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**Thursday, October 22, 2020**

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**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*

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(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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Human Resources*

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(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Immigration;  
Minister responsible for Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
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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**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

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(Aivilik)

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

**Calvin Pedersen**  
(Kugluktuk)

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

**Hon. David Joanasiq**  
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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	6325
Ministers' Statements .....	6325
Members' Statements .....	6328
Oral Questions.....	6331
Tabling of Documents .....	6355
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills .....	6355
First Reading of Bills .....	6356
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	6358
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	6382
Orders of the Day .....	6383

**A.**

**Daily References**

Thursday, October 22, 2020 .....6325

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

476 – 5(2): Remote Learning with Edsby Student Online Learning Platform (Joanasie) .....6325

477 – 5(2): Mould Remediation (Savikataaq) .....6326

478 – 5(2): Shop Nunavut Campaign (Akeeagok) .....6326

479 – 5(2): WSCC Support to Employees during COVID-19 (Hickes) .....6327

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

711 – 5(2): Housing Needs (Qirngnuq) .....6328

712 – 5(2): Apprentices for Housing in Igloolik and Sanirajak (Kaernerik) .....6328

713 – 5(2): Infrastructure Needs of Whale Cove (Main) .....6329

714 – 5(2): Appreciation to Becky Han (Akeeagok) .....6330

715 – 5(2): Congratulations to Peter Tapatai (Simailak) .....6330

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

991 – 5(2): Human Resources Management in the Public Service (Angnakak) .....6331

992 – 5(2): Preparing for the Second Wave of COVID-19 (Qirngnuq) .....6333

993 – 5(2): Climate Change Incentive Programs (Lightstone) .....6335

994 – 5(2): Infrastructure Needs of Whale Cove (Main) .....6337

995 – 5(2): Driver's Licences (Rumbolt) .....6339

996 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities and Expenditures (Simailak) .....6341

997 – 5(2): Laboratory Facilities in Nunavut (Pedersen) .....6343

998 – 5(2): Driver’s Licences (Qamaniq).....	6345
999 – 5(2): Sanirajak School Facility (Kaernerk) .....	6347
1000 – 5(2): QEC Human Resources Management (Angnakak) .....	6349
1001 – 5(2): Basic Income Program for Nunavut Feasibility Study (Main) .....	6350
1002 – 5(2): Second Wave of COVID-19 (Simailak) .....	6352
1003 – 5(2): ShopNunavut Campaign (Main).....	6353

**E.**

**Tabling of Documents**

300 – 5(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Taloyoak (Qirngnuq).....	6355
301 – 5(2): Correspondence Concerning Net Metering Program (Lightstone).....	6355

**F.**

**Motions**

088 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period (Angnakak) .....	6347
---	------

**G.**

**Bills**

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act – Notice .....	6355
Bill 52 – Nunavut Petroleum Products Commission Act – First Reading .....	6356
Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act – First Reading .....	6356
Bill 54 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – First Reading .....	6356
Bill 57 – Tobacco and Smoking Act – First Reading.....	6356
Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First Reading.....	6357
Bill 56 – Liquor Tax Act – First Reading.....	6357
Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act – First Reading .....	6357

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Nunavut Housing Corporation –

Consideration in Committee .....6358

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Education – Consideration in Committee 6364

**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Thursday, October 22, 2020****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa)

(interpretation): Good day. Can you say the opening prayer, please, Member Qirngnuq.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Let's proceed. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 476 – 5(2):  
Remote Learning with Edsby  
Student Online Learning Platform**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding education.

Mr. Speaker, since March the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges to the Department of Education. One of them was making sure students could continue learning even if schools were closed.

Mr. Speaker, since the spring my department has had time to learn from this experience and prepare in the event that an active case of COVID-19 arrives in a community. As part of my department's plans to ensure that learning can continue to happen even if schools are closed, I am pleased to announce that this fall we will be piloting the use of an online learning platform called Edsby.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Edsby is a comprehensive digital learning system designed to support both in-class and remote learning. Its easy-to-use interface, which is similar to other social media sites, is intended for students from kindergarten to grade 12, teachers, and parents. It can be accessed from almost any digital device, such as a laptop, a tablet, or even a smartphone.

Mr. Speaker, just like the many schools throughout Canada already using Edsby, if a Nunavut school needs to be closed, this online platform will enable our teachers to provide lesson materials and a way to communicate with students and parents through an Internet connection.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the challenges that students, parents, and school staff have had over the past several months. With this new online platform we are providing a resource that can be used quickly and easily during this pandemic, while also providing an education tool for future distance learning opportunities and classroom support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** *Qujannamiik*, Minister of Education. (interpretation) I apologize

for my earlier mistake. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 477 – 5(2):  
Mould Remediation**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, any issue relating to the health and safety of our housing units is something we take very seriously, which is why the Nunavut Housing Corporation has positioned itself to fight mould as never before.

Mr. Speaker, to date the Nunavut Housing Corporation has remediated more than 147 units in 19 communities. We have trained employees in all 25 local housing organizations to remediate mould. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has spent \$24.1 million in this effort. Mr. Speaker, this is only the beginning. Over the next six years the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends to remediate an additional 246 units at a cost of \$30.7 million.

Mr. Speaker, to the public housing tenants who have mould in their units, I ask them to call their local housing organizations and let them know immediately. Please do not delay; do it today.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation understands that mould is not acceptable. Progress feels slow, but the Nunavut Housing Corporation remains committed to a future in which we have remediated every single instance of mould in our

public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 478 – 5(2):  
ShopNunavut Campaign**

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department's ShopNunavut social media campaign was launched in July 2020 to promote spending in Nunavut and support the local economy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This campaign brings awareness and inspiration to Nunavummiut to shop locally.

Since the shop.nu website went live on October 1, there has been a steady growth across all social media channels. Monthly themes focused on local travelling, food, and handmade arts and crafts.

This week our ShopNunavut campaign is undergoing an extra push, inviting Nunavummiut to shop locally, especially during Small Business Week, October 18 to 24.

There will be a promotion and sale of ShopNunavut boxes, filled with locally made products. Businesses that carry Nunavut products will be featured and promoted for holiday shopping. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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



Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 479 – 5(2):  
WSCC Support to Employees  
during COVID-19**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to highlight some of the work the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is doing to support employers and workers in Nunavut during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission acted swiftly to put in place financial relief measures for employers who were unable to make their assessment payments. These measures extended the deadline for the first instalment of 2020 assessment payments to August 1 and gave valuable time to employers to adjust their payroll estimates and make their payments later in the year without facing any late payment penalties.

Mr. Speaker and members, many businesses that have remained open or have successfully reopened during the pandemic are continuing to do so with the support of the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer working in partnership with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

To date Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission staff have provided direct assistance to hundreds of Nunavut employers through outreach and inspections to help them to develop their pandemic exposure control plans and to put practical solutions in place.

Many employers and industry organizations have proactively reached out to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission for this assistance, showing the commitment that many Nunavut employers have to keeping their staff and customers safe.

As other parts of Canada see their COVID case numbers rising, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission remains committed to working collaboratively with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer and local businesses to review their plans regularly to make sure they are prepared and to continue to provide support as needed to protect the health and safety of workers, clients, and customers.

Mr. Speaker and members, there are a number of great resources available on the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission website. I strongly encourage any business that has questions about how to do a risk assessment or put a plan in place to look to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's website for guidance or to get in touch with their local Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission representative.

Finally, Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to recognize the contributions of three outgoing members of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Governance Council: David Tucker, Abe Thiel, and Jack Rowe. I would like to thank the members for their service and important work overseeing the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and representing the interests of workers, employers, and the general public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Member Qirngnuq.

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

#### **Member's Statement 711 – 5(2): Housing Needs**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Netsilik and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again address the issue of housing needs in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House over a dozen times over the past two years to address the lack of housing in the communities that I represent.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that there is never enough funding available to meet all of our needs, and we all know that there is a limit to what can be done with the resources that we do have.

Mr. Speaker, information that is publicly available from the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that a total of 30 new public housing units are planned to be constructed in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although we need more, this is a good start.

Mr. Speaker, when we are in Committee of the Whole later today, I will be

seeking confirmation from the minister that this plan is on track.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to my attention about the need for vacant units in the communities to be repaired and there are concerns about the need for shelter for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be tabling correspondence that I have received on these issues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Kaernerck.

#### **Member's Statement 712 – 5(2): Apprentices for Housing in Igloolik and Sanirajak**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride in the housing associations in Igloolik and Sanirajak. They're going to be holding a (interpretation ends) journeyman's and apprenticeship (interpretation) course. I don't know those terms in Inuktitut. I want to say how proud I am of Mathias Ivalu from Igloolik who was chosen for the journeyman training, an Inuk.

In Sanirajak, I am proud of a young person; Skylar Issigaitok. You are probably at work, but I am very proud of you. Continue doing what you're doing and I encourage you as young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing

me to express my pride to these two people in Igloolik and Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Quttiktuq. Member Main.

**Member's Statement 713 – 5(2):  
Infrastructure Needs of Whale  
Cove**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat and Whale Cove, as well as to my colleagues.

Today I want to speak about the communities and how our capital assets are a real benefit and of course infrastructure is something that is of real need in our communities, especially the smaller communities. In the Whale Cove area, the concerns and desires they've had for infrastructure is why I am rising today.

I think it was yesterday that Nunavut Tunngavik tabled a report at their meeting in regard to the infrastructure needs of the communities. I haven't thoroughly read the report myself, but I read a bit of a transcript from the radio as well as through their press release. I would like to say that the story was about, in English, (interpretation ends) "infrastructure inequality," (interpretation) as an example of inequalities amongst Canadian regions being there are some regions with full infrastructure related to needs while other regions face severe deficits.

I know I'll ask questions about three infrastructure requirements for Whale Cove. I will be asking my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services later with regard to the requirement for our new (interpretation ends) water treatment plant (interpretation) and that in the past few years we have had the need to maintain boil water advisories, and as a matter of fact, this advisory has seemingly continued for several years and the residents of Whale Cove have endured this and they would like to see an end to this practice that is quite problematic to the residents.

Also, a secondary item they really require is a proper dump, a new dump. Right now, the dump they have is located in close proximity to the ocean and many of the local fishermen fish in front of it and they also harvest beluga and this continues to be a concern.

The final infrastructure need required for Whale Cove is the (interpretation ends) CG&S public works workshop (interpretation) that's there in the community. It is not sufficient to meet the needs of the community as past photos I have submitted will show.

I know there needs to be an upgrade there and it needs to be overhauled. Those are going to be my questions at the appropriate time to the minister with regard to the requirements and deficits that are there in our infrastructure for the community of Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. My apologies. Member for Quttiktuq, followed by the Member for Baker Lake.

Member Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 714 – 5(2):  
Appreciation to Becky Han**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to give a huge thanks to Becky Han who in a single twitter pleaded for winter clothing donations for Inuujaq School students earlier this fall. This has triggered a very positive outcome and donations continue to pour in from all over North America. So far they've received over 600 children's books, brand-new snowsuits and random useful accessories.

Mr. Speaker, Becky's social media drew attention to actor Ryan Reynolds, who then asked Canada Goose producers and entrepreneurs and ITK to meet that challenge. On October 6 Ryan Reynolds and Canada Goose announced the donation of more than 300 Canada Goose parkas and Baffin footwear to outfit the students of Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay. Canada Goose also announced the expansion of its resource centre program with a commitment to donate thousands of repurposed parkas to arctic communities across Inuit Nunangat.

