

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation; Minister
of Human Resources*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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Minister responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Community and Government
Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

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 Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible
for Nunavut Arctic College*

Calvin Pedersen
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 1, 2021**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeegok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good day. Before we proceed, can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Towtongie.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut. People of Igloodik and all Nunavummiut, please feel welcome to the sitting of your Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Let's proceed. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Akeegok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 554 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Public Service Annual Report

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to the effective and efficient management of the public service. I will be tabling and presenting the 2019-2020 Public Service Annual Report at the appropriate time.

The report captures the strategic and operational results of practising Piliriqatigiinni/ikajuqtigiinni (working together for a common cause). The report highlights initiatives focused on increasing Inuit employment, strengthening our human resource capacity, and improving the administration of the public service by enabling Government of Nunavut employees to bring their diverse talents, skills and energy as they deliver services to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the following are some of the highlights in the 2019-2020 Public Service Annual Report:

- Responding to COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to provide services to Nunavummiut;
- Positive progress delivering the Government of Nunavut's Master Inuit Employment Plan;

- Establishment of the Department of Human Resources;
- Development and launch of a new Government of Nunavut Employee and Family Assistance Program;
- Substance Abuse Expert Remote Counselling program specifically developed for the unique challenges of the territory;
- Increased the number of direct appointments of long-term casual employees to indeterminate;
- Continued success of our training and development programs for Inuit employees:
 - Amaaqtaarniq Education Leave Program;
 - Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program;
 - Policy Skills Development Program; and
 - Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.
- For the fourth time, the Government of Nunavut has been recognized as one of Canada's top and best employers for youth and for recent graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask all members to join me in acknowledgment of the outstanding contributions by our dedicated employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 555 – 5(2): Return of Polar Bear Pelts to Nunavut

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" and you are in my thoughts every day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I rise to provide an update. As you my colleagues know, the Department of Environment has facilitated the purchase and shipment of Nunavut furs since the 1990s. This provides an avenue for our harvesters to sell their furs and skins in their home communities. Purchased furs are then sent to Fur Harvesters Auction in North Bay, Ontario, to be sold. Harvesters are given an advance on the projected value of their fur, and when it is sold at auction, they receive the balance of the sale price.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years the global demand for polar bear hides has decreased significantly, which has driven down their price. There are approximately 300 hides at the Fur Harvesters Auction house, and only a small portion is expected to sell on the market.

As a result, my department has reclaimed all the hides that will not sell at auction. These hides will return to Nunavut, and harvesters who sold their hides through the department will be able to get their hide back if they repay the amount that they were advanced. If a harvester does not wish to buy back their hide, they do not need to repay the advance.

These remaining hides will be donated to non-profit organizations for projects or sold locally by the department in order to make clothing and other products.

By reclaiming the backlog of hides from Fur Harvesters Auction, we ensure that Nunavut polar bear hides do not degrade in quality simply to sit in storage.

Mr. Speaker, due to the low demand and low prices at auction, the Department of Environment encourages harvesters to sell their hides privately or to keep them for traditional use. Let's keep our traditions and culture sustainable, and use this global downturn to benefit our communities instead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 556 – 5(2): Healthy Children Initiative Funding for Early Childhood Programs

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, early childhood programs nourish the minds and bodies of our youngest Nunavummiut, preparing them for lifelong learning. These programs establish a space for children to learn through play, build a routine around eating healthy foods, and discover the world using all their senses.

Every year the Department of Education provides funding for these early childhood programs through the Healthy Children Initiative. This funding can be used to purchase healthy foods or early learning education supplies. It can also be used to hire supportive services so that there is one-on-one attention available for children who require extra care or support.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we want our youngest children to be healthy, creative, and confident in themselves. I encourage all licensed child care facilities and other eligible organizations who support early childhood development to apply for funding through the Healthy Children Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, information on how to apply to the Healthy Children Initiative can be found on my department's website. The deadline for funding applications is March 15, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickey.

Minister's Statement 557 – 5(2): Pre-Trades Training Program

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce an exciting new partnership between Nunavut Corrections and Qikiqtani Industry Limited, a 100 percent Inuit-owned subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

Mr. Speaker and members, under this partnership, Qikiqtani Industry Limited, with the support of Kakivak Association, will provide clients of Nunavut Corrections with 10 spaces in a new pre-trades training program. This training is being done in collaboration with the Nunavut Construction Corporation and Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker and members, the goal of this project is to build the skills of our clients in correctional facilities, help them to be job-ready prior to release, and increase the Inuit labour pool for skilled trades.

The 14-week program includes a combination of instructor-led classroom training with a practical development component on hands-on construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Corrections Division is continually working to provide clients with opportunities to learn new skills to better meet their own needs and the needs of their families upon release. Reintegrative programming such as this gives our clients pride while they are incarcerated and helps them bring valuable skills back to their communities upon release.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Qikiqtani Industry Limited for partnering with us on this exciting new program and I look forward to seeing the outcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 558 – 5(2): National Social Work Month

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Iqaluit and Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Yvonne, this one's for you.

Mr. Speaker, every March, individuals and organizations across Canada observe National Social Work Month in recognition of the meaningful contributions social workers make to the health, safety, and well-being of their communities. This year's theme is "Social Workers Are Essential."

Social workers are integral to the functioning of our communities. Our communities are only as strong as the families that contribute to them. Social workers provide support to

build and restore family structures. They are trained to work with individuals, families, and entire communities to address personal and systemic barriers.

Uqaqtitsijii, in this year, social workers throughout the territory have been in the frontlines engaging families in meaningful and significant ways in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and they continue to do so. Like many other essential workers in all sectors, social workers have worked tirelessly to ensure ongoing access to services during this unique public health crisis.

My department currently has 54 community social service workers across Nunavut, who are responsible for providing services for children and adults who require support and/or protection. They are mandated to provide these services as per the *Child and Family Services Act*, a piece of legislation that must be administered in accordance with several Inuit societal values, including Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, respecting others, relationships and caring for people; Aajiqatigiittiarniq, decision-making through discussion and consensus; and [Pijitsirniq], serving and providing for family and community.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is reflected throughout our work with families, through voluntary service agreements, plans of care, or other types of agreements. These agreements help families who need some sort of support; they are collaborative in nature and work to help families before more intrusive measures are needed. We also work to involve extended families and community members where possible in supporting children, youth, and families. This too is reflective of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

During National Social Work Month, my department will be launching a territory-wide campaign to highlight and appreciate the work that social workers do on multiple fronts. It is important to acknowledge the role our social workers play in Nunavut and highlight the important contributions they make in our territory. We will ensure that they too have enough supports to promote their well-being as they fulfill our vision for a caring community where all Nunavummiut thrive.

We are incredibly proud of their dedication, often in the face of insurmountable challenges. We would like to express our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and encourage others, especially our youth, to consider a career in this important field.

Uqaqtitsijii, National Social Work Month gives us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our social workers for everything they do. On behalf of my department, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our community social service workers and we wish them safety and good health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome. I wish to inform my colleagues that Mr. Lightstone and Mr. Qamaniq will be absent from the House today.

Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 803 – 5(2): Youth Hockey Initiatives

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to John Main, whom I believe was there the entire weekend, as the residents of Arviat are still in isolation. I also send my regards to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, on March 1, I stand here today for Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the National Hockey League Players Association Goals & Dreams program has been working for over two decades to bring joy of the sport to communities and youth. We all love hockey, except the Toronto Maple Leafs.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, information published by the association indicates that more than 80,000 children have been provided the opportunity to play the game of hockey in 34 countries. The National Hockey League Players Association Goals & Dreams Fund has donated more than \$25 million to help grow the game of hockey.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform the House that the National Hockey League Players Association recently teamed up with the Naujaat Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and community mental health to provide 25 sets of hockey equipment to the youth in that community.

Mr. Speaker, over two dozen young people in Naujaat will be benefiting from this initiative, which will contribute greatly to community wellness.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support initiatives like this, and I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the good work of these organizers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of the people of Naujaat. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 804 – 5(2): 2021 High School Graduates from Amittuq

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the residents of Amittuq and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the grade 12 graduates from Sanirajak. I will announce their names:

- Haily Arnaqjuaq
- Harry Gibbons
- Rose Panipakutsuk
- Ena Siakuluk

The possible graduates are Joshua Arnaqjuaq and Steven Gibbons. Those are going to be the grade 12 graduates in Sanirajak.

Mr. Speaker, I was also given names from my other constituency community. The 21 graduates from Igloolik are:

- Randy Ammaaq
- Donna Aqqiaruq
- Leoni Martha Arnatsiaq
- Lydia Arnatsiaq
- Daniel Attagutaluk
- Jessica Awa
- Jame Avaluardjuk
- Jona Haulli
- Apitak Inuksuk
- Diana Kalliraq
- Lennie Kangok
- Genova Maliki
- Jeniffer Tiffany Maliki
- Jocelyn Marney Maliki
- George Natar
- Ishmael Qamanirq
- Tanya Rose Tulugarjuk
- Teresa Tulugarjuk
- Jesse Ulajuruluk
- Gouchard Uttak
- Joseph Uttak

I wanted to rise to congratulate them, even though they might not be watching the proceedings in Igloolik. I am very proud that they will be completing their high school, and I encourage you to continue your education after high school, perhaps to the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program, increase your education for even further commendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of grade 12 graduates. Continue to achieve your goals as students. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 805 – 5(2): Arctic Inspiration Prize

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Taloyoak's hunters and trappers organization for their role in being awarded this year's Arctic Inspiration Prize of \$451,000 for the Niqihaqut project.

(interpretation ends) This project includes a sustainable and monitored harvest, as well as a cut-and-wrap facility to collect, prepare and distribute food to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations and express my appreciation to the manager of Taloyoak's HTO and Niqihaqut's project lead, Jimmy Oleekatalik.

Mr. Speaker, this project was submitted in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund Canada, and I want to acknowledge everyone who was involved in putting it together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating them on their achievement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of the initiatives for the purpose of helping your people. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 806 – 5(2): Vaccinations for COVID-19

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

Mr. Speaker, my statement today is on the COVID vaccine. I believe we have all heard about it as Nunavummiut.

First of all, I want to thank the Government of Nunavut. I very much want to thank our Premier and the Minister of Health for the arrival of vaccines in our community. Along with the federal government on behalf of my constituents, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the federal government who have prioritized Northerners, in particular Nunavummiut, and that is quite wise.

