever time is necessary to complete the required translations.

NNI Review Committee Conclusion

Item # 1: The Committee considers that the GN currently does not have the capacity or technical resources to implement this recommendation.

Item #2: The Committee considers that all tenders and RFPs should have an opening statement that Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun or French translated copies are available upon request. Other Clarifications to the NNI Policy Language

BLG Recommendation

As part of the amendments to the NNI Policy, the GN should conduct a wholesale review of the policy to correct a number of noted typographical errors, to ensure internal consistencies and to effect required clarifications.

**NNI Review Committee Conclusion**

The Committee agrees that once the recommendations are decided upon, the revisions of the type referred to will also be reflected in a revised NNI Policy.

**Senior Level Government NNI Policy Leader**

**BLG Recommendation**

1. The GN should appoint a senior government official with responsibility to ensure the NNI Policy's objectives are being met and who is accountable for the NNI Policy's performance, or lack thereof.

**NNI Review Committee Conclusion**

The Committee concluded that this responsibility should belong to the Deputy Minister and Minister responsible for the department in which the NNI Secretariat is situated.



*Nunavut Maligaliurvia*

## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: John Main, MLA  
Arviat North- Whale Cove**

**Asked of: Hon. George Hickes, MLA**

**Number: 64-5 (2)**

**Date: March 12, 2020**

**Subject: Government of Nunavut Budget Process**

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### **Question 1:**

With respect to the Government of Nunavut's budget development process, how is the term "vacancy factor" defined by the Financial Management Board?

### **Response:**

The Financial Management Board (FMB) approves Financial Administration Manual (FAM) directives. Many of these directives define terms they use to provide better guidance about how to implement the directive. Outside this FAM process, FMB has not itself, to our recollection, been asked to formally define specific terms, including "vacancy factor."

Generally, though, the term "vacancy factor" as it relates to the GN's budgeting process refers to adjustments budget managers may make when they internally forecast compensation and benefits costs to recognize that not all employee positions will be filled for the entire period and other matters that impact compensation and benefits costs.

### **Question 2:**

With respect to the Government of Nunavut's budget development process, what methodology does the Financial Management Board use to determine the approved vacancy factors for departments, public agencies and territorial corporations?

## **Response:**

FMB does not explicitly consider or approve vacancy factors that departments, public agencies, or territorial corporations may use.

Instead, FMB decides on the government's overall request for appropriation to be put forward for the Assembly's consideration by way of the Main Estimates and related appropriation bill.

In this way, FMB focuses on advancing the government's mandate by primarily considering proposed spending initiatives and new positions. The Board considers and endorses the "big picture" budget request to the Assembly, rather than approving each individual assumption, calculation, adjustment or other mechanism that make up the government's annual budget process.

Please note, the process described above only applies to departments seeking appropriations. Public agencies and territorial corporations that do not require appropriations do not submit their budgets for the Assembly's approval.

For added clarity, it is up to each department and responsible Minister to determine, request and justify the appropriations they seek from the Assembly, within the "big picture" direction the Board sets and agrees to.

In terms of incorporating vacancy rates into budget forecasts and appropriation requests, each department chooses (and should be prepared to explain and justify) their own approach.

As an example, when the Department of Finance prepares its annual budget request it estimates its compensation and benefits needs on a division-by-division basis. Specifically, officials:

- consider employment levels in each of the department's divisions;
- discuss staffing expectations and plans with each director (including at a position/employee level);
- consider likely timelines for both hiring and departures (e.g. if we expect a position to be vacant for a few months while we run a competition, or if we know someone plans to retire mid year);
- consider casual employment (simply because a position is "vacant" in terms of lacking a permanent employee does not mean the department does not require funds to pay for a casual staff); and
- incorporate other adjustments as seems reasonable or practical.

Based on these and other considerations (e.g. what "step" of pay would each employee receive at the approved levels), the Department of Finance adjusts its budget requests differently for each division each year – we do not apply a blanket "vacancy factor" across the department.

For the Committee's interest, Table 1 shows by division Finance's *budgeted* compensation and benefits costs (as we requested in the Main Estimates)

relative to *potential* compensation and benefits costs (assuming we could fill all positions at maximum levels for the entire year). The difference between the two, when expressed as a percent and added up across our divisions, could be considered our departmental “vacancy factor.”