Mr. Speaker, Becky, who was a very quiet, shy girl, graduated from Inuujaq School and has now blossomed into the music world and is now giving back to the community and in fact to all of Inuit Nunangat. Please join me in thanking Becky and her dedication in helping others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are quite proud of her. I also listen to

her music and she sounds great.

Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 715 – 5(2):  
Congratulations to Peter Tapatai**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and to the people of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Peter Tapatai, on his well-deserved appointment to the Order of Nunavut.

>>Applause

I have had the honour of knowing Peter for many years and I am delighted to be able to say a few words about him today.

Mr. Speaker, your gracious announcement at our last sitting highlighted a number of Peter Tapatai's many accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, as you noted, Peter has been making significant contributions for many years in Baker Lake and for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Peter's public service has included appointments to a number of bodies, including the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As a businessman, his energy and drive is legendary as his commitment to the advancement of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I join the community of Baker Lake in celebrating this honour and I very much look forward to joining with you and my colleagues at a later date for Mr. Peter Tapatai's investiture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of Peter Tapatai.

Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I stated that there would be no visitors in the gallery. I do apologize for that. There will be visitors in the gallery sometime in the future. There are people sitting in the Chamber, but they are Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Let's proceed. Oral Questions. Before we proceed further, I wish to inform Nunavummiut that Member Towtongie will be away for the duration of our sitting due to medical reasons. Also, Ms. Nakashuk, the Member for Pangnirtung, is unable to arrive here due to weather. That's what I wanted to indicate.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Angnakak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 991 – 5(2): Human Resources Management in the Public Service

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As the minister will recall, he tabled the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Ethics Officer during last month's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, and in his annual

report the ethics officer made a number of important observations and recommendations.

The ethics officer indicated that "...employees of the Nunavut public service work in small communities and even smaller workplaces. Making a disclosure takes great courage and entails significant risk both in the workplace and in the community. (...) Most jurisdictions allow employees to make an internal disclosure, as is the case of Nunavut, but also allow employees to skip this step and make the disclosure directly to the relevant independent officer. (...) I suggest that the Legislative Assembly give serious consideration to the merits of such an approach."

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent idea and I'm wondering if the minister will commit to introducing a bill to make this a reality before the end of the current Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue I just recently introduced at the last meeting, which includes several recommendations that seem advantageous and which we should consider, and some of the options we need to consider as our colleague stated, we are looking at these issues, Mr. Speaker.

Further, after we conduct a careful review of the details that are required to implement this properly, if we will have

to develop legislation with an outline or if we need to develop a legislation package, these are the kinds of details currently under review. Once it is available, we will be able to present it for debate to the House at an appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. As for my next question, you touched on it a little bit, but as the minister is aware, a long-standing recommendation that I have made in this House on a number of occasions is the establishment of a new workplace wellness office that would have a mandate to focus on resolving workplace conflicts and fostering healthy interpersonal relationships. Can the minister describe what actions have been taken to establish this new office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question and I know she clearly understands the fact this body of the Department of Human Resources is new, and while developing these processes, we are also trying to review multiple issues that would have the most effective and efficient impacts, and to have the department provide the proper services to our employees so that they don't feel threatened. We have to streamline it and I could see the office having to deal with unusual challenges, but we are working with other

departments to determine how best to implement these changes within this new body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the government's return to work policy indicates that the GN has "a duty to accommodate employees who, as a consequence of disease, injury, or condition, become unable to perform the duties of their job. One of the elements of this policy is to conduct independent medical evaluations, which are defined in the policy as medical assessments of an individual's abilities and expected recovery from illness or injury performed by a specific health care provider other than the individual's own health care provider at the request of the employer."

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to my attention about the use of these evaluations during the current COVID-19 pandemic, as they often require employees to travel outside of our territory, which we are discouraging at this time. Will the minister commit to suspending the use of these examinations, except in circumstances where an employee's health requires that they be undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In cases where

employees can no longer work they require testing to determine whether their condition is permanent or if they will be able to remain on the job with the expectation that their condition will improve. Indeed, the member is correct that an employee requires a medical examination from a doctor who isn't their usual doctor. In cases like this, as northerners, we require travel down to southern locales to get independent examinations to determine whether we can work again or not.

With respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, when it first arrived in Canada, individuals were no longer able to travel, especially in the case of Nunavut residents. That being the case, it did result in problems with testing requirements with the travel ban, but today, with less restrictions on travel, there will be independent testing of employees who need to go through this process to ensure that they don't put themselves in danger, and other impacts it may have. We evaluate them separately because they need independent assessments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 992 – 5(2): Preparing for the Second Wave of COVID-19**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health concerning the second wave of the coronavirus.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are all under pressure in these difficult times

with the worldwide pandemic affecting everyone. Mr. Speaker, our health care workers work hard to support our health and welfare, not just during the COVID-19 pandemic, but always.

As the second wave of the virus is spreading across the world, we must be prepared. Can the minister tell us what specific new or additional preparations are being made to prepare our health care workers and our communities for the possibility of COVID-19 second wave hitting our communities?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for highlighting the importance of our health care workers and the job that they're doing under extreme circumstances right now. Many of our agency and contract nurses have extended their stays in the territory to help carry us through this. I hope all of our community members appreciate that and work with our health care staff.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important aspects of dealing with COVID-19 is testing capacity. We have been working to continue to increase the testing capacity and turnaround times in the territory, where we have a GeneXpert machine and a BioFire machine, both capable of doing testing not just for COVID-19 but other respiratory issues, such as pertussis and RSV, in Rankin Inlet and here in Iqaluit.

Because of the decrease in commercial flights, we have also put a pilot program here in the Baffin region to use charter

services to increase the turnaround times so that we can limit any spread of COVID-19 in the territory.

Those are two of the major accomplishments, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the adequate response to my first question. My next question is in regard to a question brought up earlier by my colleague.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Arviat North-Tikirarjuaq raised the issue of travel during the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased levels of concern about Nunavummiut who travel to and from the south.

Can the minister clarify what steps are being taken to ensure that Nunavummiut who need to travel for urgent medical attention will be able to do so and not risk having their care delayed due to the latest COVID-19 related travel restrictions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I really appreciate the member's line of questioning on this. When COVID first hit the world and then Canada, our jurisdictional partners had a lot of restrictions on what type of medical services were available. Now

that the services are being opened up, we are having to continue to deal with that backlog, but in conjunction with dealing with that backlog, some of our partner jurisdictions are going through hot zones, I guess is the term that's being used, where there's a spike in COVID cases bringing further concern. That's where the importance of these isolation hubs for our medical travellers and we prioritize medical travellers over non-essential travel for residents.

Again, as I had mentioned to the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, it is very important that people take into consideration their real need for travel going forward until there is treatment available or mitigation measures that we can continue to put in. I think it's very important to recognize the importance of attending your medical travel. I know there are risks associated with it, but sometimes those health risks for whatever treatment that our patients are going down to receive outweighs the risk for COVID-19 exposure.

I strongly encourage people to take some personal responsibility as well when they're travelling, to make sure that they're being very cognizant of what they're touching, who they're around, maintaining social distancing, maintaining hygiene, and we will continue to work with our medical travellers to make sure that they're that they're as safe as they can possibly be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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



minister for his good response on that important issue. This will be my last question I am going to ask, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In response to my colleague's questions regarding travel during this COVID-19 pandemic, the minister indicated that there may be some additional delays for travellers who need to stay at the isolation hubs before returning to Nunavut.

Can the minister elaborate further on how travel arrangements are set up to also take into account such factors as flight delays due to weather or the lack of space in isolation hubs?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some case-specific examples. If somebody were to be travelling, as an example, from Ottawa to here after spending the 14 days in isolation and the weather went out to their home community, it would still be safe for those residents to stay in a hotel or with family and friends here as they have already gone through the isolation.

Where the challenges come in is if the flight coming to the north, coming to Nunavut is cancelled or for weather or mechanical reasons and they would have to go back. We have had instances of that where they have had to go back to the isolation hub. We work with our contracted partners to make sure that there's room available and conditions to keep them within that isolation bubble so that they can get on the next available flight. We want to make sure that there's limited exposure outside the isolation hubs to the airport and until they actually

arrive in Nunavut.

We work very hard at all steps through the way to make sure that that safety net is there. Again, I had mentioned earlier some of the reduction in commercial flights has had an impact where people sometimes have to stay a little bit longer in the isolation hub, but those are, again, just measures that we have taken to keep our families and our communities safe. I really appreciate everyone's cooperation in those measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 993 – 5(2): Climate Change Incentive Programs**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and are in relation to a response to my written question, which I submitted in February of this year during the winter sitting on climate change incentive programs.

Mr. Speaker, I have lost count of the number of times I have spoken in this Assembly about the impact that climate change is having on our environment and how imperative it is for our generation to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

I believe that Nunavut's reliance on fossil fuels is an issue that the Government of Nunavut cannot tackle alone and will require cooperation of all Nunavummiut. It is for this reason that I was thrilled to read about the Climate

Change Secretariat's efforts to develop a business case for a clean energy program that will provide an incentive to access the Qulliq Energy Corporation's net metering program with the goal of increasing the number of renewable energy systems in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the net metering program is a great program, but it requires significant investment. The high cost to purchase, transport, and install renewable energy systems is a barrier to accessing the net metering program, which is why I was so happy to see the response in my written question about the incentive program.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the Minister of Environment is: what types of incentives are being considered?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct that it is a very expensive endeavour to change into renewable energy for homeowners. Through the Department of Environment, we have looked at incentives or ways of how we can help out, but we want to make sure that this program that is developed, and we're working on it, works for the people who are applying for it and works to reduce the greenhouse gas.

Mr. Speaker, we're looking at several different ways. We have not yet deemed it down to whether it should be a straight contribution towards the project or should it be maybe purchasing

equipment for the person. We're not sure how to tackle this yet, we're seeing the best way, because we did rough estimates and for someone to convert their house so they can take advantage of the net metering in a big way, the cost is very near \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I'm grateful to see that there is some progress being made and several options are being considered.

Mr. Speaker, many homeowners are ineligible to many GN programs due to their income eligibility thresholds. I would like to ask if the Climate Change Secretariat's incentive programs will also incorporate income eligibility thresholds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This layout of the program is still in its infancy, so we haven't looked at that, but we don't want this program to be out of reach of most Nunavummiut. I am aware that if you are a homeowner in Nunavut it's not cheap. The expenses are high to maintain a house and it is also expensive to buy a house. If there is an income threshold, it would be at a level to make sure that the people that should or need to access this program are eligible. We don't want to make a program that people can't access even if they want to.

We want to target the right audience for this program and that's why we're making sure that we're doing all the foot work to make sure this program comes out in a way that it will do what we intend it to do and it will target the clients we want to make sure that the program is used and people take advantage of this program.

Mr. Speaker, it would do no good to have a very good program and no one was eligible or very few were eligible, so we will do our best to make sure that this program will work for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister again for his response. I think it is important that no homeowner is excluded from this opportunity. It is unfortunate that the program is still in its infancy. I believe it would've been ideal if this was to be released in conjunction with the net metering program itself.