Mr. Speaker, in January vaccination injections began in Arviat and in Whale Cove. The last few months were very stressful and it was shortly afterwards that the vaccination process began in Arviat and Whale Cove. It was quite uplifting to see that personally, as it was like being in a long battle and when people were injected, they were recruited into

battling COVID-19, and in partnership with their communities, it was quite gratifying to see that.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to further encourage all residents who have not yet been inoculated with the vaccine throughout Nunavut, as this vaccine from Moderna based on my understanding has no side-effects nor does it contain any hazardous ingredients and it will provide much needed assistance.

Based on what I now know, COVID-19 is not to be trifled with, as it infects people in non-visible scopes, and it can infect you without any signs so even when people are not expecting it in the community, it may arrive suddenly. I urge all residents to be prepared, and if able, to volunteer for the vaccines, or to ask the nurses or the Department of Health questions about the vaccine if any.

Mr. Speaker, when I have the opportunity at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Member's Statement 807 – 5(2): Prayers from St. Jude's for Arviarmiut

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to Arviarmiut.

Mr. Speaker, this COVID-19 pandemic has been very hard on the residents and community of Arviat, as some are very stressed out, nonetheless, I would advise them that eventually, this COVID-19 virus will be overcome due to immunity and vaccinations.

However, at this time, I rise to voice our gratitude to Iqalungmiut, particularly to this group in English (interpretation ends) St. Jude's Praise and Worship team (interpretation) that provides services at the local church, as they held a hymnal and evening of prayer for Arviarmiut so I am immensely appreciative for their support. I wanted residents to know that they held prayers and sang hymns which were like a balm to many residents of Arviat.

>>*Applause*

And further, I extend this to all Nunavummiut whom I know are also offering prayers in support of the community and residents of Arviat, to be blessed with grace and to overcome this pandemic. As a matter of fact, this could possibly be the reason why those who are infected with COVID-19 haven't had too many serious cases, although it is causing hardships.

Nonetheless, this hardship will eventually be left behind so I want to particularly thank the church group who held a hymnal and evening of prayer for Arviat, and I too feel sympathy and empathize with all Arviarmiut as I am always thinking daily about our residents, however, I am unable to return home still and until the COVID-19 wave runs its course, so I thank all Nunavummiut who pray for Arviarmiut on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Akeegok.

Member's Statement 808 – 5(2): Youth Hockey Program in Arctic Bay for Coaching

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been three days already since Willy and the family began hockey program in Arctic Bay. The hockey school is taken very positively by the youth and the youth have a lot of willingness to improve their hockey game. This past year we have 12 years and younger athletes partaking in the program, and have age 13 and up also learning the hockey game.

Mr. Speaker, this training school is being led by Rex Willy, along with his friends, Tagu Willy, Owen Willy and Lionel Willy for a number of years now. They were taught how to be coaches and now are able to provide coaching to the residents of Arctic Bay. I would like to commend these individuals who are able to pass on what they learned while in their community.

Rex Willy does many varied activities. He's a father with four children, and he is able to take on many tasks, and he's a hockey enthusiast, he can make a parka now. He's also selling NHL parkas, and one of them is very beautiful, it's a Montreal Canadiens parka...

>> *Laughter*

... a Chicago Blackhawks parka, and one ugly Toronto Maple Leafs parka.

>> *Applause*

As such, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my pride that these individuals learned to be coaches on their own and now are coaching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Member Ehaloak.

Member's Statement 809 – 5(2): Congratulations to Julia Ogina

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Good afternoon, my colleagues and to all those in Nunavut, especially in Cambridge Bay.

Today I proudly rise to congratulate one of my constituents and a cousin who will receive an award from the Governor General; the Meritorious Service award for leadership in protecting, promoting and revitalizing Inuit culture, tradition and language.

Her interest in history and culture is longstanding. Her first memory was attending drum dancing at her grandfather's. She believes music and stories are important for preserving our culture. Her work has had tremendous impacts in the region. She has been instrumental in ensuring our language, culture and heritage are preserved and passed on.

Through the years I've known this individual, and to see the amount of young people and people of all ages learning to drum dance, learning to sew, and even learning to speak our language brings such pride and joy.

This is a well-deserved award and I ask all members in this House to help me in congratulating Ms. Julia Ogina of Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of her for being recognized with this award nationally. We congratulate our fellow Inuit. Members' Statements. I have no further names on my list. Let us proceed. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 1171 – 5(2): Liquor Legislation and Programming**

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everybody. Before I ask my question, I just want to say "happy birthday" to Joseph Niptanatiak for yesterday. He turned 84 yesterday. Happy birthday.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister will recall, a plebiscite under the territorial *Liquor Act* was held on October 22, 2018. As a result of the vote, the community moved to unrestricted status under the legislation and our alcohol education committee was dissolved.

Since that time, the community and its representatives, including the municipal council, have expressed concerns about the impact the change has had, including a number of deaths that have been attributed to alcohol-related incidents.

Can the minister clarify the circumstances under which he would be prepared to order a new plebiscite under section 48 of the *Liquor Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any community can request a plebiscite. A petition needs to be created and 20 signatories in the community need to sign it, and then it is submitted to me to authorize a plebiscite.

I will put a note of caution; we do have concerns of groups within communities of differing perspectives using this plebiscite tool too frequently. So typically I look at no more than once every three years at the most, but in conditions, if there is enough demand I'm open to all considerations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the minister for the response. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year is to "continue the review of the *Liquor Act*."

Can the minister confirm that this review will examine the process by which a community's status under the liquor Act can be changed, and can he describe what specific options are being considered? I realize you just mentioned some earlier, but maybe you can clarify again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the beauties I think of bringing forward announcements of legislation here in Nunavut, especially. When we put out to communities for feedback and stakeholders for feedback, we'll take all ideas under consideration.

I don't want to pigeon hole any discussions or limit any discussions or any ideas that come forward. So as this review continues to go forward on a new liquor Act, I would absolutely welcome all comments of different perspectives and different ideas of how we can better our legislation. I'm absolutely open to any communication or feedback from communities, individuals or stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the issue of access to alcohol is complex. As the minister will recall, at least one other Nunavut community has voted within the past three years to change from being a restricted community to being an unrestricted community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need to carefully examine the impacts that easier access to alcohol have had with respect to such measures as police call-outs, deaths involving alcohol use, and incidents requiring the intervention of child protection authorities.

Will the minister commit to working with his colleagues in Health, Justice and Family Services to undertake a detailed review of the impact that Kugluktuk's change in status under the liquor Act have had on the community and its residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through our Inuusivut Committee that we have with a deputy minister level committee, those types of issues are currently and continuously analyzed, and feedback and Economic Development and Transportation, Justice, Health, and a number of different departments are engaged to provide feedback. I'm not aware of community-specific information, but I will speak to my officials and to see how that information is correlated, and if there is any specific information that the member would like to see, I would be more than happy to discuss with the member and to see what kind of outcomes we could help provide direction to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1172 – 5(2): Custom Adoption and Safety Checks

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of custom adoption. As the minister will be aware, the 2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut stated, "The *Aboriginal Custom Recognition Act* does not include requirements to conduct such things as safety checks of adoptive homes or criminal records of potential adoptive parents."

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of June 7, 2018, I was told that the legislation was being looked at. Therefore that was almost three

years ago to the point. What has the government done to date to address this issue since that time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. I was very happy when you raised this issue, but it is not our own. I have met with Nunavut Tunngavik twice, I think. However, presently with COVID and with the president's recent election, we are planning for a meeting with them. I asked her when we can meet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for your response, but Nunavut has the highest birthrate, as we know, and there are children being adopted almost every week, and I believe, for the safety of the children, even if there's a pandemic, there has to be work done as quickly as possible.

Section 6 of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* provides that "The Minister may appoint as custom adoption commissioners, one or more persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, have a knowledge and understanding of aboriginal customary law in the community or region in which they reside."

What worries me are private adoptions, and there has to be some type of a criminal record check to prevent child predators access to these Inuit children and we're not doing that. Therefore, can the minister clarify what additional training or support is given to custom adoption commissioners to help them make decisions that take into account the safety and best interests of the children or the child? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Yes, I completely understand how important it is and due to its importance, I wanted to meet right away. However, the legislation is not ours.

Can we consider... I was told here about how important it is, and how can we encourage them, along with you. Also, when we try to meet with them, it's not always possible within Nunavut. The manager leaves Nunavut too. I will keep you informed as to when we will meet again so that you will know how we'll proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response. I sincerely appreciated that because it should be a priority, and we understand you really

care and have compassion. However, section 7 of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* allows for regulation to be made under the Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that these regulations have not been updated in decades. Can the minister at least, if you can, provide a clear timetable for when these regulations will be renewed, reviewed and updated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question. We will look at having a meeting to see how we will proceed, and I will make sure that we cover all the topics that you requested at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1173 – 5(2): Midwifery

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

A few times I have seen in the media coverage on midwifery in Nunavut. I will quote what I saw on the media and it's helpful to have midwifery back in the communities. I was supported when I requested to have midwifery back in Nunavut or in my community.

Can the minister indicate when midwifery will be coming back to the three regions in Nunavut so that the mother and child won't have to get out of the community and stay with their community? Can he look into the matter to have it brought back? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Midwifery in Nunavut is very important. A few days ago we talked in part about midwifery, having midwifery services provided in Nunavut would have all children born in Nunavut. That is our goal, to have midwifery programs back to Nunavut in all three regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister and I am very pleased to hear that. What kinds of plans do you have and who are you working with in the three regions? Are you working Nunavut Arctic College? Do you have midwifery programs through the Arctic College programs, and do you have a start time or how long the term will be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear about midwifery through the media and especially in Rankin Inlet where they have a midwifery program which is not closed, however, at this time, they aren't providing the services. We would have to look at their terms of reference.

We would look at the bylaws as well, to determine if we need to amend their operations, or even to clean up the operations, so these are the categories we are currently reviewing related to midwifery, as when facilities open, we want them to be fully able to provide the whole range of services, and we are also looking at the laws specific to midwifery centres, along with required operating procedures, which is what we are reviewing now.

Even with that being the case, we are looking to partner with training organizations in designing a proper course, and what requirements are needed to comply with legislation pertaining to midwifery centres, and we would include the Nunavut Arctic College during this dialogue and usually we link up with universities in any of the provinces and we would also have to look at that to see who we would work with our sister provinces.

