

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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Pat Angnakak
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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Community and Government
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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
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Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
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Patterk Netser
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Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Government House Leader; Minister
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Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 16, 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. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 9:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. Before we proceed, let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, our fellow Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Our Lord, God, our Father, please watch over us.

Let us proceed on our last sitting day. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 615 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you, and to my daughter who is in Winnipeg, (interpretation ends) good morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important milestone in our government's ongoing commitment to ensure the enhanced social and cultural well-being of Nunavut Inuit. Earlier this month cabinet approved a government-wide policy to guide our work in the implementation of Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the Government of Nunavut must provide Inuit with an opportunity to participate in the development of social and cultural policies; contribute in the design and delivery of social and cultural programs and services; and ensure Inuit goals and objectives are reflected in all our social and cultural policies, programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, the *Katujjiqatigiinniq* Article 32 policy aims to do just that and is real action to ensure we are properly implementing our obligations.

Through meaningful and timely engagement and collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on social or cultural initiatives, as well as other actions related to Article 32, the Government of Nunavut contributes directly and substantially to the advancement of the social and cultural well-being of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the tremendous cooperation and work by the all Inuit working groups from our government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in making this policy a reality. Nunavut Inuit make up the vast majority our population, and the public governance of Nunavut will always be guided by and reflect Inuit priorities and aspirations. This government remains committed to our *Turaaqtavut* goal of Katujjiqatigiinnivut, and this policy brings us one step closer to our work together to advance the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 616 – 5(2): Turaaqtavut

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, and I say “good morning” to the residents of Pangnirtung.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the staff and Board of Directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation work toward the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities through Inuusivut, one of the five priority areas set out for the Government of Nunavut in its *Turaaqtavut* mandate.

Inuusivut specifically sets out that government will respond to the needs of Nunavummiut for safe and affordable housing. To help achieve that goal, the Nunavut Housing Corporation finalized a long-term funding agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide Nunavut with \$298.5 million to build public housing units over a ten-year period.

During the government's *Turaaqtavut* mandate, the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to [build] an estimated 482 public housing units at a cost of \$296.5 million. The corporation will build another 68 staff housing units at an estimated total of \$42.9 million. While Nunavut still faces a funding shortfall to address the severe housing crisis we are experiencing, the corporation is doing everything it can to implement *Turaaqtavut* priorities. This long-term funding arrangement empowers the territory to better plan our future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 617 – 5(2): Will Guide

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of writing a will and to remind Nunavummiut about a helpful guide the Department of Justice has on their website to assist people who want to write a will. The *Will Guide*, which is available in English, Inuktitut, French, and Inuinnaqtun, has been available since 2012 and aims to provide plain language information to anyone wanting to write a legally enforceable will.

Mr. Speaker, while it is difficult to think about what happens when we die, having a will ensures that your loved ones know how you want to distribute your property and possessions, and for parents, a will also ensures that you can choose who will get custody of your children. Having a will means that your loved ones can focus on grieving and celebrating your life rather than having to figure out what your last wishes are and deal with complex legal questions related to your estate.

Mr. Speaker and members, the estates of individuals that die without a will are administered by the Nunavut Trustee and Guardianship Office to ensure a fair determination of the rights of your next of kin and children. They do this under the legal terms of the *Public Trustee Act*.

The *Will Guide* is not legal advice but has easily accessible information and examples that can help Nunavummiut write their own will. For specific legal advice, we recommend Nunavummiut reach out to a Nunavut Law Society licensed lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, the *Will Guide* can be found on the main page of the Department of Justice website at www.gov.nu.ca/justice. I encourage all Nunavummiut to read the *Will Guide* and consider creating a will to ensure that their final wishes are followed upon their death and to ensure peace of mind for them and their loved ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 618 – 5(2): NIHB Negotiations

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to update the House on the ongoing negotiations with the Government of Canada with respect to the Non-Insured Health Benefits program delivery contract.