At a high level, the Department of Finance’s 2020-21 budget is about 94% of what it could cost if our positions were fully filled. It is important to reinforce that the resulting 6% “vacancy factor” is an after-thought based on detailed budgeting – it is not our starting point.

**Question 3:**

With respect to the 2018-19 main estimates, what was the approved vacancy factor for each department, Crown agency and territorial corporation?

**Response:**

FMB did not explicitly consider or approve vacancy factors for departments, Crown agencies, or territorial corporations in 2018-19.

**Question 4:**

With respect to the 2019-20 main estimates, what was the approved vacancy factor for each department, Crown agency and territorial corporation?

**Response:**

FMB did not explicitly consider or approve vacancy factors for departments, Crown agencies, or territorial corporations in 2019-20.

**Question 5:**

With respect to the 2020-21 main estimates, what was the approved vacancy factor for each department, Crown agency and territorial corporation?

**Response:**

FMB did not explicitly consider or approve vacancy factors for departments, Crown agencies, or territorial corporations in 2020-21.

**Table 1: Department of Finance's budgeting for employee compensation and benefits**  
*Requested vs. Potential, by Division*  
 2020-21 (\$ 000s)

Division	Budgeted / Requested A	Potential (note 1) B	Difference (%) =A/B
<b>Corporate Management Branch</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>95%</b>
Office of the DM	524	524	100%
Corporate Policy	1,696	1,849	92%
Office of the ADM	281	281	100%
NLCB	37	37	100%
Office of the Comptroller General	673	703	96%
Office of the Assistant Comptroller General	445	445	100%
<b>Fiscal Management Branch</b>	<b>6,176</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>95%</b>
Corporate Services	2,434	2,536	96%
Fiscal Policy	1,771	1,924	92%
Expenditure Management	1,971	2,032	97%
<b>Comptrollership Branch</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>19,229</b>	<b>93%</b>
Financial Management Training & Development	430	547	79%
Financial Operations	2,848	3,090	92%
Compensation & Benefits	3,236	3,326	97%
Financial Systems Management	2,135	2,313	92%
Financial Reporting & Controls	1,677	1,843	91%
Internal Audit Services	1,217	1,332	91%
Qikiqtani Regional Operations	1,213	1,266	96%
Kitikmeot Regional Operations	2,132	2,476	86%
Kivalliq Regional Operations	3,027	3,036	100%
<b>Core Department</b> (note 2)	<b>27,747</b>	<b>29,560</b>	<b>94%</b>

*Note 1: For the purposes of this response, "Potential" shows the estimated compensation and benefits costs of each division if all positions were filled for the full year at the top end of the established pay band. We assumed all other aspects of our current employee makeup remain as we initially forecast (e.g. no additional employee becomes eligible for housing allowance, no changes to our employee team in terms of continuous service bonuses, etc.), though these too impact actual costs.*

*Note 2: As part of its 2020-21 appropriations, FIN will also receive \$12.937 M for Employee Benefits, allocated to our Centrally Administered Funds Branch. While these count as part of the department's total \$40.684 M in C&B costs, they relate to GN-wide payments and so do not fall under consideration for matters like "vacancy factor."*



## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: John Main, MLA (Arviat North-Whale Cove)**

**Asked of: Hon. George Hickes, Minister of Health**

**Number: 65 – 5(2)**

**Date: March 12, 2020**

**Subject: Dental Services**

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- 1) For those Nunavut communities which do not have resident dentists:
  - a) How many dental service providers are contracted to conduct community visits?
  - b) By community, from April 1, 2018 to March 1, 2020, how many days of dental service were provided to each community?
  - c) Which entity pays for the travel, accommodation and office space for dental service providers who are contracted to conduct community visits?
  - d) Which entity pays for the specific dental services provided by dental service providers who are contracted to conduct community visits?
  - e) For dental services already provided to clients during visits by dental service providers, which entity covers the costs for dental services which are denied payment under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists?
  - f) For dental services denied coverage under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists, what assistance is provided by the Government of Nunavut to community members who wish to appeal the NIHB decision to deny coverage?
  - g) What assistance is provided by the Government of Nunavut to pay for dental services recommended by a dentist but denied coverage under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists?

**Response:**

**a) How many dental service providers are contracted to conduct community visits?**

There are two dental contractors who hire dentists to provide services in Nunavut communities. Aqsaqniit Dental Services provides services to the Kitikmeot Region. Nunavut Innovative Health Solutions (NIHS) provides services for the Kivalliq and Baffin regions. Each of these contractors may have 5 to 10 dentists working for them at any given time. Community dental positions are also known as community oral health coordinators.