We're looking at all the aspects of providing a midwifery program because we want to have it clearly laid out, but currently we are in the planning stages and identifying what is needed in order to move midwifery forward properly. We want to have it operate smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to hear that since it is a piece of good news to the people of Nunavut, as we still have many experts who performed midwifery previously.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can start with this. I have an eight-year-old daughter. Due to her namesake, she is not my daughter, but my sister and she was born in Sanirajak's health centre, and I just wanted to use that as the context.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a very important matter, and in the old days when no health centres existed, perhaps I can say prior to any government oversight, the traditional Inuit were quite skilled, as Inuit bore their own children up until a few decades ago.

Furthermore, if we were to look at our situation today, the Tammaativvik Boarding home is always at full capacity since pregnant women can bring escorts. If we provide the training programs and opportunities, is it possible to provide an apprenticeship programs and to have elders available because of course it has to be properly laid out.

Could we provide that at Nunavut Arctic College in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, I don't know how many years ago it was, there was a program available and at the current call for students there weren't enough people applying to attend the training program. Since it's expensive, we can't provide the program if there are only one or two individuals who are interested. We have to have enough students to approve the program. We would look at if it is possible to start it in the communities. That's what we're doing at this time to make sure that everything is laid out properly. Yes, all of your suggestions, ideas and so on will be integrated as a part of this dialogue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1174 – 5(2): Driver's Licences and General Identification Cards

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they again concern the issue of driver's licences and general identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is very much aware, the ongoing delays and problems with obtaining driver's licences and general identification cards for my constituents in Sanikiluaq have been a cause of frustration for the community.

This situation was not helped by the recent damage that occurred in the community this past fall as a result of the storm that hit us.

During last Thursday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that work has been underway with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to ship new cameras and related equipment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of March, and it is my understanding this important work has finally begun.

Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation provide an update today on the status of this work from his department's perspective, including work to ensure that the community's new government liaison officer will be fully trained on the use of the equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for questioning this and today I just want to confirm that we do have three of our staff members in Sanikiluaq

right now and they will be there for the remainder of this week and they will be doing a number of activities such as one of them is setting up the camera. We finally were able to secure a large enough space for the cameras, so they will be doing that.

Also they will be training their government liaison officer to handle the motor vehicles information, and also including they have been trained to have the ability to do written tests in the community by the government liaison officer.

On top of that, we did bring some of our examiners there and they are trying to clear the backlog of over six months that has been there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information the minister has provided, he did go into my next question a bit but I'm hoping he can add some more details.

As the minister will recall, I submitted a detailed written question during the Legislative Assembly's spring 2019 sitting concerning the length of time that it takes his department to issue driver's licences, and I want to extend him the courtesy today of letting him know to expect an updated written question from me during our upcoming spring sitting.

Can the minister confirm today how much of a backlog his department is currently facing with respect to applications for driver's licences and general identification cards from residents of Sanikiluaq, and can he describe what actions are being taken to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I don't have a firm number in terms of how many are backlogged, but what I have been told is that while they are in the community they are going to be looking at the six months that it has been vacant. For any of the backlogs and if any of the residents are waiting for any information, I would encourage them to go to the government liaison office and enquire about it or phone and enquire because oftentimes some of our residents have been waiting for their licences when our office is waiting for their response.

It's one that I would encourage, especially now that they're currently there and that we do have a new government liaison officer, probably very eager to try to go through the process. While somebody is there, that person can get trained while it's there. With that accommodation, we're hoping the backlog will get cleared while the visit is there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1175 – 5(2): Support for Immigration

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for my question is that as Members of the Legislative Assembly, businesses also approach us for help.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Immigration.

Mr. Speaker, we have often been told how difficult it is to fill professional positions in Nunavut. We compete with other Canadian jurisdictions for health care workers, teachers, and other professions.

Can the minister clarify how his government supports departments in their efforts to recruit professionals from other countries and assists them with immigration issues so they can come and work in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently right now we don't have a provincial nomination program for immigrants or a municipal nomination program for immigrants. Mr. Speaker, in the southern provinces they have those, but currently we don't have that in Nunavut. We work with the federal government if there are any immigration issues. I have been to a citizenship swearing-in here at one time, so we do have new Canadians that do swear their oath here in Nunavut in the capital here in Iqaluit, but currently we are not part of any nomination program to nominate or sponsor immigration within or into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's response provides clarification on what supports are available.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, from time to time, professionals come to work in our smaller communities and they have to leave their families behind in other countries. The federal government has a family sponsorship program so that workers from countries outside of Canada can bring their families to join them.

Can the minister clarify what assistance his government provides to GN employees who wish to bring their families to Canada to join them? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we don't have any immigration nomination program here within Nunavut. When we get a letter or correspondence from any individual that has immigration issues or would like to get any assistance from the Nunavut government, we relay it onto the federal government. The federal government is responsible for immigration within Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I know they have a family reunification program, and we feel for the people. I have received letters from Nunavummiut asking for family reunification and we forward the letter on to the federal government as they are in charge of immigration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier stated that the Premier checks with the federal government. We would like to know that too. We have to represent our constituents. When can we get a response to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't really understand the question. I would like to respond correctly so I would like him so clarify the question please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please clarify the question you are asking, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for allowing me a third question.

>>*Laughter*

What I'm trying to ask our Premier is the Premier just stated that they have to check with the federal government with regard to the immigration issue. We would like to know the state of the situation today. What is new with immigration? Do you have an update on immigration? I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I hope that was clearer. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond from my understanding. I stated earlier that anybody wanting to come to Canada who is

not a Canadian has to go through the federal government. They apply to the federal government to move to Canada permanently. Some of them get approval, some of them don't. The ones in Nunavut have been approved because they're within Canada. From my understanding, as to when their families will be notified regarding when they'll be able to bring their families in, I can't answer that because it's under the control of the federal government.

They would get information from the federal government. Even if they ask us, we can't give them any answers about immigration because it's the federal government's responsibility. The families that are thinking about moving to Canada will have to wait until they get a response from the federal government about moving to Canada as to whether their application is approved or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1176 – 5(2): Cancer Resources

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

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

Mr. Speaker, during our deliberations in Committee of the Whole, I was pleased to learn that the Government of Nunavut has made some progress with delivering more cancer screening programs across the territory. However, I have noted that the information published on the department's website about cancer in Nunavut is very outdated.

Can the minister clarify when he anticipates making more recent information on cancer rates and the incidence of specific types of cancers across Nunavut available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check with my officials to find out when the information on the website is going to be updated. 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 his response. I'm sure it will be updated soon, when available.

Mr. Speaker, having good information and data is important to determine how our precious public funds are allocated, especially when it comes to promoting good health, preventing lifestyle choices which may lead to negative health consequences and

providing services for individuals who are suffering from difficult health conditions through no fault of their own.

Will the minister commit to providing more regular updates on the status of cancer rates across the territory as well as providing an overview of the results of the recent cancer screening pilot program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to information on health issues, some is publicized and some isn't able to be publicized because they might provide information on who has what type of illness. There are privacy issues so we have to be careful in releasing the information. What can be released to the public and all the updates that are made to that information can be put on the website. I'll check to see when they can be inputted on the website, and as to the website my colleague is referring to, I'll make sure that it is updated. 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 continued commitment to providing information that can be shared to the public. I think it's important to know. The general public should know what types of cancers are happening across the territory so they can help maybe limit or change it up in their own lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I note that our neighbours in the Northwest Territories published some very useful information on their government website to support individuals who are living with cancer and going through treatment or learning to adjust after their treatments and looking to the future.

There are a number of Nunavummiut who have been diagnosed with cancer and have to travel frequently to receive their treatments, which is not only difficult for them but also for their families.

Will the minister commit to providing more cancer specific resources to share information, counselling and advice in support of Nunavummiut who are currently living with cancer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people who have cancer that my colleague is referring to, we want to support all of them. We don't want being sick to be feeling any pain. As health professionals, we're always looking for ways to make sure that they can stay at home and be treated. Like we said yesterday, there are

even new diagnostic tools that we will be initiating cancer screening tools so that all the people with cancer that are handled by the Department of Health Services can be spoken to and what is before them when they get diagnosed with cancer and what they can expect.

We try to help them along those lines to try and make it easier or better for them to deal with. We do provide them counselling and help with that. We try to do more things like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1177 – 5(2): Need for Community-based Mental Health Services

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues. A big “hello” to my wife if she is watching. I miss you and the kids.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. The issue of mental health needs in my community is never far from my mind. The ongoing tragedies of mental illness, the legacy of families torn apart, suicides, and even murder, is a terrible burden on the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the government is not currently in the position to open its proposed addictions and treatment centre, can the minister clarify his department’s long-term goals for delivering community-based mental health services to deal with serious and acute cases on the ground at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of mental health and mental illness and being worried and concerned in life is very serious. I know it is one of the most difficult things to try and help with to see how we can help their particular illnesses. I believe that the Department of Health is also moving forward to get more psychiatrists and counsellors into the communities.

I know that there is an increase in crime that happens or if a suicide happens a result of a mental illness. We send counsellors whenever something serious happens in a community and we try to send them there to make things easier. One of our goals is to make sure that we have enough psychiatrists and counsellors for all of Nunavut.

We want to at one point have a mental health facility and we are working towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the government is investing in mental care services for Nunavummiut, however at this time the majority of these services are provided from outside of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I do not question the value of having specialized mental health and treatment services. It is just that I feel that they would be more effective if delivered locally and closer to home.

Can the minister confirm that it is his department's plan to eventually deliver more community-based mental health services and supports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague raising this. Ever since I got here, health and mental health has to be more community based.

Often we have to be sent out or send specialists to come in, but our vision is to have these services provided while we're home. When we have to leave, we carry our worries and these worries grow very quickly. So to have someone to talk to who can speak your language is something that we take as very important and I just agree with his comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In dealing with any illness, especially with mental illness, it is important to give hope. Gjoa Haven needs hope that the cycle of emotional trauma, addiction, suicide, and violence can and will be broken. We need hope that we will be able to move beyond the legacy of mental illness and towards a positive future.