My last question is: when does the minister envision or hope to see this program roll out and will it roll out in time for homeowners to access it prior to the next sea lift season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hope to look at a program sometime next year. We are hoping to do

that. We want to make sure this program works and we'd have to apply for the funds. The funds from this program will be coming from the carbon tax funds that we have from the Department of Finance, so it's not an unlimited amount of funds. The funds that are there through the carbon tax are there to access for other departments, so we will be in queue with other departments, but we hope to have this rolled out next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 994 – 5(2): Infrastructure Needs of Whale Cove**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding capital projects.

First of all, I would like to thank him because our fuel tanks have been refilled in Whale Cove and we thank the minister for the new (interpretation ends) water treatment plant. (interpretation) We've been expecting it for quite a number of years and we have had very frequent boil water advisories since 2015 to this day. It is an inconvenience to the people of Whale Cove. Could you give us an update on the progress of the new water treatment plant and whether COVID-19 is impeding its progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased at the fact that they were able to fix the fuel pump problem in Whale Cove quickly after it failed. I also thank my colleague for identifying earlier the issue he wanted to pose questions on because it was helpful. Mr. Speaker, it is entirely true that Whale Cove has been forced to endure boil water advisories practically from the beginning of spring through to the fall season sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, the production schedule for this project has now been expedited so that the construction of Whale Cove's water treatment plant would begin in 2021, including the plan and design phase. It was originally scheduled for 2024, but we anticipate having it completed by 2023 and to have it categorized as an expedited construction project and to have the final installation complete because we prefer not to have boil water advisories for Whale Cove or anywhere else in Nunavut.

Nonetheless, this is what we are doing in this area, Mr. Speaker, and further, we do not anticipate COVID-19 slowing down the construction of this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I concur with this project being labelled as requiring expediting as everyone needs safe drinking water.

A secondary matter I want to raise is the local dump in Whale Cove. It requires further remediation or the construction

of a brand-new facility. The current waste facility isn't meeting the needs of the community as it stands now, and the minister sent a letter to regular members about the drafting and (interpretation ends) design (interpretation) during the upcoming year of 2021-22. What is the status of the dump for Whale Cove? When can they anticipate the start of construction of that facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dumps are categorized into three different areas which we use to refer to them, for example, (interpretation ends) bundle 1, bundle 2, and bundle 3, (interpretation) and Whale Cove is in bundle 3. The planning and design that our colleague referred to will need to be completed in those years, and once that phase has been completed, it will also identify the cost estimate of the design. Once the amount is identified, the department can table a request in the House to fund that project so that we can start construction on the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. The issue I wish to ask about in my final supplementary question relates to the regional facilities, such as those located in Whale Cove for their regional employees.

The building in Whale Cove is quite

dilapidated and on the verge of being a derelict building. I took photos of the (interpretation ends) public workshop (interpretation) and I tabled them in the House. It being an eyesore and unsightly, it doesn't even seem a place of work.

I have exchanged correspondence with the minister about that building. When are we going to renovate it or build a new facility such as this (interpretation ends) new public works workshop, (interpretation) or even repair it? The residents of Whale Cove have certain expectations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. I believe it was in 2013 when CG&S started construction on the water treatment system that was privately owned and it wasn't completed. Due to continuous high winds, blizzards, and inclement weather, it was destroyed to a point where it couldn't be repaired. I believe the ribbing or structure was too damaged.

There has been a follow-up study and I thank my colleague for highlighting this issue and advocating passionately to ensure that progress is made, and this allowed us to make some forward progress. This past summer we looked at the land and re-cemented. We looked at all the materials that were available and we brought up fabricated buildings on last ship. Construction of the building will commence in the spring and throughout the summer in Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 995 – 5(2): Driver's Licences**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by again thanking the minister for taking the time to visit Sanikiluaq recently.

However, as I am sure the minister will appreciate, I remain very concerned about the ongoing problems with the issuing of driver's licences and general identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's question period, the Premier acknowledged that the government is currently not able to accept applications for driver's licences or general identification cards from residents of Sanikiluaq.

As the minister is well aware, delays in the issuing of these critical documents have been occurring for some time, and the recent storm damage to the community has made a bad situation worse.

I will begin my questions by asking the minister to update me on the status of the equipment that is in Sanikiluaq to take photographs and process applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to thank the member for hosting me and my staff during our visit out to Sanikiluaq. That was a very welcoming community and I feel the pain for the loss of that critical building.

As for the question regarding the equipment, all the equipment that was there is all damaged and work is underway for our departments to replace them and we're working very closely with Community and Government Services to identify the space. Once we know where the space is, we will be delivering the equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information and it's very import to do this in a timely manner. My next question would be: can the minister provide an update on the timeline for restoring services to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is being handled as critical. It's all going to depend on when we get that space, if we get that space as early as possible, and then we will deliver that. Our aim right now is in the beginning of November to get the actual equipment over, provided that there is space that's allocated for the motor vehicles section. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To have up-to-date driver's licences and general identifications renewed is an ongoing need for the people of Sanikiluaq. For example, even with COVID-19 restrictions, we are required to travel out of territory for all medical purposes and the reason for that is because we have no connection to the rest of the territory. I would ask the minister: what options are currently available for those who have expired driver's licences and general identification cards to ensure not to interrupt their work or travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier mentioned, we can't physically get any of that service to take place right now. However, our department has been working very hard to try to get it through our website. Most Nunavummiut can now renew their driver's licences and general ID cards or vehicle registration online. This is very new that we're trying and it should be up and running by now, and it's something that later on during this House that I was going to stand up and make that announcement. I thank you for giving me that advance announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Kugluktuk.

Member Simailak.

**Question 996 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities and Expenditures**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and they concern the corporation's planning and expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today will touch on some good news and some bad news. I will start by asking about the good news.

As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is in the process of tendering for the much-needed new headquarters building in Baker Lake. The tender closes later this month. Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that it plans for full occupancy of the new building by the end of August 2022.

As the minister is aware, the QEC currently has 12 vacant positions in Baker Lake. I assume one of them is my former position there; I hope so. Can the minister clarify the extent to which of these vacant positions are the result of a lack of office space in the community and can she confirm that the completion of the QEC's new headquarters will allow for more positions to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

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

(interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. When it comes to the 12 vacant positions that are in Baker Lake at the headquarters office, the reason for the vacancy is not because of the office building itself. The member is correct; the Baker Lake office is slated for completion and for the staff to go in by August 2022. We're still on schedule and you're right; the tender has been reposted and shortly we will be able to announce who the tender will go to.

As for the positions that are vacant and updated, just a list of positions that are there:

- The purchasing officer, they're updating the job description;
- The billing clerk is currently filled by a temporary employee because the incumbent is on development leave;
- Leave and attendance coordinator, they're scheduling interviews as of today;
- Enterprise system specialist, incumbent has been seconded to the Government of Nunavut until November 2021;
- Staffing and recruitment officer, they're scheduling interviews for that position;
- Director of HR is now on hold;
- Manager of information technology, scheduling interviews;
- Internal auditor, the candidate was successful but has declined the position, so it will go out for re-advertisement;
- Contract administrator, competition is in appeal period currently;
- The service desk technician, the employee is on development leave;
- Senior ERP application support analysis, interview, reviewing the

qualifications, and we will be reposting the position; and

- The junior business analyst, the incumbent is on development assignment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her responses there. My next question concerns some bad news. As the minister is well aware, the toxic legacy of contaminated sites remains unresolved. A recent government publication indicates that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has "...identified 27 sites where the concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the soil exceed environmental standards. The majority of contamination of these sites occurred when the Northern Canada Power Commission was responsible for these areas. QEC has estimated that remediation would cost approximately \$39.0 million."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of Baker Lake's contaminated site and can she clarify what actions are being taken to ensure that the federal government accepts its responsibility for the cleanup costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

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

(interpretation ends) The Qulliq Energy Corporation did a comprehensive environmental assessment in 2010. Well, it started in 2010 and was completed in 2017 of all the contaminated sites across Nunavut. This included environmental delineation studies and created a remedial action plan.

As for the site in Baker Lake, pre-QEC, pre-Nunavut, as you stated, was with the NWT Power Corporation. We have been working diligently with the Hamlet of Baker Lake to ensure that the site is monitored. We have been contacting the federal government to ensure that they're responsible for the cleanup and we will continue to monitor the site so that it doesn't have any hazardous effects to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**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 her responses. I'm hoping we can come to a conclusion soon with a plan in place to remediate the site there. It's a prime location for development, but no one has been able to develop there all this time and there have been many concerns about the hydrocarbons that are leaching into our fresh water lake. There have been concerns about that, so I'm hoping we will be successful in getting that cleaned up sooner rather than later.

Mr. Speaker, my last question may be good news or bad news. It all depends on how the minister replies. As the minister will recall, she informed the Legislative Assembly at its last sitting



that the federal government had not approved the Qulliq Energy Corporation's application to the Arctic Energy Fund for assistance to construct the new Arctic Bay power plant. Can the minister confirm whether or not direct appropriations will be required from the Legislative Assembly to cover this cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Arctic Bay, unfortunately, we didn't get approval through the Arctic Energy Fund, but we have gone to the FMB and through the process to apply under the Qulliq Energy Corporation's debt fund. We haven't gone over the debt fund. There are still some funds available in there so that we can use the money to build our power plant, but because we didn't get Arctic Bay, we were able to use... . The approvals that we were seeking for Arctic Bay will actually go to Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Tununig/Pond Inlet. Member Pedersen.

### **Question 997 – 5(2): Laboratory Facilities in Nunavut**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, a concern has been brought to my attention regarding the process for getting blood test results in a timely manner. As the minister will be aware, when blood samples are taken from a patient, they must be sent out to be analyzed. I have been given to understand that in many cases the time it takes for the blood to arrive at the lab is often too long and the samples become unusable.

Can the minister clarify the current process for blood testing in Nunavut and indicate whether he is aware of the problems with the delayed transportation of blood samples? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has come to my attention in the past and there have been a number of different reasons, I guess. When a blood sample is taken, again, depending upon what type of sampling or what type of lab testing is needed for that sample of what they're testing for, there are different categories. It would go to Cambridge Bay, then down to Yellowknife and sometimes even down to Edmonton from the member's community.

One of the issues that we have had and have worked very diligently with our contractors with the airline industry to make sure that proper containers and proper prioritization of those samples are being sent out in a timely fashion. We have encountered with the COVID situation of a reduction in flights which has hindered that. We are working with all of our partners to make sure that what

processes or what availability of transportation is being utilized. It is an inconvenience and it's more than an inconvenience; it puts people at further risk.

We realize how important this is and we are working with all the stages from when the sample is taken to when flight availability is, to time everything properly so that we can make sure that those tests are done in a timely fashion. To me it's unacceptable that people have to go back and get further testing or further blood work done. Waiting for results even longer is stressful for people, so we acknowledge that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having to rely on testing facilities outside of our jurisdiction can become very costly as well as being time-consuming, meaning medical patients may have to wait a long time to get their results and move forward with the appropriate treatment for their condition.

Can the minister describe what consideration has been given to setting up appropriate blood testing facilities in Nunavut, perhaps even working with such entities as the Nunavut Research Institute or the CHARs facility in Cambridge Bay if our regional health facilities do not have the necessary infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have some lab capabilities in the territory, as the member mentioned, like trichinosis. We partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut research centre to get testing done on animals. It's a whole different ballgame when we're talking about testing human samples. There's a whole different level of scrutiny and training and the technical aspects of it.