As the hon. members and all Nunavummiut know, for the past several years, our government has been working toward recognition from the federal government of its responsibilities under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. Last fall this

government thought it had made progress toward this goal when a new contribution agreement for 2020-21 was announced. That agreement saw the NIHB's co-pay increase from \$125 for medical travel flights to \$715 per trip, at a value of \$20 million for this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this was supposed to be the first step, not the last step. It was and is our expectation that the federal government begin covering 100 percent of the costs of medical travel flights for Inuit in perpetuity.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: This would fulfill an obligation the Government of Canada has to Nunavut's Inuit, an obligation it has failed to uphold for far too long. Delivering this program on behalf of the federal government has cost the territory millions of dollars each year. That is money that could have been spent on improving health care programs, services, or infrastructure here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, only three weeks remain on the current contribution agreement and numerous requests for follow-up to the Government of Canada have been met with silence.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Canada's continued stalling shows disrespect to Nunavut's Inuit and is harmful to the long-term health of our territory and the sustainability of our growing health care system. We have made it clear that unless full reimbursement occurs for medical travel, we will transfer the program back to the federal government. Tyms.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 619 – 5(2): Social Advocacy Initiatives

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

(interpretation ends) *Uqatitsijii*, my department supports individuals, community not-for-profit organizations, and municipal corporations to access grants to implement small-scale projects to increase capacity and employability, promote wellness, enhance leadership skills, build traditional skills, and encourage equitable relationship building within families and communities.

The funding for Men and Boys Initiatives and Women's Grants Initiatives provides critical opportunities for men and boys and women and girls to build personal

competence, create self-awareness, increase empowerment, and enhance knowledge and skills.

Uqaqtitsijii, these community projects play a critical role in creating a foundation for a strong and sustainable women's movement, including engaging with men and boys as allies on ending gender-based violence. The department also supports community-based programs that work with men and boys to promote health, healing, and recovery from experiences of violence and trauma.

In 2020-21 my department supported four community-based projects that promote women's empowerment; two in Iqaluit, one in Kinngait, and one in Whale Cove. My department also supported four community-based projects that promote men's wellness; one in each of the following communities: Iqaluit, Kinngait, Sanirajak, and Whale Cove.

Uqaqtitsijii, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of Nunavummiut who make these initiatives possible. I would also like to commend the contributions of the men and women who intentionally use these opportunities to create awareness on gender equality and the need for greater action and social change in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 620 – 5(2): Nunavut Genealogy Pamphlet-Poster

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce the development of the first pamphlet-poster on Nunavut genealogy. Genealogy is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages.

Collecting family history in Nunavut is different from practices in southern Canada. Southern practices have better access to immigration records, ship passenger lists, and ports of entry to Canada. In Nunavut very often genealogy work requires collecting oral history from Inuit elders.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Clifford Inooya, Culture and Heritage's Archives Technician, initiated an in-depth pictorial genealogy of the Amittuq region's families dating back to the early 1900s. The genealogy poster reflects the oral history work and research my department has completed. This project enables our department to meet the obligations in the *Turaaqtavut* mandate's Inuusivut priority, which calls for valuing our elders by listening to them, paying attention to their traditional knowledge.

This important resource will be available on the department's website, from the department, and will be widely distributed. My department will continue to conduct

genealogical research and looks forward to publishing more genealogy resources in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Actually, I have seen the ones mentioned, and it incites feelings of pride. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, John Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 867 – 5(2): Mental Health and Addictions Funding

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

As our session is coming to a close, Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make regarding mental health challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I am ecstatic in seeing the approval of the main estimates for 2021-22, as it includes supplemental funding appropriations specific to mental health issues, along with addictions treatment. As fellow MLAs, as well as our consensus style of government, we can share in celebrating the fact that we approved extra funding for mental health.

Mr. Speaker, this past year has been exceptionally difficult for Nunavummiut and many residents especially when you consider the impacts on mental health, indeed, if we look at the global picture, many people became addicted to more substances and suffered severe depression and other mental hardships and it has exacerbated existing conditions as the COVID-19 pandemic affects countries.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, my constituents have relayed the issues that they have faced as part of the restrictions placed on their communities, and perhaps this can explain how mental hardships can be intensified with additional worrying about the impacts of COVID-19. This is completely understandable to be stressed out by these issues in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind all the residents of Nunavut listening, as many people listen to the sessions that someone somewhere is always willing to help you, especially if you are under mental duress. You are not alone! Whoever you are, you can use the online services, telephone services or even approach someone to have some face-to-face time to receive assistance.