Will the minister commit to considering Gjoa Haven as the priority location for establishing a community-based mental health and addictions service delivery program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These facilities, if they are to be proposed would require plans in which communities would these facilities be built, and which communities could provide the most benefits to Nunavut?

These are the types of issues we need to deliberate upon, as obviously the land or lot as well as the placement of the community would also be considered when talking about the location or locations for community-based services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1178 – 5(2): Timetable for COVID-19 Vaccinations

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Health, hence the reason for my standing.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier about vaccination programs and inoculations, as well as the website information, which announced that over 7,400 Nunavummiut had already received the Moderna vaccine first dose, at least according to the Government of Nunavut.

At this time, vaccinations are still ongoing and the program is still developing as we all know. I hope everyone able will go for their vaccination shot, and that they want to be vaccinated.

My first question to the minister is this: with respect to the vaccination program within Nunavut, when is the anticipated timing when all communities will have received their vaccinations? When will this program end? On which date, and what is the timeline for the continued delivery of the vaccines to Nunavut? When is the ending date for the vaccine deliveries? Has this been determined, or will we continue to receive update vaccinations in the future months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the first day of March. Most of the communities in Nunavut have received vaccinations. In the south it's much less, but I would be grateful to southerners for making Nunavut priority and we're almost already wrapping up with the vaccinations. I am very grateful for that. A lot of vaccines have arrived in Nunavut, and if the weather continues to cooperate, as we know our home hardly receives blizzards, we want to see what rates we are going to have the end of the month, and we foresee that all the communities will have received vaccinations by then. That's in view too that second shots must be taken.

All the communities should have had visitation for vaccine by the end of the month again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Reading off of the Department of Health's website regarding vaccines, I think it's a very interesting quote on there that I would like to read. It says on the department's website on deciding whether to get a vaccine or not. It says "The decision is an individual one, but one that will have a direct impact on our communities'

health, on Nunavut's public health restrictions and on the ways we move forward in the months and year to come."

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that one vaccine into one person's shoulder, it's not just an individual matter. One needle into a shoulder, that is something that benefits the entire community or the entire territory, if you want to look at the bigger picture.

My next question for the minister is: is this something that is currently understood across Nunavut that the decision to get the vaccine is not just for the one person, but that it is for the entire community? (interpretation) I want to see if that understanding is out there in Nunavut. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those who want to get informed, yes because it's very clear, the language is clear. At this time we have our youth, 18 and under cannot get the vaccination at the moment. If you get the vaccine and for those other individuals in the community who cannot get the vaccine, we can understand it from there.

However, we also have people who don't want to get the information, and they try and raise other things outside of vaccines. Those who want to be informed are well informed, and the legislature here is in full support of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My last question is on the topic of misinformation. Some of the misinformation around vaccines, it's funny. Whether its microchips or that it's going to turn you into a monkey, that was another piece of misinformation that was going around. It's funny to hear these things, but I think we all understand that this is very serious. COVID-19 is not a joke. The effect it has on people's health is not a joke.

My last question for the minister is on the misinformation. Is the department winning the war on misinformation? I'm thinking of all the bad information that can circulate online. Is the department currently doing enough to provide the right information and true facts so Nunavummiut can make up their own minds of whether to get the shot? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I had my second dose a few days and my knuckles aren't dragging on the carpet yet.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I think our department is doing the best we can to put out facts and as quick as we can put out facts there are people on the other side that are trying to misinform. I think it is a battle that we won't win, but I think it's a battle that we will not give up lightly on.

I have a very strong COVID action team and every time they go into a community, the day before or as soon as they can just before the vaccine and sometimes on the day, they conduct phone-in shows in every community that has a radio station. They field questions on everything from that; seriously, will you turn into a monkey, to how many microchips go into your arm?

I participate in a number of those whenever I can participate in those phone-in shows. I participate in them and the team tries to answer every single question very seriously, whether they seem farfetched or not. I think in that sense the information is getting out there and we are concentrating on trying to convince those that are not so much worried about whether you are going to turn into a monkey or not, but in terms of their valid fears.

There are some very valid fears about getting the needles and those questions come across very clearly and it has convinced many people that were on the bench about not getting a vaccine, but after getting solid answers from our team that does the phone-in shows, it increases the number of taking vaccinations. I think it has also made people realize that the benefits of it after seeing their colleagues go through one or two vaccinations, then the intake increases.

We will continue that good fight, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to work to ensure that all Nunavummiut that want the vaccination will get one. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 1179 – 5(2): Model of Care

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health again, so he is on the hot seat today.

During the minister's recent appearance in the Committee of the Whole I was pleased to hear that the *Model of Care Report* has been made available on the department's website. I have made and asked numerous times to see this report and finally I have had the opportunity to see what it actually says.

Can the minister clearly explain how his department decided which recommendations from the *Model of Care Report* would be followed up on and how other

recommendations were determined to be not feasible or inapplicable to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been going over many documents within the Department of Health since I sat here recently, and that is one area that I haven't concentrated on, so I will have to take her question as notice. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. [Oral] Questions. (interpretation) Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Question 1180 – 5(2): Minor Electrical Work in Communities

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Sometimes during the winter they include building around the (interpretation ends) mast (interpretation) and it becomes slippery, and employees are not given permission to work on the pole. When I was working for them, it was possible to just climb up the power poles. Presently, even though they have better tools, they have vehicles with (interpretation ends) hydraulic ladders (interpretation) that lift the worker up to the broken mast. I think you can imagine them.

The local employees are not permitted to do that, and sometimes our buildings will lost power in the winter, and they lose heat. They are like that, waiting for the workers to come in. Why are the local employees with all that equipment and tools are not permitted to do that work anymore? I was asked to ask that question. 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 his question. There are certain technical positions within Qulliq [Energy] Corporation that are very specific to certain types of jobs.

I know in the smaller communities there are not a lot of linesmen. If there is a problem within the community when it comes to a power pole or power line, because the type of work that's being done, sometimes they have to fly in members from within the larger communities or Iqaluit to have those linesmen come in to do an actual specific, sometimes very dangerous type of job. That's why not a lot of the community members within the little communities are able to climb the poles to work on those lines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just simply talking about the triplex that goes from the house to the secondary line on the power pole, not the primary line. Our employees, I believe the QEC employees, with proper training can do those simple hook-ups instead of waiting for days. Sometimes it has been a week before the servicemen come in to restore a simple power line to the house.

Can the minister instruct her staff to train these local people into fixing simple little things like these? I realize that there's some really highly technical stuff that needs to be repaired sometimes, but this is very simple work. I did it before without any proper education.

Can the minister commit to the House that these employees at the local level can fix simple little hook-ups like this? (interpretation) 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 his question. I will relay the information to the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members, please be aware that the time allotted for question period time is over. Let us proceed with the next item. Item 7. Written Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 075 – 5(2): Ministerial Appearance

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling the Return to Written Question No. 75 that was filed during the October 2020 sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation) 11. Petitions. 12. Responses to Petitions. No. 13. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Aivilik, Mr. Patterk...Netser. I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

Item 14: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 350 – 5(2): News Article: Naujaat RCMP and the NHLPA Outfit Children for Hockey**

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this document: a news release about the Naujaat RCMP and the NHLPA, or the National Hockey League Players Association, outfit children for hockey. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry, Mr. Netser, for making those mistakes. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Akeegok.

Tabled Document 351 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Public Service Annual Report

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated that I would table this document, I am very pleased to table the 2019-2020 *Public Service Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. Notices of Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 15: Notices of Motions**Motion 107 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 3, I will move the following motion:

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

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask that my motion be read today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 17. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 17: Motions**Motion 105 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 57, Tobacco and Smoking Act**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm now a professional.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) WHEREAS Bill 57, *Tobacco and Smoking Act*, received second reading on October 22, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 57 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion and, as you are aware, the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to speak briefly to the motion that is before the House today.

Bill 57 is another complex piece of proposed legislation that requires careful consideration, and the standing committee has been doing its work in a responsible manner.

The standing committee has been exchanging correspondence on the bill, and looks forward to moving ahead with its review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 107 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my fellow members.

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

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.

Motions. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 58, 59, 60, and 61 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:18 and Committee resumed at 15:47*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Welcome, everyone. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 59, 60, and 61. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 59?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Ehaloak, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Today joining me is the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Local Government, Mr. Kyle Seeley, to my left, and the Director of Financial Services, Ms. Mandy Hickey, to my right.

Good day. It is my pleasure to join you here today to review the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services.

As you know, Community and Government Services is a large department, responsible for providing programs and services to communities and other government departments.

Mr. Chairman, Community and Government Services' proposed operations and maintenance budget for 2021-22 is \$266 million. This is a \$9.16 million increase from the previous year's budget of \$257 million. This is due to a combination of new initiatives and increased expenses of the department in the following areas:

- a \$5.8 million increase to information management and information technology to ensure the ongoing development and protection of the network infrastructure that provides core services to communities and departments;
- an increase of \$1.7 million to coordinate Team Nunavut's participation in the 2022 Arctic Winter Games;

- an additional \$971,000 to municipalities to support increases in municipal utility rates and facility operating costs associated with the newly completed arena in Rankin Inlet;
- an additional \$295,000 to cover utility costs for government owned and leased infrastructure;
- \$150,000 to accommodate grants in lieu of property taxes for government-owned infrastructure in the city of Iqaluit; and
- \$237,000 in additional funding for two new positions within the department's Asset Management Branch that will provide support to the Pandemic Response Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure the committee will note changes in the appearance of the department's budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year, particularly within the proposed \$74,948,000 grants and contributions budget. These changes are the result of an internal budget realignment to reflect recent revisions to the grants and contributions policies. I have provided members with a letter summarizing the grants and contributions program, highlighting any changes as they appear in the 2021-22 main estimates.

2020-21 Highlights

Before I get into more detail about our plans for the upcoming year, I would like to share some of the department's achievements over the past year.

Simply put, the COVID-19 pandemic defined the operations of our government throughout 2020. The measures put in place to prevent the spread of the COVID virus have fundamentally changed how Nunavummiut live and work and how Community and Government Services provides its many programs and services.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud of the work we have done to adapt to the many unforeseeable changes presented by the pandemic. Community and Government Services has played an integral role in supporting our government's response to COVID-19. We will continue to support our partner departments and municipal governments as we learn how to live with the realities of COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, our work has continued and some of our accomplishments include:

- Securing approximately 25 percent of Nunavut's fuel for 2021-22 within the limits of the revolving fund at historically low prices. An additional 25 percent was further secured at comparably low prices. The savings from these purchases will be realized in 2021-22.
- The launch of our online Inuktitut language training for staff throughout the territory. Our government has always prioritized efforts to ensure that Inuktitut thrives as a

living language in Nunavut, and I am pleased with the efforts of the department to make the Inuit language a more functional part of its operations.