Again, there are some testing capabilities depending upon what tests are being done in territory and we work to expedite those. It's the ones we have to send out of territory that become more complicated, but we're continually working with partners and the member brings up some good ideas of potential partnerships that we will continue to explore. I thank the member for the suggestion. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for your response. Mr. Speaker, during our recent sitting, there was much discussion of COVID-19 related initiatives. One of those initiatives was to enhance air charter services which could quickly pick up and transport swabs and other samples to the appropriate lab for testing.

Will the minister commit to looking into providing similar fast-track transportation services for blood samples and other material such as water samples, or harvested animal tissues which need to be shipped for testing in a

time sensitive manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate where the member is going. As I had mentioned earlier, the pilot program that we had here in Baffin on using charter services to move swabs and samples around, and we are looking at rolling that out across the other two regions as well in the very near future, we are just fine tuning a few things. With regard to using other samples such as blood work or any other tissue samples or anything like that for that same service, where available, if we do have a charter going in, that would be something that we could definitely follow-up with my health officials on.

As far as going to a charter service for samples, I would have to really talk to my officials on the feasibility and the volume of that to make sure that, as the member knows, it is quite expensive to charter a plane. If the turnaround time when we talk of COVID, two or three days can make a difference to potentially dozens, if not hundreds of people impacted by COVID-19, where depending upon what the tests are being done for, whether that two or three day difference would be dramatic enough to make that type of expenditure, it would have to be really strongly evaluated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Qamaniq.

### **Question 998 – 5(2): Driver’s Licences**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I am not the Member for Niaqunngu. I am the Member for Tununiq. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow residents of Tununiq and to my colleagues. Good afternoon to you all.

I will be directing my question to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. It is similar to a question that was asked by the member from Sanikiluaq earlier. In my constituency, in November 2018, there were individuals that were selected to receive instruction on how to get a certain class of their driver’s licence. There were individuals that were being taught how to get a licence.

Today I can say there are still some interested individuals who would like to get their licences, yet are unable to. I had heard recently that there were going to be major improvements made to allow the public to get their driver’s licence. In November 2018 it was brought up. I’m wondering, minister: is it too late for them? Has the time lapsed where they’re expired in order to get their licence now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. My apologies, Member for Tununiq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t think there is any delay or any lapse in time that will occur. They will still be able to get their licences. I know that there is a lot of time that passes and people wait patiently to get them. We have

government liaison officers. They can still go through them. They can also call the office here in Iqaluit. I'm not too sure why the situation is the way it is, but you can certainly give them a call. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister for the responding to my question. I think my constituents hear that they can call for further information.

Now the passports that people apply for are issued from the federal government, but they also require a photograph as a part of the application process. My constituents of Tununig often have to pay for their airfare and hotel costs so that they can go get their photographs taken in order to apply for the passports as part of the process. This is happening in my constituency.

I am wondering: can the minister provide me with an update on the government providing equipment to allow the constituents in my area to get their photographs taken for passports so that the passports that they require to travel abroad will become easier? I know that there is equipment available in Iqaluit that people can easily access here, but I am wondering if you can look into that idea for my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can certainly look into this. I can agree to look into that with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation regarding the photographic equipment that we have. Often many clients are not happy with the outcome using this equipment. The federal government deals with the application process, so those are the challenges that we have. It's not our government doing this. It's a different level of government that has to provide the service. Our employees within the government are looking into reviewing this and trying to find ways to alleviate the issues that are surrounding this so that in the future we can have that equipment available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing that information. Many of us require this type of information to help us move along in our life so that we can proceed with things that we need to get done. As you stated, the federal government has to provide the service. For the smaller isolated communities, money is so limited, yet they end up having to use their own funds to travel to a larger centre, which is very expensive, to ensure that they have such a simple thing as a photograph to get an application going. There is no photographic equipment available in the smaller communities and it is a requirement of the federal government. It's quite astonishing, so I agree with you that there is a definite need to have

more resources made available for the smaller communities.

I would perhaps like to ask the minister: can you ensure that you proceed from your office regarding this type of equipment so they can be made readily available to the isolated smaller communities and even as a possible business venture? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can absolutely look into that concern with the federal government and to also submit a request on this file. I believe we have submitted requests in this regard, but I can commit to looking into this issue.

However, I completely agree with your assessment that the federal government also must fund the maintenance of shared facilities and at this time more improvements seem to have surfaced, though they are still quite delayed. I agree with you regarding this area, as the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to serve all communities regardless of their size here in our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period... Ms. Angnakak.

#### **Motion 088 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move,

seconded by the Member for Hudson Bay that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Kaernerik.

#### **Question 999 – 5(2): Sanirajak School Facility**

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

This is specific information I would like about my constituency of Sanirajak and the local school. Has the department received quarterly submissions on attendance figures from the community? Are there any figures or rates? That's my first question to the minister. Do you now have access to attendance figures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question. The schools have not sent those figures as of yet, though they register the attendance, and staff also follow up with the schools to check on the figures. However, at this time I don't

have the most current figures. We are anticipating them in the near future, but I cannot specify as to exactly when I will receive those figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I usually ask about attendance figures as it impacts a school in terms of potential renovations or replacement schools, and primarily because our local principal in Sanirajak provided a tour of the kindergarten rooms where there are over 30 students. He also stated that next year an additional 30 students are anticipated in kindergarten.

I believe the DEA prepared a plan to allow kindergarten students to take all-day classes. The school in Sanirajak is now too small to accommodate this kind of exponential growth. I would like to urge the minister, along with his colleague, the Minister of CGS, to discuss this urgently. Where are you now in terms of planning for a replacement school in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank him for his question. Mr. Speaker, for all capital project reviews, a Nunavut-wide component is included and further, the total number of our schools is quite high at over 40.

To use Igloolik as an example, the school required several years of planning prior to the commencement of work, and further, we conduct continual reviews of the (interpretation ends) utilization rate (interpretation) as well as when the school was initially constructed, the age of the school and what the condition rating is. For example, if the school is rated to be in poor condition, it may require renovations or perhaps a replacement school. There are three main categories we use.

However, we also have different plans in place with CGS, and at this time I cannot state where the school plans for Sanirajak are. In this year we know that Sakku School requires replacement as part of the plans, and the francophone school also needs replacement in the future. We need to look at next year when other school replacement issues crop up. There may be more urgent issues we may also face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, when the school year began for 2020-21, much ado was made about health and safety reasons related to the questions we now must answer.

Let me provide my own example. The principal also showed me a room they use which doesn't even qualify as a (interpretation ends) classroom, (interpretation) as it is the cooking area or kitchen converted to a room due to the lack of space, and it is used as a classroom.

This is what I am trying to convey to the bureaucracy of this government: Sanirajak is also a hamlet with needs. If you look at the census numbers, the population is also increasing, and we now have a population of over 950 residents. As I just stated earlier, there were 30 new kindergarten students taking classes.

When conducting your capital planning I would ask that you please taking into consideration, though this is not a question, in which year it will be possible to build an addition. What is your plan now for Sanirajak's school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I just quickly read over the information in front of me, my numbers, so to speak. As an example, the school in Sanirajak stands at an (interpretation ends) 88 percent utilization rate, (interpretation) as it is called, but other schools are in front with higher percentages and (interpretation ends) utilization rates.

(interpretation) However, in looking at my numbers, it states that in the year 2018-19 the attendance rates in Sanirajak were roughly at 49 percent. It's a low number, so we will need to consider all the factors related specifically to the kindergarten classes. If they're in school all day, we would need to incorporate that into the plans also.

There are different areas to consider, but presently with its status and our planning

process, it is not highlighted as a priority and it may fall into the next grouping of communities that receive new schools in the next three or four years. I can look further into the needs and discuss it in detail with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1000 – 5(2): QEC Human Resources Management**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister will recall, I have raised a number of concerns regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation's human resources management, including its policies regarding overtime for Iqaluit-based employees who are required to travel to other communities to conduct equipment repairs and replacement. Can the minister indicate what specific actions she has taken to address any of these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. I have been working with our president, Jamie Flaherty, on this issue and I still have no updates for you at this

time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind the minister, this was and still continues to be a really big issue. In fact the QEC is losing employees because of that, so I would encourage the minister to make that her priority and it would be something I would be asking for again in the near future.

It is my understanding that a number of human resources management functions at the Qulliq Energy Corporation have recently been assumed by the Government of Nunavut. Can the minister confirm the current status of human resources management at the Qulliq Energy Corporation; and if there have been changes, can she explain why the changes were made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. She is correct; the Government of Nunavut along with the Qulliq Energy Corporation are reviewing the Human Resource Manual and the policies and procedures of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's HR department. At this time I can't state why this is being done, but I can talk to you privately regarding the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I again remind the members to refrain from using the words "he" and "she." That would be preferable in this House.

(interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Last month the government suddenly announced the appointment of an acting president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Can the minister clarify the circumstances of the former president's departure and can she confirm the process that will be used to recruit a new president? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The hiring of the president is the same as the hiring of a deputy minister, and that falls under the Premier under Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1001 – 5(2): Basic Income Program for Nunavut Feasibility Study**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise to ask questions of the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see



requests for proposals issued in September titled “The Feasibility Study: Guaranteed Basic Income for Nunavut.” Mr. Speaker, this is a topic that I have raised in the House. It’s a topic that is being discussed quite a lot nationally and so I’m very pleased that the department has made a move towards at least considering this idea. I would like to quote briefly from the request for proposals here.

“There is a need for a long-term, simplified and sustainable solution to providing financial supports to those most in need, while not creating a disincentive to participate in the economy.” Further on it says, “This RFP is expected to provide a comprehensive feasibility analysis and recommendations on how a guaranteed basic income program could be designed and implemented in Nunavut.”

I am exciting about this request for proposals that went out and it has now closed. It closed on October 9. My first question for the minister is: has the contract been awarded and to whom? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am excited to having this reviewed too and it’s one that I’m looking forward to the report. Right now it has not been awarded. Our senior management will be reviewing and going through the proposals as early as next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned, this is a topic of discussion at the national level as well, as well as within some provincial jurisdictions. My next question for the minister is: has the department had any preliminary discussions with federal partners or other provinces and territories about this guaranteed basic income initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister for Family Services, Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is an ongoing federal-provincial-territorial agenda item in terms of guaranteed basic income. Throughout the years different versions have been looked at and been reviewed and in some cases, some provinces have tried to implement, but it’s something that we’re very interested in.

Our uniqueness is that when we talk about guaranteed basic income is almost very different from other jurisdictions because typically here in Nunavut we have the income assistance and also we have the public/social housing and our power rates. All those are usually under the care of the government. There’s almost a different dialogue when it comes to having discussions with the guaranteed basic income through different jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I agree that we are unique part of Canada and not just in terms of the government's programs but also unique in terms of the culture within Nunavut. I was happy to see in the RFP it makes reference to analysis and recommendations on how and why a guaranteed basic income program would better support harvesters and hunters and how a guaranteed basic income program would better support seasonal workers, artisans, and parents. I guess I should try not to be too excited or too optimistic, Mr. Speaker.