And further, Mr. Speaker, regarding any type of mental issues, people must talk about it and suppress your embarrassment as this issue should not be the cause of shyness. If you are under mental duress, it is absolutely not embarrassing, and if you are feeling sad, this too is an emotion and not a reason for shyness.

If you wish to receive assistance and support, that too is nothing to be embarrassed about. Irrespective if you are a man, a woman or a youth or an elder, many Nunavummiut and Canadians share this mental difficulty during this period as it is affecting us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying this as a reminder and I really wanted to voice my concerns and at the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the minister concerning that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 868 – 5(2): Working towards a Positive Future

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot count the number of times I have risen in this House to address some of the serious concerns and mental health needs of the community of Gjoa Haven, and I am certain my colleagues on the other side of the House don't want to count the number of times I have asked questions on this issue and pressured them for resources and solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I have pushed hard on this issue only because I have hope that we can and we will move forward to a healthier time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that working together with my colleagues in this House and with my constituents, we will find solutions and we will find ways to help each other overcome our struggles and challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I am very thankful for the support of my wife, who arrived to Iqaluit on Sunday. She has been a very good support. We should all be thankful for the people who are there for us...

>>*Applause*

...and do our best to be there for those who need us.

Mr. Speaker, I know that it can be difficult to stay positive. When times are tough, it can be hard to pick yourself up when you are down. However, Mr. Speaker, I know that we can do it. There is always a better tomorrow.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Akoak: We can be positive and we can make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with my colleagues on these issues and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all my colleagues safe travels back home after the sitting. Enjoy the time with your families. I look forward to working together with you again soon, and Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time there will be no questions to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I think that was good news. I was kidding. Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 869 – 5(2): Baker Lake Student Council

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow residents of Baker Lake. Have a great day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak a bit about future politicians in my constituency of Baker Lake. I am talking specifically about the Jonah Amitnaaq High School student council. From grade 6 to 12 they are:

- Darcy Amaruq
- Ryan Uquqtuq
- David Kalluk
- Ruthie Kuksuk
- Ryan Tapatai
- Hariette Amit'naaq
- Renaldo Uqayuittuq
- Rick Aningaak
- Gavin Dunn
- Richard Ayagaq
- Kimberly Aimau Piryuq
- Rhoda Parker
- Hailey Hashie
- Tara Kalluk
- Sydney Kataluk
- Vivian Tautaq-Stevenson
- Rayna Joedee

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the student council, like many student councils dealt with the usual student school business, but because of the pandemic, they had to deal with something out of the ordinary; the vaccination clinic happening in their school gymnasium and the disturbances it caused. As they were not allowed to use the gymnasium for a number of days, they highlighted the fact that they need exercise for a healthy mind and healthy body.

Mr. Speaker, they also cited the fact that they had to use the side entrances which are actually emergency exits and could only be opened from the inside, so someone had to be at the door to let any students into the school.

They also noticed the main entrance was blocked off by a table along with the lost and found box, which was of great concern to the student council should they have to exit in an emergency.

They wrote down these observations and concerns to the district education authority. I would also like to highlight that they did understand the importance of the vaccination clinic, but they wanted to understand why the vaccination clinic had to be in their school and not in another location.

To understand things better, they were open to having a meeting with the district education chairperson, which did happen later on.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite done my member's statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, these students are well on their way in addressing concerns that need addressing, and I suspect I will see some of them getting onto the local elected bodies, and at least one of them will become my future MLA sitting in this House.

I am very proud of them and hope they continue in bringing a voice to help deal with issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 870 – 5(2): Issues with Housing

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my husband is watching and he continuously supports me, so I thank him. Further, to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, I hope you have a good day.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the commitment shown by the new Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and I wish to voice my appreciation to Hon. Margaret Nakasuk.

However, with respect to some of our elders who moved to their cabins usually have a younger members who, most likely are also under pressure due to this pandemic, and I don't want them forgotten during this time as the younger family members should look after the housing unit.

Further, the residents of Chesterfield Inlet shouldn't be overlooked as the community was not allocated any new housing units over two years although their population is also increasing rapidly, and the housing units are becoming more dilapidated. Within the housing sector, all of us are deeply concerned about our immense housing challenges within Nunavut.