**b) By community, from April 1, 2018 to March 1, 2020, how many days of dental service were provided to each community?**

See Table in Appendix 1.

**c) Which entity pays for the travel, accommodation and office space for dental service providers who are contracted to conduct community visits?**

The Government of Nunavut (GN) pays for travel, accommodations and meals at the Nunavut per diem rate as stipulated in the dental contracts. The GN owns all of the dental facilities in Nunavut, with the exception of two private clinics in Iqaluit. Office space is rented to the contractors by the GN at the rate of \$200.00/day.

**d) Which entity pays for the specific dental services provided by dental service providers who are contracted to conduct community visits?**

Dental services for Nunavut Inuit are covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), provided that those services are eligible for NIHB coverage. Not all dental services are covered by NIHB.

**e) For dental services already provided to clients during visits by dental service providers, which entity covers the costs for dental services which are denied payment under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists?**

While Denturists are limited to solely the fabrication of dentures, dentists provide the full range of dental treatment, other than some specialty services. For example, Orthodontists are specialists who provide services limited to orthodontic treatment. (i.e., braces) and do not provide any other dental services.

Dental Therapists are GN employees and can provide a limited range of basic dental services including fillings, extractions, cleanings, X-rays, and oral hygiene education. However, therapists usually provide only emergency services for adults. In Nunavut, dental therapists work almost exclusively in one community. Dental therapists currently provide services in three communities: Arctic Bay, Arviat, and Rankin Inlet. Hygienists provide cleaning, scaling, and other oral hygiene services including oral hygiene instruction.



NIHB and most insurance plans cover a broad range of essential dental services. GN employees have coverage for dental treatment through the GN's dental plan. Non-GN employees may have coverage through their employers. For children up to and including the age of 12, a range of preventive and clinical services are provided by the Nunavut Children's Dental Project.

The Nunavut Children's Dental Project offers dental services to children from birth to the age of 12. The Children's Dental Project then continues to offer youth up to grade 12 limited dental services. Dental services provided through the Children's Dental Project include preventive services and interim restorative services (i.e., temporary fillings). Oral health education is also provided for both children and their parents.

Each community has a local Oral Health Coordinator position, which each region has a Regional Coordinator to support the community coordinators. The Children's Dental Project also employs a Project Manager and an Oral Health Evaluation Specialist. Services are provided by dentists, dental therapists, hygienists, and regional and community coordinators. Service days are primarily provided during the school year.

**f) For dental services denied coverage under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists, what assistance is provided by the Government of Nunavut to community members who wish to appeal the NIHB decision to deny coverage?**

The Territorial Dental Officer, the Territorial Manager of Health Insurance Programs, and the Territorial Dental Coordinator can provide guidance on questions regarding NIHB coverage and the appeals process.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) employs an NIHB navigator who provides guidance for patients with questions regarding NIHB coverage and appeals.

**g) What assistance is provided by the Government of Nunavut to pay for dental services recommended by a dentist but denied coverage under the NIHB program and where no other coverage option exists?**

NIHB and most insurance plans cover a broad range of essential dental services. Requests are reviewed by the Territorial Dental Officer, the Manager of Health Insurance Programs and the Deputy Minister of Health.

## Appendix 1

<b>NUMBER OF DENTAL SERVICE DAYS – April 1, 2018 to March 1, 2020</b>					
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>General Practice Days</b>	<b>Denture</b>	<b>Orthodontics*</b>	<b>Hygiene**</b>	
<b>KITIKMEOT (# of days)</b>					
Cambridge Bay	253	28	34	111	
Gjoa Haven	161	23		50	
Kugaaruk	129	25		32	
Kugluktuk	215	30		70	
Taloyoak	123	11		11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>274</b>	
<b>KIVALLIQ (# of days)</b>					
Arviat	218	19			
Baker Lake	204	19		28	
Chesterfield Inlet	73	13			
Coral Harbour	169	8			
Naujaat	164	9			
Rankin Inlet	402	35	56		
Sanikiluaq	106	15			
Whale Cove	58	23			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>BAFFIN (# of days)</b>					
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>General Practice Days</b>	<b>Denture</b>	<b>Orthodontics</b>	<b>Hygiene**</b>	<b>Pediatric (Qikiqtani Hospital)</b>
Iqaluit			36		114
Arctic Bay	91	32			
Clyde River	124	27			
Grise Fiord	32	10			
Igloolik	147	46		21	
Kimmirut	87	13			
Kinngait	138	46			
Pangnirtung	193	53			
Pond Inlet	204	58			
Qikiqtarjuaq	96	28			
Resolute Bay	39	11			
Sanirajak	136	7			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>114</b>

\*Orthodontic patients are transported to regional hub communities for orthodontic treatment.