My final question on this RFP is there is a final report that's expected to be provided no later than December 31, 2021, which I realize extends beyond the life of this government, but I would like to ask the minister for a commitment that the final report coming out of this contract, should it be issued, will be tabled in the Assembly. Will the minister commit to tabling the final report, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me as acting minister. It's very difficult for me as acting to commit to something that our minister would under this review. In all likelihood that would more likely be tabled, but I can't commit right now. We need to have a look at this and see what the government will be able to

table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

### **Question 1002 – 5(2): Second Wave of COVID-19**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question here is for the Minister of Health.

Due to the second wave of the coronavirus, there are a lot of my constituents and I'm sure the rest of Nunavummiut are weary about heading south to Ottawa, Winnipeg, or Edmonton for medical appointments. I was wondering if the minister and his department are looking at sending patients to safer zones, such as Yellowknife, especially for the simpler appointments such as birthing babies, seeing the eye doctor or ear doctor, allergy testing, the things that can be done outside of the bigger cities of Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Edmonton. By doing this, we would avoid our constituents from having to isolate and it would ease our minds a bit. I was wondering: is the department looking at alternatives such as Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we continue to explore different alternatives. We have used Stanton Hospital, as an example, for numerous procedures and health care, but they have limited capacity as well too. They have to deal with their own population as well. We have also looked

into Churchill, as we have a bubble with Churchill right now for the Kivalliq region, to be able to expand some of the services there and are working with our jurisdictional partners, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the Stanton Hospital as well too.

Again, we're always trying to find ways to expedite or avoid the isolation process where available. Like I had mentioned in one of my earlier responses, I truly have faith in the systems that we're putting in place. Our boarding homes are doing an exceptional job keeping our medical travellers safe. The processes that we're putting in place with the isolation hubs, although uncomfortable, are, as I'm sure all of us can acknowledge, necessary, but we will continue to work with our jurisdictional partners to make sure, where we can avoid isolation, we will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1003 – 5(2): ShopNunavut Campaign**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and it concerns his minister's statement of today.

Mr. Speaker, the minister statement mentioned the ShopNunavut campaign and he mentioned that the campaign brings awareness and inspiration to Nunavummiut to shop locally.

Mr. Speaker, as a frequent business traveller to here to Iqaluit, I can't help

but notice the long lines of people standing around waiting for something. I'm not quite sure what they're waiting for, but I heard through the grape vine that there's this website called Amazon and that people apparently shop for things like laundry detergent, pampers, and some of them even groceries.

My first question for the minister is: is this ShopNunavut campaign aimed at encouraging people to shop less online from the retailers that don't employ people in Nunavut, that don't pay property taxes in Nunavut, that don't honestly really contribute much to the local economy at all and choose the local stores, the local businesses, the local services in front of them? Is that part of what this campaign is aimed at? I'm looking for clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The website called Amazon; it is regrettable that it's only available to Iqaluit and not to the rest of Nunavut.

For the ShopNunavut, it's designed to try to stimulate the local economy. It doesn't have to be in Iqaluit. It's designed for all of our Nunavut. As you know, with hardly anybody going into the hotels and the carvers that haven't been able to sell their products with [fewer] visitors, we're trying to find different ways of trying to continue that economy that's within the communities and trying to encourage them that those businesses in your communities are open and available. We're also trying to get those businesses to refocus so they look

within their own communities and see what kind of economy there is that they can help with their businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The minister's statement mentions that this is Small Business Week and I would like to applaud his department for all the support that they give small businesses across Nunavut.

My next question for the minister is: is there a measure or has the department received feedback from small businesses regarding the impact of online shopping on their revenue, not necessarily just Amazon but other online retailers who ship into Nunavut? (interpretation) 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 know if we have that level of detail in terms of the impacts it has on the local economy and the online portion. It's something that's interesting that I can definitely look into, but at this point I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) I look forward to hearing back what you find out.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from business owners that the impact on their revenue from increased online shopping has been negative, and I believe that's the case many jurisdictions and some jurisdictions have looked at measures such as surcharges or taxes to be levied on shipments of goods or companies that ship goods into their province or territory.

When he's looking into the impacts of online shopping on small businesses, can the minister also look into what avenues are available to provide a financial incentive to shop locally, to make sure that our small businesses are not getting pushed out of business by these massive global companies such as Amazon? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, definitely. In fact we were even looking at Canada Post, the rates themselves, when we were looking at specific businesses, such as the business that was starting up in Coral Harbour. If they wanted to continue being competitive, it was far better to be running operations out of Saskatoon because the postal rates alone were a lot cheaper to going from Coral Harbour to Grise Fiord versus Saskatchewan to Grise Fiord. Those are the business barriers that are happening here not just with Amazon but with our very own postal rates. We continue to try to advocate and look for ways to having our businesses have a competitive edge

within our territory and hopefully shipping to a larger market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed to No. 7. Written Questions. Let's proceed. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) No. 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) No. 11. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Qirngnuq.

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

#### **Tabled Document 300 – 5(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Taloyoak**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table in the House today correspondence that I recently received from the mayor of Taloyoak concerning housing issues facing the community. I encourage my colleagues to review the document with care. That's what I'm tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 301 – 5(2): Correspondence Concerning Net Metering Program**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I have been a strong advocate for renewable energy initiatives, which is why I'm pleased to

table today my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the status of the net metering program and the coming into force of the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this exchange contains useful information and I encourage all members to review it with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

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

#### **Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act – Notice**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 23, 2020, that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages 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. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) I think I made a mistake. There are none. No. 17. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills****Bill 52 – Nunavut Petroleum Products Commission Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Beach... .

>>Laughter

I'm sorry. Let me start that again.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 52, *Nunavut Petroleum Products Commission Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Minister for Tasiluk, that Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills.

(interpretation) Thank you. I apologize for overlooking the motion. Let me first go back to the Minister of Community and Government Services, as he made a motion. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. (interpretation) I will just continue with the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice (interpretation) and the motion she made. The motion was in order and is. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

**Bill 54 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Let's now proceed in a proper fashion. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

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

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 57 – Tobacco and Smoking Act – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 57,

*Tobacco and Smoking Act*, 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.

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

**Speaker**: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, 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.

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

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

**Bill 56 – Liquor Tax Act – First Reading**

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 56, *Liquor Tax Act*, 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.

**An Hon. Member**: Question.

**Speaker**: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow for Bill 58 to receive first reading today. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are no nays. (interpretation ends) Please proceed, Minister Kusugak.

**Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member**: Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 51 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:36 and  
Committee resumed at 16:06*

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

**Chairperson** (Ms. Angnakak): I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We wish to continue with the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital main estimates, followed by the Department of Education and the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 51?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2021-2022 – Nunavut Housing  
Corporation – Consideration in  
Committee**

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials to appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is the president of the housing corporation, Terry Audla. To my left is Ji Wing...Liu. Sorry.

>>*Laughter*

He's vice-president and CEO of the housing corporation. Sorry for that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Now, yesterday we left off, we were almost finished, we were on the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$48,485,000. In recognizing that we have two members who weren't able to be with us yesterday, I'm going to open the floor to them if they so wish to ask a question. Mr. Akoak.



**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yesterday Mr. Main was asking you questions on how some homeowners were selling their housing to either the Nunavut Housing Corporation or to other people. I wasn't quite clear on what you said by helping a homeowner get what the house is worth. How do you figure out how much the home is worth and does the homeowner get all of it before they transfer it over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, if you understand what I'm saying? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll elaborate on it a bit and then at the financial end of it, Mr. Audla will add to it.

Madam Chairperson, I would say it depends. If the housing corporation holds a mortgage, then that would be different than if they did not hold a mortgage. There's a difference right there first. When I was talking about it, we encourage these homeowners, whether it be someone that the mortgage is with the housing corporation or whether they outright own their old HAP house, for example, and they're elderly now and they can't afford to do the upkeep so they would like to turn it into public housing, we encourage them to try to do a local sell first. I am aware that in the small communities the price of a home, the value is mainly what the seller wants and what the buyer is willing to pay. There is no real private housing market in the small communities other than Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. In the bigger communities there is a slight one, but it's not a real private

market. We encourage them to try to sell it first. If they can't, then we work with them to turn it over into public housing.

As for the financial aspects of it, if I can have Mr. Audla comment on that. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Premier is correct in encouraging private sale at a local level. First they have to deplete the local market. We encourage it be for a 90-day period so that it gives an opportunity outside of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to be able to buy if they wanted to. It's also advised to the seller to do it in that way because they're more than likely to make a bigger profit off the sale. If they can't find anyone locally, then we work with the homeowner to look at how much it's actually worth. We send in a district person to go over the house and look at the actual assessed value. We do the assessment and typically it's less than the private market price if there was a private deal within that community. We do try to encourage a private market sale. If not then we pay basically what the materials costed, what it costed to put it up and then we work with the seller to see if we can accommodate them within that same household as public housing tenants when we finally do take it over. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In a small community you

know it's really hard to sell a house to a highest bidder. Private companies usually try and buy a building at the lowest and they will do that, and it's been done that way in small communities. I think we all know that.

I think it would be a lot better if the Nunavut housing would buy the building from the homeowner just because they can't afford to keep up to the bills because of no more income. Their income is too low. So I'm wondering if it is possible when a private company is trying to buy it dirt cheap that Nunavut Housing Corporation, if they do find out, that they would take over the selling of the property just to help the Nunavummiut that cannot afford to look after the home. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are legal matters in there. I don't know if we can interfere if a homeowner who legally owns the house wants to sell it to someone other than the housing corp., but we also had another member yesterday comment on the houses should be sold locally before housing corporation gets a chance to get it back so we can have more private housing and less public housing. I don't know if we could actually stop a homeowner from not selling their house to an agreed price even if it is low. I'll have Mr. Audla just comment on that, Madam Chairperson. If Mr. Audla could comment on that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Nunavut Housing Corporation would try and encourage the seller, the homeowner to do a private sale, but if they feel that the potential buyer is offering too low, they are more than welcome to turn to us to see what we would assess it at. That way we can figure out what we would, as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, pay for it.

Normally and typically on average, what we offer is usually less than the private market sale, but there may be instances where private companies may try and take advantage of the seller and then it would have to be up to the seller to determine whether or not they feel that the price is adequate. If not, then they can turn to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for an assessed value based on our own assessment. I hope that helps. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Do you have any figures on how many homeowners did sell their home because they could not afford to keep it? Are there any numbers that you can give us to show us that maybe there is something that we need to do? Maybe the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to buy it, and other people that may want to own a home will buy it from Nunavut Housing, like a HAP house, but already built. Are there any numbers that you can give us? Thank you. That's my final.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm not sure about on the ones that are sold, but Mr. Audla did state yesterday, but on the average it is 16 houses a year that are turned back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation from people who can't afford or don't want to or can't maintain or are having trouble maintaining their houses. So on average it is 16 houses a year. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. That was it from Mr. Akoak. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon, colleagues. My apologies; it took me a long time to get here. The weather just would not cooperate, and the airlines.

I would like to ask this question and I have asked the Nunavut Housing Corporation this same question a number of times. When houses are being constructed these days they are vandalized a lot more often and there is of course more mould in the newer houses than the older units. I have asked this question a number of times to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make sure that they study the land lots very carefully. Some of the mould happens from the foundation of the buildings. Whenever the foundation is not built properly it causes mould damage. I just want to make sure that land lots are studied properly. All buildings are built on piles drilled into the ground. They used to be built by putting gravel on the land and then putting pads on it, but with the drilled piles it seems they are causing more mould. Has this been studied? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Whenever the housing corporation is going to be building new units they work with the local hamlets. They ask the hamlet where the lots are going to be. Also, some of them are put on piles and some of them use (interpretation ends) space frames. (interpretation) Whenever there is mould in the unit it is not usually because of the foundation. If there is too much moisture inside the unit and insufficient air exchange, then that causes mould and they are being corrected. All the five-plexes are being worked on every year to remediate mould problems, so they are renovated to prevent mould. We are aware that new units are getting mouldy, and some of the older units too.