Now, a report was previously produced in 2017 after a Senate Special Committee of the Arctic toured the arctic regions, and it identified the correlation between the lack of housing and poor health. The report also identified the ripple effects of overcrowding, including physical health issues and mental health deterioration due to constant stress.

Further, overcrowding leads to sexual assaults, spousal assaults and other violent incidents. Our youth are also heavily impacted as many youth cannot complete their high school education because they too are suffering from hardships including being affected by mould infestations.

The report also identified that it has also resulted in segregation between Nunavummiut who are becoming wealthy, those who are not wealthy along with more cases of poor people and people living in poverty. Some residents are quite envious, and they wish to also get their own housing units but their status is looked down upon.

At this time, within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it lists 5,668 units currently and the costs of construction are the highest, yet we still need 3,545 units to even approach our current housing shortage figures.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? I don't hear any. Proceed, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this current crossroads, we require over 3,000 housing units just to catch up with the needs here in Nunavut. Also, this is in light of the already roughly 80 units that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can build in a year, but if we want to eliminate our housing shortage, they need to build over 300 units a year.

Furthermore, the report also identified that the overall rental arrears listed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation was \$17.6 million last year in 2019-20. Also, the Nunavut Housing Corporation paid \$210.3 million for construction.

This means that the most expensive rents were also levied in 2019, as it resulted in an overall rental arrears of over \$39 million, and in saying that, I am in full support of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new minister, as we can no longer just wait for the Government of Nunavut.

We cannot move forward, neither can we move back in history. The various Inuit organizations and the Government of Nunavut have to work as a private-public-federal partnership to alleviate our challenges. I am hopeful if any leaders of the Inuit bodies are listening, it is time to speak up.

You also represent Inuit and the housing shortage in Nunavut requires hands-on work to be resolved amongst all three parties. How can I say this appropriately? Only by collaboration of these three parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 871 – 5(2): Qaggiq 2021 Festival

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share some exciting news. Qaggiavuut, in partnership with Alianait! Arts Festival and Tukisigiavik, announced Qaggiq 2021, an outdoor arts and cultural festival taking place in Iqaluit this weekend.

The Qaggiq festival will strengthen, promote, and advocate for Nunavut performing artists by creating both space and opportunity for performances. The festival will take place in a 700 square foot igloo at the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park. The Qaggiq building is led by master builders Solomon Awa, Simon Nattaq, and a team of builders led by Alex Flaherty.

Mr. Speaker, the arts festival will be representing all three regions of Nunavut and will have *pisiiit* lessons for children and drum dance lessons led by Pakak Innuksuk. The Tununiq Theatre from Pond Inlet will be performing the world's premiere of their play, *Akiaq*, and the incredible western Arctic drummers, [Huqqullaaqattigiit], from Cambridge Bay will be performing their signature routine.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members who will be present this weekend to join me in celebrating the end of our lengthy winter sitting at this weekend's festivities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Member's Statement 872 – 5(2): Income Assistance

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for noticing me.

>>*Laughter*

Good morning my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to advocate on behalf of income support clientele, who are forced to submit their banking records to the income support workers, and when they apply for income support, they sometimes are denied.

In those cases, many income support workers have no other alternatives to turn to, and especially have no idea whom to approach for assistance. I imagine if you are an income support client, and you are denied it must be very difficult, especially for parents with small children.

They then turn to their father, mother or other relatives to use some funds from their bank account so they can buy some food for their children. The income support workers are adding this assistance, when EMTs are sent from other relatives. This is actually showcasing their life of poverty.

I believe that this should be accommodated, because in Nunavut all families help one another, especially those living on the edge of poverty. Barely any muscles left. This forces the people to feel despair as they lose their options and have no other choices to procure foodstuffs.

When they are forced into this dead end, they then start deliberating on what they want to do, then in some communities, they go on radio and the lucky ones can go to a local food bank as they are not too common in the smaller communities.

This is especially more so the case in my constituency due to our smaller size, but I think this is true everywhere in Nunavut, where Inuit face this dilemma. As a matter of fact, I don't think Iqaluit is immune to this either. I see people just walking around mulling their options and wondering where to turn to, maybe this body.