The orthodontist has recently travelled to Arviat to provide services as well.

\*\*Hygiene Days are the number of days dental hygiene services are provided in the communities by dental hygienists.



## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: John Main, MLA (Arviat North-Whale Cove)**

**Asked of: Hon. George Hickes, Minister of Health**

**Number: 66-5(2)**

**Date: March 12, 2020**

**Subject: Community Health Centre Staffing**

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**2) Broken down by community for the 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016 census years, what was the total number of the following health care positions at Community Health Centres:**

- h) Registered Nurses; (RN)**
- i) Nurse Practitioners; (NP)**
- j) Licensed Practical Nurses; (LPN)**
- k) Psychiatric Nurses; (PN)**
- l) Community Health Representatives; (CHR)**
- m) Interpreter-Translators'; (Int-Tran)**
- n) Clerks;**
- o) Mental Health Workers; (MHW)**
- p) X-Ray Technicians; (X-ray Tech)**
- q) Custodians;**
- r) Pharmacy Technicians. (PT)**

**Response:**

<b>Health Care Positions at Community Health Centres</b>				
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>QIKIQTAALUK</b>				
Arctic Bay	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 3 MHW – 1 PN – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 PN – 1 RN – 3
Clyde River	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 PN – 2 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 NP – 1 PN – 1 RN – 4
Grise Fiord	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 1	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 1	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 1	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 1
Igloolik	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 RN – 5	CHR – 2 Custodian – 2 Int-Tran – 4 RN – 12	CHR – 2 Custodian – 2 Int-Tran – 4 LPN – 4 NP – 1 RN – 8
Iqaluit	Clerk – 22 CHR – 2 Int-Tran – 7 MHW – 3	Clerk – 25 CHR – 2 Int-Tran – 12 LPN – 1	Clerk – 19 CHR – 2 Int-Tran – 21 MHW – 4	Clerk – 13 CHR – 2 Int-Tran – 21 LPN – 5

	PT – 3 PN – 2 RN – 46 X-Ray Tech – 2	MHW – 4 NP – 2 PT – 4 PN – 2 RN – 54 X-Ray Tech – 2	NP – 2 PT – 5 PN – 3 RN – 76 X-Ray Tech – 3	MHW – 8 NP – 2 PT – 3 PN – 6 RN – 68 X-Ray Tech – 3
Kimmirut	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 1	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 2
Kinngait	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 MHW – 1 RN – 6	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 4 PN – 1 RN – 6	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 4 NP – 1 PN – 1 RN – 7
Pangnirtung	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 MHW – 2 RN – 6	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 5 MHW – 2 RN – 7	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 5 MHW – 2 RN – 12	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 6 MHW – 2 NP – 1 PN – 1 RN – 12
Pond Inlet	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2	Clerk – 1 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1	Clerk – 1 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1

	RN – 5	RN – 6	Int-Tran – 2 RN – 6	Int-Tran – 3 NP – 1 RN – 8
Qikiqtarjuaq	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 3
Resolute Bay	Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 1 PN – 1 RN – 2
Sanirajak	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 3 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 3
<b>KIVALLIQ</b>				
Arviat	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 7	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 RN – 7	Clerk – 1 CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 8	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 PN – 1 RN – 9
Baker Lake	Clerk – 1 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 2	Clerk – 1 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 2	Clerk – 1 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 4 PN – 1 RN – 6

	RN – 5	RN – 5	RN – 6	
Chesterfield Inlet	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 2
Coral Harbour	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 PN – 1 RN – 4	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 PN – 1 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 5
Naujaat	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 PN – 1 RN – 5
Rankin Inlet	Clerk – 6 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 4 MHW – 1 RN – 11	Clerk – 10 CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 7 MHW – 1 PT – 2 RN – 21 X-Ray Tech – 2	Clerk – 8 CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 9 LPN – 1 NP – 1 PT – 1 PN – 1 RN – 28 X-Ray Tech – 1	Clerk – 8 CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 9 LPN – 3 MHW – 2 NP – 1 PT – 1 PN – 2 RN – 22 X-Ray Tech – 1
Sanikiluaq	CHR – 1	CHR – 1	CHR – 1	CHR – 1