We want to make sure that the people of Nunavut do not live in mouldy homes. We will keep working on it. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the minister for the response. As many have experienced, a lot of buildings built today tend to have cracks up to the roofline in the interior, and in many cases, the shifting is not caused by the outside temperatures, but by the foundations that are settling and causing the ceilings to separate from the frame and this can only be due to the foundation.

I believe this requires further research, especially when they are building new

units and the foundations. The locations on bedrock are not an issue, nor are steeper inclines with metal piles. However, it seems to largely be buildings on flat areas that may have sand or gravel underfoot as the permafrost may be melting, especially when they drill pilings into the ground.

It must cause melting in the permafrost, as it is due to shifting of the foundation caused by the frost and thaw cycles that causes this shifting. This is why I believe more research needs to be done as units are now built in all sorts of lots, some situated in flat areas while others are on bedrock.

It is the units that are built on sand with metal piles that seem to suffer the most shifting, so I am wondering what type of research substantiated where you build houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, with respect to the units using metal piles, I know in some places due to the foundation issues, warmth can be transferred to the permafrost, as I have seen actual units where one side ends up higher than the other side. This usually occurs on units with no space frames.

I am not sure if there is any research that substantiated what we use, but Mr. Audla could share more information with regard to the foundation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we are working closely with hamlets in each community to see and figure out the types of foundations that we are using.

We are using the newest methods that are available to us and when there is a planning phase, we do review and research what the best possible ways are to put-up the buildings that we have in our communities. I also want you to know that Community and Government Services and the hamlets are there to help guide us on what the best builds are that we can have available for Nunavut in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, you have the floor.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am grateful you can recognize me again. I want to ask a very brief question because I want to get a better understanding. As you know, there is a tremendous shortage of houses in our communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation with the planning that was submitted for 2021-22, for that year that you have identified the priorities you have and within the seven communities are units that have allocations for that year.

Yet, there is also reference to the eleventh community that was supposed to get an allocation but was not provided units. I would like to ask about this eleventh community that was supposed to receive five-plexes in fiscal year 2021-22, which is coming into effect this coming winter.

What about the eighth, ninth or tenth placed communities? What is their status? I hope that was understandable. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Today I signed an agreement as to why that is the case and I can tell you briefly that in some instances some of the decisions that were made were because of the fires that shifted priorities where immediate replacements were needed.

However, Mr. Audla can provide more details on how the decisions were made with respect to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla** (interpretation): Thank you. The communities that were identified used existing processes that are clearly outlined by the NHC. Nonetheless, I would advise the member that this process will be undergoing a review that will include recommendations and communities that are not allocated units for long periods.

With respect to how we can improve the distribution of housing units equitably so that communities don't wait for interminable periods, and prices keep rising with respect to the construction costs. I also would like to inform the member that we anticipate the completion of the report in the springtime. Hopefully I responded properly? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I thank you as well. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that response. Yes, I can get a better picture now of the plans that you have with respect to communities facing severe housing shortages and in facing the homelessness challenges. It is also obvious that many communities share this housing shortage.

The other factors related to this shortage are the life cycles of housing units with many that are quite old, with damages done while the units are empty, as I also just received a letter last week about the units in one of my constituency communities, although it didn't specify the units.

Will the replacements also be considered where residents without housing possibilities live, as funding for renovations of existing units could also help alleviate our challenges? Hopefully I was understandable. That is my comment, Madam, Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, if I understand clearly with regard to the Nunavut housing units, when a tenant is asked to move out and renovations need to be done.

If the renovation does not require major work, we are finding that if there is a unit or units that require further work beyond the scope of the physical reality than we know that sometimes we have to wait replace windows for example, so we have to wait longer in order to put

them up to standard.

If the work is going to be too beyond their ability, then we have to contract them out as well so that the housing authorities will not need to take on that responsibility. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Okay, that completes that section. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$48,485,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Can I ask Mr. Savikataaq for your closing comments, please?

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to thank the members for being patient with me as I have not had this file for too long, and that they were very understanding in my responses and answers to them. I thank them for being very interested in keeping us on our toes to make sure our budgets are used appropriately.

I know we have a housing crisis and I would love to make more houses every year if we just had more money. It is an issue and I will keep on working to try to get more federal funding to make more houses within Nunavut so that there can be more houses built in Nunavut to alleviate the crisis that we are having in

housing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I thank you too. (interpretation ends) I would ask everybody just to stay in their seats, the regular members, while we get set up for the next department, the Department of Education. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the officials out, please. I almost forget that every single time. You would be locked in there. Thank you.

### **Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Okay, we are set up. Now I would like to ask Minister Joanasié: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Good afternoon, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I thank you as well. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. For the record, Minister Joanasié, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and to my left is our Manager of Capital Planning at the Department of

Education, Barry Cornthwaite. I also wish to warmly welcome an official who is here with us and is now my (interpretation ends) associate DM (interpretation) for the Department of Education, please welcome Rebecca Hainnu.

>> *Applause*

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Education's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates which total \$35,180,000.

The 45 schools across Nunavut represent a significant capital investment and commitment to education. Our schools host 9,750 students from kindergarten to grade 12, with 1,816 in the Kitikmeot region, 3,102 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,832 in the Qikiqtani region.

Madam Chairperson, the following are the capital projects that we propose to continue during the 2021-22 fiscal year:

- The Sakku School renovation and addition project in Coral Harbour. The construction phase of this project will begin in 2021-22. The project will give Coral Harbour access to a healthy and code-compliant building and a large gym.
- Iqaluit's École des Trois-Soleils addition project. The construction phase of this project will begin in 2021-22. The school addition will eliminate the need for shared spaces at Aqsarniit Middle School and Inuksuk High School.
- Taloyoak's Netsilik School will begin the design phase in 2021-22. The new design for the high school

will eliminate the current overcrowding at the school.

- (interpretation ends) My department will be upgrading various information technology infrastructure projects. There is a need to replace or repair intrusion alarms, closed circuit televisions, paging systems, and telephone systems. There is also an additional need to replace Internet-capable devices, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART Boards, and printers, to ensure they are capable of working with current software.
- My department will continue with its ongoing lifecycle repairs. Lifecycle items include major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units. These components require periodic repairs or replacement if they have met or exceeded their intended lifespan.

Madam Chairperson, the Department of Education's 2021-22 capital budget allows us to prioritize our capital projects in collaboration with the Department of Community and Government Services. Additionally, this budget also prepares us for needed repairs or replacements, enabling us to minimize any potential impacts to the delivery of school programs.

Madam Chairperson, my department has various small capital projects which will continue in 2021-22. This budget not only covers projects that are often health and safety related but also small projects, such as wheelchair ramps, chairlifts, and mould remediation.

Lastly, each year we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2021-22 we will continue to prioritize the busing needs from across the territory.

(interpretation) Madam Chairperson, I look forward to your questions, comments, and analysis as we review the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2021-22. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Does the co-chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

The Department of Education's proposed capital estimates for 2021-22 include funding for three community-specific projects as well as four budget line items which will provide funding to meet various Nunavut-wide capital needs for ongoing maintenance issues, school buses, and information technology during the '21-22 fiscal year.

The Sakku School renovation project in Coral Harbour has been included in a number of previous capital planning documents. One of the issues identified with respect to the current school condition has been dampness and mould due to the accumulation of groundwater beneath the building. The standing committee encourages the minister to work closely with his counterpart in the

Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that this situation is consistently monitored.

The addition to the Trois-Soleils French school in Iqaluit will provide additional classroom space as well as gym space and relieve the demand for space in other Iqaluit schools. Standing committee members have been given to understand that the project will also include a daycare which was contingent upon federal funding contribution to the project. It is not clear whether the daycare will only be accessible to the francophone population of Iqaluit or open to all parents, given the great demand for child care spaces in the community.

Madam Chairperson, departmental representatives have indicated that the prioritization of school-related capital projects is most often based on school utilization rates which take into account such factors as student enrolments, attendance rates, and existing school capacity. Members look forward to reviewing updated school utilization rate data as it has been noted that some communities have experienced ongoing utilization rates of well over 85 percent for several years but have yet to be identified within the five-year capital plan for school addition or replacement projects. Members have further noted that despite utilization rate data indicating that school usage is below the 85 percent threshold, some schools have consistently experienced overcrowding and are forced to use such spaces as closets, kitchens, and libraries as classrooms or to relocate classes to other schools within the same community.

The standing committee notes that the



current capital estimates documentation indicates that a new school will be built in Taloyoak whereas earlier documentation indicated that an addition to the current school had been recommended. It is not clear how such decisions are finalized and what specific criteria are used to make those decisions. In addition, members note a lack of information on what capital standards are being set for new projects and how these standards will prepare schools to meet the future, specifically in addressing such needs as full-day kindergarten classes or kitchens and cafeterias suitable to deliver food programs in schools.

Madam Chairperson, the Department of Education's capital plan again includes four budget line items for the upcoming fiscal year: small capital, ongoing lifecycle, buses, and IT infrastructure. Members recognize the department's need to allocate funding for the ongoing maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure, as well as for the upgrading of equipment which is old or out of date.

Madam Chairperson, the standing committee acknowledges that different communities face different challenges with respect to providing busing services. One issue that has been raised on a number of occasions is the lack of storage for buses to protect them from the elements or from vandalism. It has been suggested that consideration be given to changing the scope of this line item to allow for the construction of bus storage infrastructure or garages in those communities which have identified the need.

Madam Chairperson, computer

technology is a standard tool in the delivery of education programs with Internet access becoming a critical factor. The current COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new challenges to the delivery of education programs across our communities and the availability of devices to enable students and educators to access programming is a concern. Members note that federal funding has also been allocated to address needs in this area and would appreciate an update on how the respective funds are being allocated.

Madam Chairperson, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I'm going to open up the floor for general comments. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister, welcome, along with your officials.

(interpretation ends) I just wanted to make two general comments. The first is on how our problems as a territory when it comes to school attendance, how I think or I feel that those problems with attendance are hiding the fact that many of our schools are much too small relative to the size of the community. I'm concerned that if we have success in increasing attendance rates and deal with that crisis in terms of getting children into school more, then we will be faced with a different crisis, which is space and capital related. That's my first comment.

I am concerned that we may be facing a big crunch in terms of capital needs in education. The real danger there is if we increase attendance and then we can't quickly provide adequate spaces for the students to learn in, it's going to be very difficult to maintain those higher attendance rates because a school that's too small is uncomfortable for the staff, for the children, and for the students and it's kind of a self-defeating cycle if we have overcrowded schools. I would like to encourage the department to take that into consideration and when you're coming forward for capital funds, be aggressive in requesting money to address that.

The second area I wanted to comment on is the area of school food programs. That's something that we have been voicing support for, for a number of years and I think it's no secret that there are far too many children who go to school hungry. If it's something that we can do, offer more food programs and better resourced food programs in terms of the capital, the kitchens that schools prepare food in, I think that's an opportunity for us to maybe increase attendance through better food programs as well as achieve better outcomes in terms of health by helping reduce hunger of our students across Nunavut. Those are two general comments.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you too. (interpretation ends) Would Minister Joanasie, do you want to respond to him right now, to Mr. Main? No.