- The enhancement of territorial emergency preparedness by supporting the development of departmental emergency response plans and incident command training.
- The completion of Nunaliit Aulajut: Nunavut's Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Framework for 2020-30 that will guide the sport and recreation division's activities for the next 10 years.
- Developing information technology skills in local staff so they have the qualifications needed to pursue a career in high-demand and highly technical areas. In 2020 there were 20 casuals employed in the Information Management and Information Technology Division, 10 of whom were subsequently hired to permanent positions. There are currently nine casuals in the division, with the remaining casual from last year having expired.
- As part of the recovery from ransomware, IM/IT has built an entirely new network that can now take advantage of cloud-based services. This new secure collaborative platform has revolutionized how Government of Nunavut staff can work together.

2021-22

Focusing now on the coming year, in 2021-22 the Local Government Branch will manage the administration of \$73,048,000 in grants and contributions funding to municipal corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals.

2021-22 will also mark the third consecutive year the department has increased its investment into municipalities through the Municipal Funding Program. We will continue to collaborate with municipalities to ensure funding is aligned with the costs of operating safe and sustainable communities.

In 2021-22 Nunavut will be represented by our youth ambassadors who will volunteer their skills to assist the host society. The cost of coordinating Team Nunavut's participation in the Games is expected to be \$1.7 million.

Mr. Chairman, in 2021-22 Community and Government Services Infrastructure Branch will continue to plan, design, and construct critical infrastructure for Nunavummiut. The branch will also continue the execution of Nunavut's Energy Management Program across government-owned facilities.

Based on the success of the Iqaluit pilot project initiative, we are proceeding with an energy upgrade program in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions. This initiative is targeted to achieve an annual energy savings of \$2 million and 1.7 tonnes of greenhouse

gas reductions, and will support our government's efforts to slow the effects of climate change so that Nunavummiut can enjoy our land for generations to come.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be the minister of a department that is committed to providing the best service possible to our local government partners and all Nunavummiut.

I look forward to our discussions and invite any questions you may have. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2021-22 Main Estimates and 2021-24 Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. The department's proposed 2021-22 operations and maintenance budget is \$265,791,000. This represents a 3.6 percent increase from the 2020-21 main estimates. The number of positions in the department remains unchanged at 462.0.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee. The department's proposed 2021-22 main estimates include approximately \$68.3 million in funding for a number of different programs that support communities. The department's new Community Development Grants and Contribution Policy expires on April 1, 2025. Schedules to the policy cover the Municipal Funding Program, Water and Sewage Subsidy Program, Municipal Mobile Equipment Program, Community Development Fund, Municipal Collaboration Program, Municipal Organization Operating Fund, Community Asset Protection Program, Community Lands Administration Fund, and Inuit Language Training and Implementation Funds. The standing committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the policy.

The department's proposed 2021-22 main estimates include approximately \$4.4 million in funding for seven different programs that support sports and recreation. The department's new Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy expires on March 31, 2023. On November 5, 2020 the government's new *Nunavut's Sports, Physical Activity and Recreation Framework* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. On November 30, 2020 the department issued *Request for Proposals 2020-73: Strategic Plans for Non-Profit Organizations*. The request for proposals closed on December 21, 2020. It indicated that its purpose was to "seek a qualified consultant and/or consulting firms to assist in the development of three to five-year comprehensive strategic plans for 10-15 Nunavut Sport and Recreation non-profit organizations that will focus on the organization's values, programs and services, and vision for the future." Information published by the government in February 2021 indicates that the request for proposals was cancelled.

Amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2017. These amendments addressed the issue of cheque-cashing fees for government cheques and other matters. The standing committee continues to encourage the department to review the feasibility of regulating payday loans. The standing committee continues to note the increasing prevalence of charitable and personal fundraising activities undertaken by both organizations and individuals that offer participation in gaming activities that are not necessarily operating under a clear regulatory framework. The standing committee continues to encourage the department to ensure that regulations made under the *Lotteries Act* keep pace with changes in this area, and notes that one of its priorities for the 2021-22 fiscal year is to “Pursue expansion of Western Canada Lottery operations in Nunavut.”

The *Emergency Measures Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007. Sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provide for the preparation of “emergency management programs” on the part of government institutions and municipal councils. However, although it has been over a decade since the legislation was passed, these provisions have still not been brought into force. The standing committee will continue to monitor progress in this area.

The department’s 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020, 2020-21 and 2021-22 capital estimates included a number of “funding bundles” for infrastructure related to water, wastewater and solid waste. The department’s draft 2021-24 business plan indicates that “the development of Nunavut’s Solid Waste Management Strategy was initiated but has been delayed due to COVID-19. The department will re-engage partners in the development of the strategy in late 2020-2021.” The department’s draft 2021-24 business plan indicates that it is “participating in the finalization of the Drinking Water Strategic Framework with a planned distribution to all relevant stakeholders in late 2020-2021. The development of the corresponding Action Plan will require additional input and engagement from stakeholders in 2021.” The standing committee will continue to monitor the progress of these initiatives, as well as the progress of the Department of Environment’s complementary initiative to develop a new “Water Program.”

During the fall of 2019 the Government of Nunavut was impacted by a major “ransomware” incident. The department’s draft 2021-24 business plan indicates that it is “working closely with an industry leader in digitization on the development of information management digitization standards and potential creation of the *Information Management Act*.” The standing committee looks forward to further work in this area clarifying such issues as the extent to which the jurisdiction of the territory’s *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* extends to cloud-based information.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Main Estimates and 2021-24 Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments before we proceed to the page-by-page review? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have a brief few comments. First of all, I would like to say how thankful I am for the support that the department has provided to the Hamlet of Arviat as well as the Hamlet of Whale Cove during the past months. I know that CGS has been a major partner in trying to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in the territory, and on behalf of my constituents, thank you very much.

Just two areas I wanted to mention, the first is information technology as well as connectivity. I continue to follow the department's work in this area quite closely and in the wake of the ransomware incident as well as the department's efforts to connect Nunavut to the rest of Canada in terms of Internet, fibre in particular. I think it's very important for us to have oversight over the government's activities in these areas and I think transparency is very important, especially when you consider the amounts of money involved in the operations and maintenance of networks.

Another area I wanted to mention was how important municipalities are to Nunavut. If you look at the grants and contributions that Mr. Rumbolt just mentioned, those are very important to the municipalities, to hamlets across Nunavut. I'm happy to see an increase in that block funding program in this budget, and in my opinion that should be an increase that happens regularly. It should happen so they can keep pace with rising costs of goods and services, basically keep pace with inflation.

I look forward to further opportunities for hamlets to take control of what's going on in their own community, perhaps more than is currently offered to them, and I'm thinking of infrastructure planning and perhaps executing on infrastructure. I look forward to seeing empowerment of hamlets across Nunavut in the years to come. (interpretation) That's it for me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for recognizing me. In looking through the minister's comments I was looking for water, wastewater and solid waste comments. Just recently I saw the Auditor General of Canada speaking about water to First Nations and I assumed that it would include Inuit communities because right across Nunavut we're getting water advisories in most of the communities and we're buying water from the Co-ops and the Hudson's Bay, so that's a concern. If the Auditor General is going to have money, then I'd like to see Government of Nunavut taking part in the discussion in order to get funding for water, wastewater and solid waste.

That's just a comment and it's an observation because water advisories are increasingly becoming more numerous across Nunavut. I believe that with the Auditor General's comments and statements on the news that the GN should be in a position to take advantage of the dollars so they could go to the Inuit communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more general comments? Seeing none. Go to page J-4, Directorate. Total. Operations and Maintenance. Any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in my opening comments, the Legislative Assembly passed amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* in 2017. These amendments address the issue of cheque cashing fees for government cheques and other matters.

Regulations prescribing cheque cashing fees for government cheques were published in the January 2018 edition of part 2 of the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Is your department planning on introducing any other amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*? And if so, what amendments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A complete review of our consumer protections information is currently available online and functionality of the page is in all four languages. The department continues to work in developing information pamphlets to help our consumers better navigate the marketplace and make informed purchasing decisions.

The department has done a lot of work in terms of providing information to businesses and we've prepared pamphlets on business licence processes, lottery licence processes, the role of the consumer affairs unit in supporting customers or consumers, the consumer complaint process, consumer rights and responsibilities, credit card fraud and pay day loans, and the department anticipates having the pamphlets on its website and other sources in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for that information, but that was not my question. My question was: is your department planning to introduce any other amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* and, if so, what amendments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the member for clarifying his question. The Department of Community and Government Services is not looking at any amendments at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department's 2020-23 business plan, it indicates that one of the priorities was to ensure that lottery licence regulations are being

met and followed. How is your department currently addressing the charitable and personal fundraising activities in Nunavut that involve gaming which is not clearly licensed or regulated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I will ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. Currently the management of community-level lotteries is managed on a complaint-driven basis. I think in previous dialogue in this House there have been discussions in and around where there is any propriety or illegal acts being reported, those are to be reported to the RCMP.

The Consumer Affairs Branch of CGS located in Baker Lake does maintain regular interaction and orientation with municipal councils who issue lottery licences and does monitor those practices specifically within how the lotteries are administered at the local level right down to the reporting of the actual local lotteries.

If I understand the member's question correctly, there is a whole new category of lotteries that are happening that do happen outside of the existing regulations. Nonetheless, where those are illegal or suspected to be illegal, they should be reported to the police and/or to the Consumer Affairs Division for consultation on the legality or the practicality of those operations at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department's draft 2021-24 business plan it indicates on page 207 that one of its priorities for 2021-22 is to "Pursue expansion of Western Canada Lottery operations in Nunavut." I wonder if you can give us some more information on that such as which communities are being considered for expansion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current four terminals in operation in Nunavut are: two in Iqaluit, one in Rankin Inlet, and one in Baker Lake. The process will be administered by the NWT Lottery Commission in an application-based process wherein terminals may be awarded to retailers with municipal council approval.