	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 4	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 4	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 4	Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 3
Whale Cove	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 1	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 PN – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 PN – 1 RN – 2
<b>KITIKMEOT</b>				
Cambridge Bay	Clerk – 2 CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 4	Clerk – 4 CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 PT – 1 RN – 14 X-Ray Tech – 1	Clerk – 2 CHR – 2 Custodian – 2 Int-Tran – 3 MHW – 2 PT – 1 RN – 29 X-Ray Tech – 1	Clerk – 1 CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 LPN – 14 MHW – 2 PT – 1 RN – 20 X-Ray Tech – 1
Gjoa Haven	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 4	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 5	CHR – 2 Custodian – 3 Int-Tran – 4 PN – 1 RN – 10	CHR – 2 Custodian – 3 Int-Tran – 5 LPN – 3 MHW – 1 NP – 1 PN – 1



				RN – 7
Kugaaruk	Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 4	CHR – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 4
Kugluktuk	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 5	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 1 RN – 7	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 MHW – 2 PN – 1 RN – 7	CHR – 2 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 3 PN – 1 RN – 7
Taloyoak	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 RN – 2	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 MHW – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 1 PN – 1 RN – 3	CHR – 1 Custodian – 1 Int-Tran – 2 PN – 1 RN – 4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>479</b>



## RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION

**Asked by:** Mr. John Main, MLA Arviat North-Whale Cove

**Asked of:** Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister of Justice

**Number:** 67-5(2)

**Date:** April 30, 2020

**Subject:** Court Interpreter Staffing

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**Question 1: For the fiscal year 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, what statistics regarding court interpreters did the Department of Justice track?**

**Question 1a: Please provide the statistics in the answer to Q1, in table form.**

**Response:**

Court services do not track statistics regarding court interpreters. However, we can provide the following information regarding our positions:

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
<b># of indeterminate positions</b>	2	2	2
<b># of indeterminate positions filled</b>	2	1	1
<b># of contractors based on region/dialect available</b>	9 Baffin dialect, 3 Kitikmeot, 3 Kivalliq for a total of 15 contracted interpreters	8 Baffin dialect, 3 Kitikmeot and 2 Kivalliq for a total 13 contracted interpreters	9 Baffin dialect, 2 Kitikmeot and 6 Kivalliq for a total 17 contracted interpreters

**Question 2: For the fiscal years mentioned above, what employment terms were utilized for the court interpreter positions within the department?**

The employment terms for the court interpreter/translator position have been consistent throughout each of the fiscal years noted. Court services has two indeterminate positions for court interpreter/translator. If an indeterminate court interpreter was unavailable due to illness or leave, a contractor court interpreter was hired.

In addition to this, if additional court interpreters were needed for court circuits, or an Iqaluit sittings, a contractor court interpreter was hired. For the fiscal year of 2016-17, courts services had two full-time indeterminate positions that were filled for the whole fiscal year. For the fiscal year of 2017-18, there was one full-time indeterminate position that was filled for the whole fiscal year while the other one position was filled until the court interpreter resigned in August 2019 for employment with another government agency. For the fiscal year of 2018-19, court services had one full-time indeterminate position that was filled until the court interpreter resigned in February 2019 for other employment within the Government of Nunavut. During the fiscal year of 2018-19, in addition to the indeterminate employee, court services was required to hire contract court interpreters for all court sittings.

**Question 3: For the fiscal years mentioned above, what was the rate of compensation utilized for the court interpreter positions within the department?**

Indeterminate positions for court interpreter/translator are salaried employees, evaluated at a pay range 15. Any person hired as a contract court interpreter was given a per sitting rate based on their qualifications or certification status. A certified court interpreter was given a rate of \$600.00 per sitting while a non-certified court interpreter was given a rate of \$450.00 per sitting.

**Question 4: How many years of experience, and what specific certifications, are required to work as a court interpreter for the department?**

For indeterminate court interpreter/translator positions the ideal candidate would have post-secondary interpreter/translator program, grade 12 education and three years of experience in providing simultaneous and consecutive interpreting or one year experience in court or legal setting as an interpreter/translator. A certified court interpreter would have completed the interpreter/translator 3-year program through Nunavut Arctic College (or the same program which was offered in Northwest Territories prior). A non-certified interpreter may be used, if their Inuktitut language skills are excellent but do not have a legal background, supported by a certified interpreter as a mentor, with permission from the Senior Chief Justice. Once the non-certified interpreter has been interpreting for the courts for some time, the Chief Justice may certify such an interpreter as a certified court interpreter for the courts.