Any more people? Anybody else? Okay. Corporate Services. Education.

Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. I've got to put my glasses on. \$35,180,000. Who would like to ask? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon to the minister and his officials.

I'm going to start with a question from the opening comments. On page 4 you talked about your budget for various small capital projects and you mention mould remediation. Then in the chairman's or the co-chairman's opening comments on page 1 he talked about the Coral Harbour's school with mould issues.

I am wondering if you could inform us today if there are any other schools throughout Nunavut that have mould issues and if so which communities they are. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before I pass it to the minister for his response, I would like to ask if members could let me know if you want to ask questions beforehand. I'd like to know that so that I don't miss anybody. Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. For our small capital we try to address issues that are identified through the school. Once those are identified, such as if it is a mould issue, as it relates to health and safety, we try to address those on a priority basis. In terms of how many of our schools have mould issues; I'm not too sure of the details. If I can have Mr. Cornthwaite elaborate on that, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Currently the only school that we are doing any type of remediation is the elementary school in Igloolik. The school in Coral Harbour has no presence of mould. We have a monitoring system that's constantly monitoring the air in Coral Harbour every day. We look at those reports and there's been no mould in the school in Coral Harbour. Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Cornthwaite. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The other part of my question was whether or not there's mould in other schools throughout Nunavut, and if so, which schools are having issues with mould. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm sorry. I assumed that answered the question. The only school that has mould in that we are dealing with is the elementary school in Igloolik. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Cornthwaite. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you for that clarification. My next questions are going to be around school buses. Looking at your substantiation sheet, it says for the schedule "The department reviews all bus requirements at the beginning of each fiscal year." I'll just try and compare it to fire truck

replacements, for example, with Community and Government Services. They maintain a list of communities with a year that they're scheduled to be replaced. Does the Department of Education maintain a similar list or is it just a case by case annually as schools request? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe we do have a similar list that states what year a bus... how old it is, so we do have that. That helps us to prioritize going forward which communities are in greater need. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I stated, Community and Government Services provides that exact same kind of list for fire trucks in their substantiation sheets, and I think it would be good for the committee if the same thing could be done for the bus replacement where when we receive this we could see where the buses are going each year, which will lead me to my next question. With the bus budget this year, where will the new buses be going? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With our busing budget, it is \$280,000 a year, which typically we are able to purchase two buses a year using that fund. For 2020, the DEAs in Kinngait and Naujaat have requested and have received buses. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just for clarification: that is for this year? Like, last year's budget these are the communities that are receiving buses this year? If so, which communities are assigned to get buses out of this year's budget? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies; I think we will have Mr. Cornthwaite respond, however we do have Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven... . No, I think that is something separate. I will have Mr. Cornthwaite respond, Madam Chairperson. Thanks.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Currently we have no requests from any DEAs for new buses in the Nunavut territory at this time. That means in the spring we will be reviewing our list and any buses that are 10 years or older, we will be contacting the community regarding replacement of those buses. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. You stated earlier that you do maintain a list for bus replacement by year. Is it possible the minister could commit to providing that listing to us in the near future? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we could provide the committee with that list of our busing fleet in the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When it comes to the ownership of the buses, does the Department of Education own all of the school buses throughout the north, or some of the contracts in different communities the buses are part of the contractor's responsibility? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My apologies for the delay. The member is right; we have several different ways where we deliver busing services in the territory. Some are contracted out completely to the private sector, some are done through the DEAs, or some are done through the municipality.

In terms of ownership, I am advised that the buses in Baker Lake, Arviat and Iqaluit are owned privately. All else are assets of the government. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, on your substantiation sheet for buses on page 2, it says under costs "The approximate cost them at cost of buses are between \$95,000 and \$125,000." And it goes on to say "Departmental vehicles range from prices between \$40,000 and

\$60,000.” Is your departmental vehicle replacement part of the bus budget as well? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Before I answer this question, I will go back to the last one and add that Rankin Inlet does have a privately owned bus as well.

In terms of his last question, yes the \$280,000 includes our budget for departmental vehicles. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. So your budget is \$280,000 for buses and departmental vehicles. Do you feel that this budget is sufficient to adequately replace buses and vehicles each year, or are we falling behind with the replacement of buses especially? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think if any... (interpretation) Can you hear me clearly? (interpretation ends) Any budget we always need extra funds for any of our programming or service that the department delivers. I will just share too that I think it was in the last year or two when the coalition of district education authorities held their annual general meeting, I went to meet with them and they were really pushing on the busing, so that is one area that we have tried to keep mindful around how we can support DEA's in having more buses in the territory.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When it comes to busing our children, safety is a big issue throughout the territory and we need to make sure our children are safe. I will maybe request from the minister if he could get some kind of analysis together on the condition of their buses and replacements needed. How many buses would you need tomorrow in order to have safe buses throughout the territory? If he could get that back to the committee at a future date, that would be appreciated. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that consideration. We will look into that and provide some details around that.

I just want to note that I think one of the issues around maintenance is a huge part of getting buses up and running, as well as finding drivers. It's one thing to have and purchase the bus, but the other part is operating it, so I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will just have one last question. Again it is around the school bus issue, but more about storage. With the ongoing concerns have been raised about the need for storage or garage facilities for school buses to keep them safe from vandalism and bad weather, what kind of challenges are faced by

communities that lack bus storage facilities and how does the department help to ensure bus storage needs are met? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we have received a few requests for bus storage or a garage and we understand that is a concern or an issue that DEAs or some communities face, trying to find storage that would house a bus. Especially around the winter times that as well for safety. Whether it's vandalism or... . Some requests have pointed out around wildlife being a threat, so I am going to get Mr. Cornthwaite to add on to this, but we try to look at all the factors that go into bus storage and I believe sometimes there are arrangements made where a bus is stored at a certain area of town. There's surveillance, for example, but I'll let Mr. Cornthwaite elaborate, if you will allow, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the minister is correct; we work with municipalities as well as local enterprises to help secure storage for the schools and where there is an actual storage facility, we look for a location inside the community, typically near the RCMP housing units, where the buses can stay inside and that they have been safe there to date. We're currently working also with Community and Government Services to see when they do garages in the community that they can consider space for our buses. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Next person on my list is

Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister and associates or officials, I'm glad you guys are here, especially Rebecca, my niece's mother.

Minister, a quick question about your opening remarks there, I've just got a quick question with regard to your small capital projects. You mentioned wheelchair ramps, chairlifts, and mould remediation. Is there anything that needs to be done for other students who may have some impairments like vision or hearing impairments? Has it been already known if it's needed and will you be able to include that in these small projects? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. Through our student support program, we do offer support for students if they have either visual or hearing impairments and those types of things through our operations and maintenance program. Those are looked at through that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, for your response. Regarding your major renovations and whatnot, projects, I'm wondering how you go about determining what kinds of renovations are required or should be done. If I can go back the last 12 years with Baker Lake as an example, we've got an operating mine there and I don't think

there really isn't any capacity or infrastructure to provide other training like trades training, perhaps, carpentry or anything with trades.

If I can quote from an old movie, a cult classic, *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come." If we, perhaps, put facilities geared towards stuff like trades training, we can help improve school attendance. I was wondering if anything like that is put into consideration or is actually being planned on incorporating with your major renovation projects. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Could I get clarification on his question? Is he asking if our schools can have a trades training school? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Simailak, please clarify your question.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Sorry for the confusion there, minister. No, I'm just wondering, for your major renovations, if you can incorporate like trades training capacity, but include that with your major renovations to include them into the schools. We've got operating mines in all three regions now and I think it's time the schools start shifting more towards trades training at the high school level so that we can get them going in a very worthwhile career. Are you looking at incorporating those in your renovation projects? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for the clarification. Can you hold on a second?

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The career technology study space; that is dedicated for more hands on learning, and of course there is the Sanatuliqsarvik in Rankin Inlet, and of course that is post-secondary, but for our secondary school purposes, if we are doing a major renovation or a complete new school, those aspects, I think there is always an opportunity for training locally. Yeah, I would be open to trying to get those opportunities more out into the communities as much as possible. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you finished? (interpretation ends) Okay. The next person on my list is Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have many questions, but the first one is on the opening comments of the minister about Taloyoak's new school. The design phase will start in 2021-22. There was a comment from one of my colleagues about something on page 2. I will read the English, Madam Chairperson, so that I am understood. (interpretation ends) "The standing committee notes that the current capital estimate documentation indicates that a new school will be built in Taloyoak, whereas earlier documentation indicated that an addition to the current school has been recommended. It is not clear how such decisions are finalized and what specific criteria are used to make those decisions."

(interpretation) Just hearing those words,

I want to make sure that the construction of the whole new school will not be stopped. That is my question for the minister. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Yes, thank you. Are you able to hear me? We have been looking at Taloyoak to see what we can do. Can everyone hear me? My apologies. Can you hear me now? Can everyone hear me? You can't hear me? I can't hear myself. We made a lot of considerations about Taloyoak to see if it will be renovated or if a whole new school would be built. It became obvious that Taloyoak needs a brand-new school and that has been more favourable than anything else, in considering the price and everything. After careful consideration, that is the decision that was made, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson. I understand that now completely that the Department of Education is looking at building a brand-new school in Taloyoak.

To move on to something else, one of my colleagues asked a question earlier. In the Member for Hudson Bay's comments, he talked about schools that have mould problems. In 2018 I visited the school and spoke with the DEA. The older school there had been flooding inside the school a couple of times and when it gets warm, it starts to stink. Have you been notified about that? Can something be done about that in the old Taloyoak school? I wanted to ask about that, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson. I'm sorry that we are not aware about flooding that had happen in the school in Taloyoak. Small capital projects or ongoing lifecycle projects are put together. However, let me talk about this first. We have set up what is called a (interpretation ends) school emergency fund. (interpretation) We set aside \$450,000 for emergency or more critical work that needs to be done. We set aside that money for that purpose for emergency work, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson. When your department is going to be dealing with that, will you be communicating with the Taloyoak DEA about that issue? Now that you have heard of it, will you be able to do something about it soon? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson. We can check with the people who run the school to see what happened ever since they found out that there had been a flood. We work with the Department of Community and Government Services to make sure that schools run properly. I would have to look into this issue and get back to the member, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Would you



get information on the amount of work that is required? The coronavirus pandemic is affecting the whole world at this time. We want to make sure that if the coronavirus gets into the community or even the school, there would be support. Madam Chairperson, I would like to understand this clearly, hence my question and it's my last question. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. We look at things that need to be fixed right away. With COVID-19, if the work has to be done on a slower basis, we can look at that too, but we will have to check with the school first to see how much work needs to be done. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) I'm just trying to get Mr. Main's attention because he's on next. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The committee received a letter from the minister explaining... (interpretation ends) In your letter here dated October 15 it mentions that there are two projects that are in preplanning and consideration for a future capital plan. That's major renovation of Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay and major renovation of Nakasuk School in Iqaluit.

Last year we had heard from the minister that there were a number of other projects that have been prioritized for future consideration. What other projects have been prioritized for future consideration other than the Inuujaq School and Nakashuk School?