Community and Government Services will develop a communications strategy to support this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 201 of the business plan, “Priorities (2021-22)” states “Develop educational materials on consumer protection and awareness to ensure that Nunavummiut are aware of their rights and responsibilities in this area.”

Does that include cyber selling? I had an experience where I was directed to go to the bank, given an account, and on my way there the item that I wanted to buy after I had spent \$500, was sold. I’m just wondering: these educational materials, if they are a priority, what’s the timeline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately there are those types of fraud, especially within our communities through social media. I’ve seen where individuals have indicated that people are selling items that are not even there. The Department of Community and Government Services provides and are developing information pamphlets and public service announcements. We use social media a lot to showcase and tell individuals, be careful.

I’ve seen many times where people have gone through the fraudulent process. They can contact the department to ensure and ask what the process is to try and get help. I think telling individuals “the first thing you should do is call the RCMP, have all the information you need to show that yes, I sent the e-transfer to this email and here’s all my information.” Once they go to the RCMP, contact the Department of Community and Government Services, our consumer affairs section and ask them for assistance as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our reports are being developed so that we can distribute them, and they are working on them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m really pleased the minister answered me with that because those cyber sales are not explicit enough. They should have had first come or first serve. If you go there, what’s the English word? (interpretation) Anyone who may want to make a purchase, if they are first, are able to without that happening to them. I think many Inuit who are making purchases and what they are paying for is not arriving, these will be your supporting documents. I think this is a very urgent issue. Looking at the elders who may not have a proficient skills on computers or have inadequate knowledge or don’t have the means to purchase are the most affected.

On (interpretation ends) page 201 (interpretation) it states only in 2022-23 “Begin a review of the Lotteries regulation to identify areas for proposed amendments.” (interpretation ends) I’m just curious, Mr. Chairman... I will speak in English. Why are the priorities for 2022-23 later for beginning a review of the lotteries regulations to identify areas for proposed amendment. Why isn’t in year 2021-22? My final question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think because of how all the fraudulent activities are happening within our communities through social media, I think our biggest concern right now is to try and help those individuals who are going through fraud and through the process, while we're developing these pamphlets and information, the staff at the Consumer Affairs office can start to provide and develop what the document will look like. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I wanted to follow up on the consumer affairs questions. Does the consumer affairs provide indicators of how many complaints they've dealt with, how many investigations they've done? Do they provide reporting in terms of activity? Would we be able to get a snapshot of that activity in the current fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank Mr. Main for his question. Currently, there is no report and there is no data collected to see how much fraudulent activity is happening within Nunavut. Moving forward, I think it would be as simple as probably setting up a database with a list of activities that are going on as they come in or gathering data from previous years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) On page 200, it mentions the *Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Act*, the NNI Act. Under status update, under the second bullet it says "The department is supporting the NNI Secretariat to explore options and measures to standardize best practices..." and it goes on from there. On the NNI Act, what options and measures is the department looking at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the measures that department is looking at is standardizing to ensure that procurement processes are being applied consistently across the Government of Nunavut public agencies, including Nunavut Housing. The procurement process has been working with NNI to implement a new bid adjustment, which was approved on April 1. We are looking at tools to ensure training and proficiency, and it's anticipated that these new tools and training will result in disputes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) I'm trying to understand what the current situation is with the NNI Act in the regulations. This department is the one that handles most of the procurement for the government. I just love very large infrastructure projects. What are the biggest challenges when you look at the NNI Act and the regulations, and in the work that the department has to do, what are the biggest challenges that you are seeing currently? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The biggest challenges the department is facing is vendors navigating, and the bid process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister would be able to elaborate a little bit further. I didn't quite catch that first part about vendors. Maybe a bit more information is possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I will ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The biggest challenge is that the department, CGS, has the procurement and construction department with ED&T being the lead on the NNI file.

The biggest challenge that I think the department faces is education information to potential bidders to make sure that they are, to the minister's comment, prepared and informed to navigate the bid process. There is information available and fairly comprehensive packages available on that for Inuit-owned firms.

The next piece to that I think is something else that the minister touched upon that is the bid caps and some of the adjustments that need to happen there. So our department works very regularly with other partners in the secretariat in the administration, the NNI, to try and identify some opportunities to improve it.

The priority within the business plan just speaks to continue improving the effect of application of the NNI. So there are a lot of different pieces to that, but we would be happy to provide the member with more information on how that program actually is implemented and some of the more detailed steps that we are taking to improve it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. When our colleagues and our guests are saying “NNI” it is Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Moving to your Inuit employment plan on page 220 of your business plan, I’m noticing that the lowest Inuit employment rates you have are within your professional positions. Without getting into too much detail, I wanted to try to get an understanding. What types of professionals are we talking about? Is it mostly engineers? What types of professional positions do you have a requirement for in the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: *Koana*, Mr. Chairman. Those positions are basically engineers and accountants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) So when you look at engineers and accounts, it is hard to find those people. If we look at the relationship that the department has with Nunavut Arctic College or with any other schools, have you looked at a tailored training program that would focus on those fields, either engineering or accounting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a work in progress with the University of Manitoba for engineers, so we are working towards trying to... . I mean, through our Inuit employees within various departments, especially in the engineering and accounting departments, we want to make sure that Inuit employees have the opportunity to train and become, of course, accountants and engineers. In our information management and information technology department, we’re working with Nunavut Arctic College so that the staff that we do have in those departments have the opportunity to train and definitely work to try to go into higher level positions and through Nunavut Arctic College’s trades program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I do notice that on the very last page of the business plan that you have listed a priority which is a memorandum of understanding with Nunavut Arctic College and with the University of Manitoba, but that’s not until 2023-24. I guess that’s just a comment. I look forward to seeing those training programs. (interpretation) I’m done, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No further questions.

Chairman: Thank you. It’s just a comment. Next name on my list: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question and that's to supplement Mr. Rumbolt's questions on the fundraising activities that we often see through social media and all across Nunavut.

Mr. Seeley mentioned that they can be reported to the RCMP when they find illegal activity in terms of fundraising. Has there been any reports given to the government or how many illegal fundraising activities have been reported to the government and then onto the RCMP? That's what I'm trying to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: *Koana*, Mr. Chairman. We don't get RCMP reports on what the activities are of fraudulent activities within the communities. Our consumer affairs office takes those who call our office in the community of Baker Lake, but we don't track RCMP reports and how much activity is happening within our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you for that response. I guess my question will be then: have there been any complaints brought forth to the government in terms of illegal fundraising activities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been none. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and to your colleagues.

My first question is with respect to the procurement section, which provides...I'm reading off your Directorate here. "...which provides centralized purchasing services for government-wide supply and service requirements, including administration of sealift and logistics." The procurement section is a huge monster in itself with purchasing materials and the dollar figures, the breakdown of when it had to go to a tender or proposals or invitation, a community invitation and whatnot.

I'm curious: in that department itself, are there any Inuit helping out with these complicated procurement procedures? If there are, how many are there? That's part of the Inuit Employment Plan, I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are currently...sorry. We do have Inuit employees in our procurement department. The amount of employees in that department, I don't have that information right now, but we can definitely find it for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the commitment there. Perhaps I should email you a bit more detail because I don't want to say it all here because it's too complicated and too complex for what I'm looking for.

On page 200 of your business plan, continuing on about Inuit employees I'm looking at, you say that the department "will look for ways to apply best practices to attract and cultivate our finance employees by ensuring a commitment to learning, career development and succession planning so they can succeed within our diverse, inclusive environment." I'm curious: how will you look into that? First question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we're always promoting employees to further their education and further themselves into higher level positions, and we do it through our development transfer assignments and we also approach divisions to identify individuals within their departments to work with their staff and see if there are staff who want to or are willing to train to further themselves in their positions, to go into higher level management or senior management positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Continuing on there, you provided a status that you advanced four long-term indeterminate Inuit employees. Are there any other updates on that as well? Is there any more new information? Are there additional Inuit being moved up or being mentored to move up? Do you have that level of information handy? If not, I can get it later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently the department hired an Inuit outreach manager who will work with senior managers within each division to identify potential employees who want to work towards furthering their education and through our internship process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was the last name on the list on this page. Please raise your hand for questions if you have some so we can put you on the list. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaerner: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will raise my hands earlier.

I'll just follow up with questions to my colleague, the MLA for Baker Lake, in regard to the Emerging Leaders Program. CGS has that program and I just heard that one. Have there been any other interested individuals wanting to enrol into this Emerging Leaders Program? That will be my one question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: *Koana*, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Through our Inuit outreach manager, those individuals will be identified through this position to work with their departments to have Inuit employees who want to further their training and possibly moving into higher level positions. We do work with them and we have opportunities for internal and extend the opportunities for Inuit to further their within the department itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was page J-4. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$13,084,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page J-5. Local Government Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I mentioned in my opening comments on this one, where the Nunavut *Emergency Measures Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007, and sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provides for the preparation of emergency management programs on the part of government institutions and municipal councils. However, these sections of the legislation have not yet been brought into force.

I wonder if they can update us today on what the government's current timetable is for bringing these sections of the *Emergency Measures Act* into force. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the emergency measures plan, the department is compiling all the information and it is estimated that a full business continuity plan will take at least two years to complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, if any, which municipalities have not finalized and submitted their emergency management programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the municipalities in Nunavut have submitted their emergency measures plans. Through the Department of Community and Government Services, the government's emergency measures plans and the municipalities' emergency measures plans have included a COVID-19 emergency measure plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2021-24 business plan indicates on page 207 that one of its priorities for '21-22 is to "Provide ground search and rescue training and resources to local ground searchers and rescue organizations to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and resources to deliver on their mandate." What specific changes to the training and support programs are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The changes that were being made were designed to ensure that search and rescue survival processes were geared towards the north, and the previous survival content had a lot of forest type survival skills. In Nunavut we don't have any forests, so we had to adjust it to make it Nunavut-specific. Some of the other revisions that we incorporated were new safety measures and which were Garmin inReach units, Garmin GPS maps, and the GoBags that contain survival equipment for one individual. Those were the changes that were made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this training program, I wonder if you could enlighten us today on whether you have decided which communities are going to be done in what order and what kind of timeline you have for implementing this. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the member's information, there were 21 search and rescue volunteers who received the new training, 7 out of Iqaluit, 6 out of Rankin Inlet, 3 out of Arviat, and 5 out of Cambridge Bay. The new proposed search and rescue training is scheduled for before March 31, 2021 and those communities include Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Sanirajak, Coral Harbour, and Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next name on my list: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. Can you hear me? Okay.