**Question 5: What are the impacts of court interpreter staffing shortages on the proceedings of the Nunavut Court of Justice?**

Interpretation is imperative to ensure both constitutional and legal compliance, but also to ensure access to justice for Nunavummiut. If an interpreter is not booked for any sitting, this may cause a delay in the process due to the necessary interpretation required for both the courts and the public.

**Question 5a: In which communities or regions is court interpreter staffing the most challenging?**

Due to the low numbers of contract court interpreters in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq, coverage has been the most challenging in those regions. Specifically, court services are competing with other organizations to secure reliable interpreters. Despite the challenges faced due to the high demand for interpreters across the territory, court services have been consistent in providing clients and the courts translation services.

**Question 6: What has the department done, in chronological order, to address the shortage of court interpreter candidates?**

Each year, court services has actively sought to have students from the Nunavut Arctic College interpreter/translator program complete their practicums at the Nunavut Justice Centre. By completing their practicums at the Nunavut Justice Centre, they get the feel of working for court services and build a better understanding of the legal system.

It is the hope that in providing students with this experience, they are encouraged to pursue a career with the Department of Justice in Court Services.

Court services has been actively trying to recruit interpreters that have completed the interpreter/translator program. Attempts have been made to fill the positions by regularly posting them as restricted competitions. These positions have been posted three times in the last three years with limited success. As court services has been unable to successfully fill the indeterminate court interpreter/translator positions, there has been a requirement to rely on the contract interpreters available.

The interpreter/translator position was last posted in April of 2020 with a closing date of May 8, 2020. The results of the competition are currently unknown.



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

*Translation to Follow*

**Return to Written Question**

**Asked by:** John Main, MLA Arviat North – Whale Cove

**Asked of:** Hon. David Akeeagok  
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

**Number:** 68-5(2)

**Date:** March 12, 2020

**Subject:** GN Uranium Policy Statement

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**Question 1: When was the Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement officially released?**

In June 2012, the Government of Nunavut released a policy statement on uranium mining.

**Question 2: What consultation activities were conducted when the Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement was being prepared?**

The Government of Nunavut prepared the statement after a series of public uranium forums across the territory and commissioning an expert study of the regulatory and governance responsibilities related to uranium production as well as the key issues and concerns surrounding uranium development in the territory. In 2011, public forums on uranium were held in Iqaluit, Baker Lake and Cambridge Bay, representing each region. Each was a two-day event with information presented and opportunity for the public to ask questions orally and in written submissions to an expert panel. Some representatives from federal agencies were on hand to respond directly.

**Question 3: Does the Government have plans to revisit and/or revise the Uranium Policy Statement?**

At the present time, the Government of Nunavut has no plans to revisit or revise the policy statement. The principles remain largely the same and the policy is as applicable today as it was in 2012. The policy was developed through consideration informed by the expert committee and public consultation that was completed.

**Question 4: How does the Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement apply to the issue of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?**

Whereas the Statement outlines many principles related to the mining and development of uranium resources, the Statement also recognizes that uranium is subject to international agreements and national laws and that the Government of Nunavut supports the mandate and responsibilities of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. SMRs fall under the regulatory framework of the Commission. In principle, nuclear power generation will be an important part of global strategies for ensuring energy supplies while reducing reliance on greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels. The Government of Nunavut is confident that Canadian law and international agreements provide a reasonable level of assurance that uranium mined in Canada will be used for peaceful purposes, such as energy generation.

**Question 5: Is there a process or avenue in place for Nunavut residents to inquire and/or provide suggestions on the Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement?**

GN Policy Statements are revised from time to time and on an as needed basis. The Uranium Policy Statement is an open document available from the EDT website at <https://gov.nu.ca/economic-development-and-transportation/documents/uranium-policy-statement>. Nunavut residents who would like to inquire or provide suggestions on this or any other matters of concern related to the resource sector may contact my department staff, Natalie O'Grady, Avatiliriniq Coordinator, at 867-975-7805, or through the GN website at <https://gov.nu.ca/contact-us>.