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. My department, we have submitted two schools for future consideration for preplanning and this includes Kimmirut Qaqqalik School as well as Kugluktuk High School. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. The Arviat Qitiqliq Middle School major renovation that was mentioned last year, where does that project currently sit in the order of priorities? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Please wait a moment.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I can have Mr. Cornthwaite maybe talk a bit about the question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Basically in preplanning in previous years we have submitted six schools, three based on condition and three based on utilization. When we put forward more schools this year for '21-'22, we were asked only to submit two. We weren't allowed to submit six. We

were asked because of capacity of the government, I can assume, so we only submitted two of those being Kugluktuk and Kimmirut, and unfortunately neither of them were approved for preplanning. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The ones that were mentioned, Qaqqalik School and Kugluktuk, neither of those were approved for preplanning. I just want clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, that's correct. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I'm concerned about this, I mean, the letter that the minister provided. Qitiqliq Middle School is actually the school I graduated high school from. It was last renovated in 1992. Your condition rating here has got it at 45 percent, which makes it one of the worst condition ratings in the territory. I'm hearing from the staff who work at that school that it's not very pleasant to work in a building that's in bad condition and it's bad for the students as well.

In terms of being able to execute more capital projects, what avenues do we have? Are there any avenues for the department to access additional capital funding from third parties such as what

we see with some other departments? Thinking of water needs, there are funding pots from the federal government. Is there anywhere else that the department has been looking or plans to look in terms of additional capital funds? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At this time we have no third party options as much as we would like to have that. We have been fortunate on the O&M side to get some federal funding related to COVID reopening plans, to get some funding related to that. I think some portion of that could be used around air handling units, for example, but in terms of building brand-new schools for the territory, it's typically and has always been under the jurisdiction of the territorial or provincial governments. If there are other opportunities that we're not mindful of, we would like to hear about them. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Maybe we should approach the CEO of Amazon. I heard that he's rolling in money and he's getting richer thanks to people from parts of this territory, but in all seriousness, it's very concerning that we don't have the funds to invest in our children's education.

I want to ask some questions about this Sakku School project. It's interesting, the plan to take these portable classrooms and convert them into a new

community learning centre that will be turned over to Nunavut Arctic College. How is this arrangement worked out and will Nunavut Arctic College be reimbursing the Department of Education for those classrooms or how is that arranged? It's a unique situation. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** If I can have Mr. Cornthwaite respond on that question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would also like to take the opportunity to clarify more things for the MLA that asked about the situations in Arviat. We recognize that the middle school in Arviat is in poor condition and we have an ongoing lifecycle budget. We have identified funds and sent a letter to the standing committee identifying money from the ongoing lifecycle budget to be used for the middle school in Arviat to replace countertops that are in very bad condition; the cabinetry in the classrooms as well as other conditions are being considered. Even though we don't have permission to do something through a major capital project, we did identify funds through ongoing lifecycle to address the severe issues that are currently present in the Arviat middle school.

Thank you. With regard to Sakku School, it is a unique project. We're working very closely with Nunavut Arctic College. They're also involved with the helping of the designing and

planning. Initially that was going to be modular construction for the CLC, but we found better usage of our funds to make it a stick structure. We're going to utilize more local labour in the project rather than bringing modular from the south. The CLC project is still part of the school project, and I believe there might be an "ask" for funds from Arctic College to help budget, but at this time there is sufficient budget. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) There's another aspect of this project I found interesting and it mentions it on page 2 of the substantiation sheet and it mentions the repurpose of the resource centre into a daycare. Just on that subject, how many of the schools that the department currently manages have a daycare attached to the building or part of the facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't think I have that information in front of me, but of course everybody knows that if we're building a new school, it does have a daycare in it. With that in mind, those constructed, the schools that are much older in fashion are less likely to have a daycare in them. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

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

Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I know that and unfortunately all three schools in my home community of Arviat don't have a daycare attached to them. The daycare in the community is run by a society, as with a lot of other facilities.

Given that we are not scheduled to get a new school any time soon or even a major renovation any time soon, how are daycares that are run separately from the school system, how are they expected to meet their capital needs if they want to add a classroom? If they want to build a shelter for their daycare bus like they run in Arviat, who do they approach on that? Is it the federal government, is it the territorial government? I'm just looking for information. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm not mindful of any actual proposals that have been put forth by any daycares to the department for capital, but I'm going to ask Ms. Okpik to dive into this matter if you will allow. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Previously we've not had any capital funds available for daycares. Through the contributions that we have right now, it is primarily for start-up and operations and maintenance.

A few years ago we did have a one-time funding available for safety upgrading that was available for all daycares across the territory. There was an issue though

getting local contractors to be able to assist daycares. That was a big learning thing for us that I think if we were to support daycares in the future, I think we would have to take a different look at how we would assist daycares.

Currently the only venue right now for additional daycares is through the building of schools. We have also in past approached different departments that if they are building other major buildings in the community, that they look at adding on a daycare. Nunavut Arctic College, for example, in previous years has added child care facilities.

The one thing to note about daycares that are in their own buildings, we fund them differently. For example, daycares that are in government run facilities or in a government building, they are not funded for things like water, sewage, garbage, those types of things, and power, where daycares that are in their own buildings would be given more money for operating expenses for example.

That is the only information I can offer right now around capital for daycares. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I would like to put forward as a suggestion to the minister for future years' consideration, and I feel kind of silly suggesting more things that you should take on given that you can't even get the preplanning approved for high schools or schools that are over capacity, but if you can reach out to the daycares across the territory and see if they would

have any interest, if they have any need for capital funds that could add an additional classroom, it could add a shelter for their bus, and that would be a suggestion. I would like to hear if the minister would be at all interested in looking at that. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madame Chairperson. I think this is something that we can take a look at in terms of... It might open up a greater, or a wider discussion around the entire daycare situation in the territory, but I think that is something that we can add to the discussion, no doubt. We will see how we can work our way through this and I will report back to the committee at some point with some more details. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I will move from daycare to kindergarten and the minister had provided some information, I believe it was about a year ago regarding potential to move to full-day kindergarten and it was a capital related discussion. Has a final decision been made on the full day kindergarten issue? Is it just not feasible at this time, or is it still a concept that is being studied? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's still under review and I do not have much more

details to share from when I last reported to the committee on this. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If it is still under review is there any timeline to finish the review, and maybe just to refresh my memory, what was the approximate capital estimate at that time to implement full day kindergarten across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will have to come back to him on timelines, but in terms of costing there is an estimate of 27 of the 45 schools. There is a need for \$16 million, and then there would be other whole and unrelated spending that comes with that to implement a full-day of kindergarten. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you minister for refreshing my memory and I look forward to hearing more on that topic. It is something that has been proven to benefit students; full-day of kindergarten in other jurisdictions.

My colleague, Mr. Simailak, was asking about trades-type of education. Does the department track how many of the schools have infrastructure and the space needed to deliver trades type of

education? It could be shop, it could be small engine repair, along those lines, and if so, if you do track it, how many of the schools have it? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am not mistaken I believe most, if not all schools have some component of trades that can be delivered in through our schools, but if I can have Mr. Cornthwaite add-on if you will allow, Mr. Chairperson, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) Sorry.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the minister is correct; all the schools that have middle school or high school curriculum have a career technology spaces in them, and when we are developing a new school or a major renovation of a school we consult heavily with the community to ensure the type of career and technology space meets with the needs and desires of the community. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you. If a community is getting a new school or they're getting a renovation, they can indicate an interest and say, "We would like to provide this type of...", is there a pot of funding or is the process in place for existing schools or schools that are old to upgrade their facilities to provide more trades type education or is there not enough demand for that type of thing? I'm thinking of

Baker Lake or Arviat or any other community that might be interested in acquiring equipment or changing that CTS space, the purpose of it. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe those can be looked at through our ongoing lifecycle budget. Of course the DEA would have to be on board and where it would be prioritized within that ongoing lifecycle budget process. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When you look at this ongoing lifecycle funding, it's not a lot of money when you look at the number of schools across the territory. What is the "ask" or what is the demand? Using the most recent fiscal year as an example, you're allocating \$6 million this year. Will that be enough to meet the demand for costs? \$6 million, what is the demand that comes forward from the DEAs or the schools for this type of work? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Well, we work with the budget that we're provided with. However, if we look at the number of schools we have, some might have a minor deficiency and some might have a larger deficiency. I believe, if I remember, a few years back, if we

needed all the money to address... I think, if I recall right, it was over in the hundreds of millions of dollars to do that. Right now we have, for this upcoming 2020-21, \$6 million that we're budgeting, but we have identified up to \$7 million that we could spend it easily within the year. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I think the final question I would like to ask is about the risk of fire. I know it's something we have discussed before here. My last question for the minister is: is the minister confident that security systems or alarm systems at the schools across Nunavut are being maintained to a high enough standard that the department is doing everything they can to protect against the risk of fire coming from outside or inside the building? I would hate to see another school burn down in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we're doing the best we can and on top of that, I think the education part is where...the most affected is on getting our youth, our children, ensure our community knows that it's best not to play with fire, especially around big buildings. I mean, don't play with fire at all. I think that's something that we need to continue that message.

In terms of our facilities having enough surveillance or safe measures to ensure

that there's no risk of fire, we're doing the best we can with the resources that we have and again, if there are suggestions or recommendations on how we can improve upon that, we would be open to have those brought forward. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** The next person on my list is Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, minister and staff. Earlier Mr. Rumbolt was asking about buses and the housing for buses. When he was asking what communities were getting buses this year, you replied back by saying Kinngait and Naujaat, but then you were corrected by Mr. Rumbolt. That was last year. What about for this year? You were starting to mention Kugaaruk or Gjoa Haven, but then you said that is a whole different area. Would that whole different area be maybe garages for the buses in those communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, it was Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven had requested assistance in providing bus services. So they do have buses, but they need support in getting the bus delivery going, whether it's either maintenance or they need a driver. I don't know what exactly those had to do with it, but I think Mr. Cornthwaite can add on if you allow, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Cornthwaite.

**Mr. Cornthwaite:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The minister is correct with

respect to those communities in what is meant is that they want a contractor to run the busing services in Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk. Currently Community and Government Services is doing a request for tender to see if we could find a service provider for those communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When you have no requests for buses, especially for this year, would you consider building housing for the buses in a community as a start because you are asking for \$280,000 for two buses? If you could build something out of that, that's a suggestion. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for the suggestion we'll consider that, and typically I think we normally look at replacing the older aged buses, but we'll see if this can be something that we can support within reason. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list. Corporate Services. Education. Total Capital Expenditures. \$35,180. \$35,180,000. Excuse me. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do we agree that the Department of Education is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Minister Joanasié, do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson and I thank all the members for their questions and concerns. We'll take some of the recommendations and items that agreed to report back on, and I thank everyone for their questions and comments. Again, thanks for my officials here that were supporting me today and especially to Ms. Hainnu for her first appearance with the committee. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Thank you very much. What is the wish of the committee? Oh, yes, before I do that, Mr. Joanasié, I have to... .

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you let his officials out, please. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I move to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Main. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Motion passed. Thank you. All rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Angnakak.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been



considering Bill 51 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keyootak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

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

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

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 23:

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

- Motion 86 – 5(2)

- Motion 87 – 5(2)

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 52

- Bill 53

- Bill 54

- Bill 55

- Bill 56

- Bill 57

- Bill 58

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

- Bill 51

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 Friday, October 23, 2020, at nine o'clock a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