The department's proposed 2021 main estimates indicate that the budget for the Municipal Funding Program was increased by 2.1 percent, from \$47,180,000 in the 2020-21 fiscal year to \$48,150,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year. How was the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to find the documents.

The increase in the municipal funding was to assist Rankin Inlet's new arena, which is a total of \$626,000 for their utility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at page 206, third bullet, it says, "...the department conducted over 40 residential survey projects, updated satellite imagery used to update community base maps and approved 20 land plans." Does each of the communities across Nunavut have a community plan for lands? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, every municipality has a planning and lands division in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, your department's new Community Development Grants and Contributions Policy was approved in November 2020, which was a few months ago, two months? Three months. It expires on April 1, 2025. Schedules to the policy cover the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Subsidy Program, the Municipal Mobile Equipment Program, the Community Development Fund, the Municipal Collaboration Program, the Municipal Organization Operating Fund, the Community Asset Protection Program, the Community Lands Administration Program, and the Inuit Language Training and Implementation Funds. My question is: what are the most significant changes that have been made to these programs? My final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no significant changes to the program. What the department had done was previous to this new policy being created, each municipality had grants and contributions for those different sections that you had mentioned. We wanted to make it easier to administer those programs under this

one new community grants and contributions for the municipalities so that they didn't have to report on each different item that you had just mentioned. We wanted to make it easier for them to report on one specific grants and contributions agreement with the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My first questions are on the Nunavut Emergency Management Division. I wonder if the minister can explain Nunavut Emergency Management's role to date in addressing COVID-19 or dealing with COVID-19 in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The Nunavut Emergency Management Division of course works with each municipality on the development of their community emergency response plan, as well as providing ongoing services to prepare for emergencies, as much as the title of the division indicates. The division to date has worked very closely with the Department of Health and our procurement team in assisting and facilitating the deployment of the rapid response teams to communities, and including materials, handling, storage and scheduling.

In addition to that, the Nunavut Emergency Management Division has worked quite extensively with communities in the development of tabletop exercises from the very earliest days of the pandemic to facilitate preparedness for what we anticipated the most likely scenarios would be at that time.

Since then, the division has continued to work with the search and rescue organizations and the volunteers that do volunteer at the community level to engage in search and rescue. The division has provided PPE and worked with those organizations to ensure that they're briefed up on safety protocols related to COVID during search and rescue callouts.

In short, the Emergency Management Division has been working quite closely, primarily with Health and with communities throughout the lifespan of this pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask questions about the Municipal Funding Program, and that's the \$48 million being proposed in this year's budget.

The department has been attempting to revise the policy that governs that governs Municipal Funding Program for a number of years. The minister's letter to the committee dated February 18 mentions a couple changes, and that is including infrastructure operating costs in the annual allocations, and as well as employer costs. I would call these tweaks to the policy as opposed to a new policy.

Is the department still planning to develop a new policy or municipal funding program, or is it just going to be small tweaks like these current changes going forward?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I thank the member for the question on the Municipal Funding Program. It is the most significant financial contribution to sustain the operation of another level of government here in Nunavut.

The shortest answer to the member's question is incremental adjustments will continue to be made on the program where we can see the most strategic investment and to assign their existing staffing quota. The next phase of that will be incremental changes toward the human resource element of that.

I will just make a very quick mention that those additional increases to utility rate, increases issued to the MFP over each of the past two fiscal years, are in addition to the capital proposal-based programs that have also been introduced to encourage municipalities to take on more planning and management of small-scale capital projects in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the information. How does it work when a municipality has an increased utility cost? I'm looking at the Rankin Inlet example. \$600,000, I believe, was the figure mentioned that will be going to that to offset the operations of an arena. Using for example the new community freezer in Whale Cove, does Whale Cove have to apply for an increase now that they have a new freezer or is that something that is automatically calculated within the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a municipality receives new infrastructure in their community, it's built into the development of the new infrastructure so those types of expenses are included when a community gets new infrastructure.

I just want to mention that through working with municipalities and through my long-time experience being a councillor and mayor and now at this level, I always feel that we should empower our communities. They know our communities. They know what they need. They know what their needs and wants are for their community. I mean, if they can find the initiative to find third party funding or if they can come to the Government of Nunavut and say, "These are the things we need. Can you support us?" That's one of the first things I had told my deputy minister when I became Minister of Community and Government Services and I said, "Let's work with our municipalities. They know our communities best." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question on this funding program is: is there an appeal process built into this policy? We're talking millions and millions of dollars. If a municipality receives a letter from CGS and the letter says, "This is how much you will get under the Municipal Funding Program this year," and the municipality looks at that and they say, "Wow! We really have not seen an increase in five years" or "We have seen a decrease; we don't like this decision," is there any way for them to appeal that calculation or is it simply you get that letter from CGS and that's that, that's how much you're getting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no appeal process, but they can write to the department and call us and ask us if we can review to see what their asks are and we will work with the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm interpreting that as no, there is no formal appeal process. There is some sort of avenue for appealing but there is no formal appeals process under which a municipality can ask for a review. If I could get that confirmed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; there is no appeals process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. On page 207 of the business plan it mentions the Western Canada Lottery operations in Nunavut expansion. What are we talking about here? Are we talking slots? Are we talking some sort of other lottery operations? Just that clarification, please. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're looking at online lotteries, Lotto 649 and Lotto Max. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wanted to ask about lotteries because it's been brought to my attention that online gaming or gambling is very popular now. People can gamble on their phones, play slots I guess, or what have you. Is any of this regulated by Nunavut agencies, or are these online platforms harder to regulate in that there is no money that goes to taxes or in terms of oversight of the gambling companies, I guess you would call them? Is this an area that the department is looking at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two different Acts. It's the *Lottery Act* and the *Western Canada Lottery Act*. At this time the department doesn't monitor exactly the types of lotteries that are going on in our communities. It would be a huge task and we just don't have the resources to monitor that type of activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'll move on. Also on page 207 the business plan mentions a priority for this upcoming fiscal year is to "Re-engage regulatory agencies and stakeholders in the drafting of solid waste management regulations... ." This sounds terribly exciting, but it is important work.

I'm wondering: why is this a re-engagement process? What happened the first go around in terms of drafting solid waste management regulations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The solid waste regulations determine how sites are identified, how they will be designed, and how they will be built,

and ultimately have a significant impact on development costs. The regulations also have implications on decommissioning and remediation requirements of existing sites, and staff turnover and changing priorities among regulators. That's the solid waste regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll try not to get into infrastructure here, Mr. Chairman. Currently you have three bundles of solid waste facilities that you're working on under capital and at the same time you're trying to draft new solid waste management regulations. Is the work on the regulations going to affect the cost to build new dumps in Nunavut and how so? Will it make it cheaper to build new solid waste facilities? Will it make it more expensive? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulations will determine the design and the cost of each facility. I mean, every community has different landscapes or different areas that could be used for solid waste sites, so those have to be taken into consideration. Each solid waste site in every municipality is going to be different. I mean, there will be times when, from lessons learned from one community to another, we will be able to incorporate those within the communities. It all depends on the community itself and what types and needs are needed for that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question on this page, I'm concerned when I look at this bullet that these new regulations will make it more expensive and more complicated than ever to develop new solid waste sites in Nunavut, when we consider that regulations and environmental permitting processes are always getting more and more stringent; stronger.

As the department works on this bullet, would the minister be willing to try to tie in the cost of developing infrastructure in Nunavut into the discussion? We can't just look at the regulations of solid waste without looking at the fact that we don't have enough money to even address our basic infrastructure needs in Nunavut. Is the minister willing to look into this in terms of budgetary effects of regulations that are being developed? (interpretation) That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad the member has asked this question and definitely yes, we will absolutely include, in future government services, operations and maintenance budgets so that if a community was getting a new solid waste

management site, we will definitely work with them to ensure that the site is funded. Our department is always working to help our municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister, and your officials. In your business plan on page 204, for search and rescue I want more information so I'm going to ask a question. How has the department planned for search and rescue? My reason is because land searches or the search planes that come up here can have their own accidents too. For planning purposes, we need to understand these things in the community, and by the government. What sort of plans do you have in place? Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Search and rescue in our communities are very vital, and we support these volunteer groups through the assistance of our municipalities. If a group from a community requires assistance, usually the municipality will contact our department and we're always there to assist them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the emergency groups in our community? Perhaps I'll say it in English. Would there be (interpretation ends) an emergency response team (interpretation) in our communities, like for airplanes. In my community there was a plane accident last year. For things like that, such as for passenger planes or cargo planes, if there were a plane crash, what sort of plans do you have in place for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do get assistance from the Government of the NWT, Government of the Northwest Territories... sorry for using acronyms... the Government of the Northwest Territories, if we require assistance if there was a plane crash near our communities, and we also have assistance from a facility in Ottawa, and we also have the... Rankin Inlet currently has, for there, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel. They are available for assistance if it's required when it comes to on water rescues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about training materials for emergency response teams? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we do have training scheduled for our communities sometime this month. I had listed the communities earlier that would be getting... . Or, here it is. Five communities are scheduled for training to be delivered and Taloyoak is one of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to something else. In the communities these days we have all been affected by the COVID-19 situation in Nunavut. Not all communities have it, but we have all been affected.

Sports teams that go and play in other communities, I know they have been stopped for a while. For young people, they are looking for things to do now. They are looking more and more for things to do. What has the department planned for our young people so that they aren't just be sitting in our communities and doing nothing, to give them things to do to make them happier? I hope that was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have provided funding to the municipalities for such activities when it comes to COVID-19, and it helps those municipalities, and especially our youth, to continue with sporting activities so that they are not sitting at home doing nothing.

We also work with the Department of Health and the Department of Education on kids' activities and guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different item, the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove did ask a question earlier regarding Lotto 649. I know that people from smaller communities play these lotteries when they are out of the community, but it's kind of difficult to ask a question. Perhaps the minister can elaborate a little further on this area to provide me more information on this issue. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had stated earlier, we will be opening four terminals in Nunavut and that is in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. In the future we will be looking at other communities to expand the lotteries program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I would just like to ask about this Nunavut Emergency Management Division. In the business plan, on 204, this is supposed help Nunavut communities create their own plans.

One of things that comes up all the time, and in fact I think it just came up a couple of days ago, is that when it comes to search and rescue, how much easier it would be if our cellphone coverage could go, I guess, wider, bigger. I don't know all the correct terminology. I'm wondering if it could go under that budget line item and why even though it has been requested by so many MLAs, why we never seem to get anywhere with it. It would really help I think cut down on search and rescue operations that is spent in searching for people if they are able to just at least call and say "I'm in trouble" or whatever it is. I'll just leave it at that and maybe ask the minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Satellite technology is more practical for search and rescue, which we use the SPOT devices and Garmin inReach. In our communities we provide the HTOs and the search and rescue with that. If an individual is going to go out and they don't have that equipment, they can approach their hunters and trappers organization to borrow their equipment so that if at a point where they required some assistance for search and rescue, they have that capability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. On 2005 you talk about to "Prepare an annual update to the Nunavut Long Term Infrastructure Plan," and when we talk about infrastructure, we used to talk a lot about the infrastructure deficit. Where does that currently stand now in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I thank the member for the question on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Nunavut's infrastructure deficit remains significant. The federal investment through the Investing in Canada program is a very significant investment that will make some good progress toward addressing some of the key infrastructure deficit areas.

Members will recall previous presentations on the different streams of funding that's available, including the prioritization under the green stream specifically toward safe

drinking water and wastewater management in communities. Throughout the lifespan of that agreement and the priorities identified within the plan, we will make good progress and continue to make good progress in addressing the territory's infrastructure deficit.

As far as calculating the existing deficit and the trends on that, the department does have a variety of lifecycle management and evaluation tools at its disposal to help calculate sort of the global figure on what the status for infrastructure is and its lifespan. I hope that that addresses the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear any numbers. I was kind of looking for numbers of where we stand now, if I can get some sort of idea of where we stand in terms of numbers.

Perhaps also, in the past, the way that CGS seemed to have figured out what was on the priority list was to go to communities and say, "What is it that you need?" Of course, arenas and all of that kind of feedback was provided, which didn't really necessarily address, perhaps, more of the pressing issues such as safe drinking water.

Has the department changed the way it establishes what is going to be a priority or what should be a priority in the community? If you can explain a little bit better about how you go about determining what is a priority in a specific community and how you, at the end of the day, make your list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. ICSP...I'm sorry if I'm using acronyms. It's the integrated community sustainability planning process and it's always changing depending on what the municipality wants. It's not a final document. Municipalities can change their priorities at any time. CGS is encouraging municipalities to adopt a comprehensive...of identifying their infrastructure needs and priorities. It's basically when Community and Government Services receives all the municipalities' infrastructure applications, they go through a process of health and safety first, needs, and then usually there's a hierarchy of like a checkmark as to what's the most important, most pressing issue and that's how the department determines how community priorities come into play and who gets what first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Part of that picture could be, for example, public housing, if I'm correct, or is that dealt with totally a different area like for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to deal with? It would be infrastructure. If I was in a community and I had no public housing, maybe that's something the community would identify. Is that something that would be allowed and, if so, how do you work with the community on that?

If the department knew that the community was in serious need, let's say, of a new dump, but the municipality didn't actually ask for the dump, even though you might know that they really seriously need a new dump, how do you go about that? How do you go working with the community so that they're part of the decision-making process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First question, your housing issue, that's a separate issue dealt with through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Of course every municipality will inform the government that there are housing issues in their community, so they would go through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Community and Government Services, when it comes to infrastructure, we deal with such infrastructure that the municipality administers like a recreation facility or a new government or if they needed a new dump.

Your second question, through Community and Government Services, we monitor communities' dumps. Every region has a Community and Government Services office that works with municipalities on their dumps and their sewage lagoons. If the staff feels that there's a priority or there's an emergency within this community that they require a new dump or a new sewage lagoon, the department will approach the municipality and say, "Look, there's something more pressing than a new recreation facility." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I hope that answers your question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thanks for your response, minister. I'm not sure, being a tax-based city here, how much or if the department assists the City of Iqaluit or not, but I have been concerned and I don't know if the City of Iqaluit has reached out. I'm assuming they have, with the amount of work that they're doing in digging up the utilidor, like with all the water and frozen pipes under the ground and all of that. Does the department work with the City of Iqaluit on these kinds of issues or are they kind of left alone to deal with it because they're tax-based? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. When we're talking infrastructure, this is all planning. Is that your idea? Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. We do work with the city on its projects and their budgeting, so our department does work with the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to find this.

On page 203 of the business plan it talks about senior citizens and disabled persons tax relief in Iqaluit for senior citizens. Can the minister tell me a little bit more about what that program is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Tax Relief Program exists to reduce property tax burden on those individuals. There's a set category or definition of "disabled" and "senior citizen" under the program. If the individual is the owner of the home and resides in the home as their principal residence, they are eligible for that relief program.

I can tell the member that in the year 2019-2020 the total expenditures under that program were approximately \$225,000 in relief to Iqaluit residents who qualified for the program where invoices were submitted to the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government seems to have a lot of different ages as to what a senior citizen is. Some are 55, 60, or 65. For the record, can you tell us under this program how old one has to be to access this money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact number, but we can get that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello again, minister and staff.

On the subject of emergency preparedness, you were talking about training happening in five communities. I wonder if my community is going to be on the list soon, Baker Lake. The reason being I was chatting with the chairman of the Baker Lake search and rescue and he had learned from one of the other local communities that they had received new inReach devices and GPS equipment, but Baker Lake couldn't get them yet because they hadn't received the new training that is being offered.

I was wondering if Baker Lake was on the list soon and what's the contingency plan if COVID hits a couple of the communities and we're in lockdown again for another ten

months or a year, yet we still have search and rescue operations happening. It still happens. Was there a contingency plan to offer training of some sort so that we can get this new important equipment to communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had mentioned earlier, the communities that will be getting search and rescue training are Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Sanirajak, Coral Harbour, and Pond Inlet. We will definitely let the member know when the search and rescue training will be happening in his community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the commitment. What about the contingency plan if we get COVID in a couple of the communities? Can the training be done via Zoom? I don't know what the training is, so we got to think of alternative ways to provide these services because life is still going on right across Nunavut even though we're living with this pandemic. So I'm just a little bit concerned about some of these things that are getting backlogged. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for Baker Lake for the question. The notion of training being delivered in the modern age under the pandemic is it's forced our training agency, which is the Municipal Training Organization, to take a good hard look at the implementation of all training programs including municipal council orientation training, including many of the more administrative programs that are offered.

Currently the search and rescue training is not available remotely, but we do recognize that there's a need for the ongoing delivery of that training despite travel restrictions.

The second piece to that is also funded and delivered through Nunavut Emergency Management, which is the community emergency response training which is a separate training module, separate program for a distinct purpose. The MTO in cooperation with Nunavut Emergency Management will most likely be taking up a look at remote modules for a portion of the training or to complement existing face-to-face training.

I will point out that the training that is happening face to face until the remote training opportunities are provided is being delivered by facilitators from the north or individuals

who have completed their requisite isolation standards by the CPHO. But certainly, the online training is the direction that things are moving. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was enlightened to hear the minister when she became the head of the department wanting to see more community empowerment, which is really, really good to hear.

I just want to ask the question; as you know Rankin Inlet is the hub of the Kivalliq region and it's very important to the communities over there. I am just wondering: how are the staff there? Is it fully staffed or are there vacancies in that division? *Qujannamiik*. That is my first question.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that detail of information as to how many vacant positions there are in Rankin Inlet or how many staff are there or how many are employed, but we can get the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Kivalliq we are Kivalliq residents. As Nunavut is a large territory, Rankin Inlet was always a hub and people have to direct questions to Iqaluit all the time, and because of the time difference there are not always people in the office. When the office was in Rankin Inlet as the hub for the communities, they preferred that and it seemed to run better at that time. I would like to ask the minister, where is the assistant deputy minister's office supposed to be located? In Rankin Inlet or here in Iqaluit? What does the policy state? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the assistant deputy minister position of local government is supposed to be located in Rankin Inlet. Unfortunately, the job was advertised for two years and we never got an applicant, we never got anyone interested so Mr. Seeley has been acting in that position since. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that. Why were there no applications, for what reasons, do you know? Can the minister elaborate a bit? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the question as I don't have that level of detail of information the member is looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The key positions that are located in Rankin Inlet, in the senior management level include the Assistant Deputy Minister for Local Government, which is currently vacant, as well as the Director of Community Development.

To the member's question about contacting staff in the Kivalliq region, having the point of contact in the Kivalliq region, the current acting assistant deputy minister is located in the Kivalliq region, in Baker Lake.

The director role is currently filled on an acting basis by a manager within the department located in Cambridge Bay. We do still have two other managers within the local government branch, which is the page we're on and what the member is asking about, located in Rankin Inlet.

As far as the content of the recruitment or why people may have applied or may have not have applied, I'm afraid I don't have access to that information, but we do have a variety of staffing actions underway within the department right now, and I look forward to filling those positions at the first opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's positions, when they're in different regions, it's good to see them decentralized. With Nunavut, that's good to hear. We have ministers across from us in this House. They can easily direct staff to be here, you're going to have ADM at your office, and it's supposed to be situated, why are they not directed to move to Rankin Inlet, why hasn't that been done? Even though the position is supposed to be in Rankin Inlet, it's not there.

(interpretation ends) There's too much colonialism. I know I'm offending a few people, but I really don't care. I think there would be less perception of the people seeing the government as a colonialist system if these positions were allocated to the community they've been allocated to. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comments, and we're always looking at how we can fill our positions within our communities and try to make sure that our department and all the departments within the government are decentralized and we don't want to take any positions away from any of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question is, Mr. Seeley sounded like eluded to the vacant position of the director in Rankin Inlet, am I correct for the region? Thank you. For CGS. Director position.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Seeley had stated earlier, the director of community services, we are in the process of going through a staffing action and right now there's a manager acting in that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Speaker (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) Order.

(interpretation) Thank you once again for your hard work. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 59 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is in order. To the motion. I'm sorry. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Ehaloak.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Regular Members' Caucus meets tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 2:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 106 – 5(2)
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 58
 - Bill 59
 - Bill 60
 - Bill 61
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 2, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