Nonetheless, only one way left is forwards. Again, as long as there is no clear response from this paternalistic practice, I will be adding actual figures, cost of living amounts, show the policies these income support workers are made to follow, so that I can voice the deep concerns held by income support workers who too want to speak out, as they too are feeling human beings.

For residents in Sanirajak, actually in Amittuq, there are many families who depend on this income support program, which is funded by appropriations from the government business plans specifically the Department of Family Services. I will again, have similar questions to strengthen their voices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq.

Member's Statement 873 – 5(2): Sessional Reflections

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and my colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a brief statement on our last day of the winter sitting. I want to begin by thanking you and my colleagues in the Regular Members' Caucus for their support during the sitting.

As we get ready to return to our constituencies, I want to acknowledge the strength of the people of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been challenging. I want to acknowledge the strong feelings that exist in the community on the issue of the Mary River Mine, and I want to clearly state my full respect for the rights of my constituents to express their views.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to spring and warmer days. When we return to this House for our next sitting, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues for the benefit of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 874 – 5(2): Looking Forward to Spring

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. This being our last day, I would like to say a few words too.

Beautiful spring is coming and people will be travelling. Inuit and elders usually say that in the spring time and the fall, because the weather is very unpredictable and can often be the cause of peoples' deaths. If we are going to be going out somewhere, make sure you plan properly and enjoy the weather, though the weather can suddenly change in the spring and fall. We are always advised to ensure we have the proper provisions and supplies if we are going out.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues here. Our session is almost over and we will be going home again, which is great. We'll see you all again in the spring time when you are a little more tanned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 875 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Netsilik. I rise today to say a brief statement.

On March 9, in my community, members were elected to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. I celebrate that they will be helping with terminology work in Nunavut. They will be promoting the Netsilik dialect. I just hope that people will understand our dialect better.

Beginning on March 1 they will be working through to February 2024. I just wanted to celebrate that along with my colleagues here, and I didn't mention all the communities that are involved, but I want to say "thank you." So, thank you.

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

Member's Statement 876 – 5(2): Qilaut 2021

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to celebrate along with everyone. On March 2, Qilaut invited musicians and one of my constituents was there and performed a song called *Nagligivagit* by Debbie Oyukuluk, but became a Tunraaluk after getting married. They just recently got married this summer, so her surname is now Tunraaluk. I wanted to voice my immense pride in her accomplishment.

I watched her grow up from time to time, and she would create video music clips with her children, and shared the songs online. They would create sing-along songs online that children could follow along to. They are providing much-needed distractions to us all, and they have been quite capable in making people stand after they were discouraged.

As well, as their MLA representing them, I was glad my colleague mentioned that festival that will occur on the weekend. She will be partaking, and her small children will also perform. I am so impatient to sit and listen to their songs. I am proud of you, Debbie Oyukuluk. Let's all celebrate the music. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Member's Statement 877 – 5(2): Appreciation of Husband, Brian Twerdin

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning people of Iqaluit, especially Iqaluit-Sinaa residents.

(interpretation ends) I have always tried to be a voice for hope and inspiration. For the last seven months it was the hardest time. I appreciated the overwhelming support from Iqalummiut, Nunavummiut, Canadians and even outside our greatest country.

My last wink is for Brian. He is an amazing man. He has been and continues to be my backbone. He always reminds me to be strong for my community and my territory. He is so humble and strong always there to lend a helping hand for the common folk. Up to a couple of years ago; heavily involved in hockey and baseball.

He has gone from being the social distance champion of 2020 to excited to seeing people of our community as he slowly starts to open the Grind and Brew. You know the phrase you don't know what you have until you lose it. Well he has told me that everyone is happy to see him to make sure that he takes care of himself, but then it's "so happy to have your pizza again."

Please support each other every day. Being a caregiver was the hardest job I have had, but I would do it over and over again. Brian, we have gone through so much emotional roller-coaster rides, which at times was overwhelming. I'm so grateful that we can continue on this ride as we remain hopeful and optimistic and supportive of each other. I can't thank you enough. You are being a great parent, a great father and most importantly a great pillar in our community. Thanks for being you, Brian Twerdin. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of our fellow residents of Nunavut who try to help other people. Members' Statements. I have no more names. We will proceed to the next item. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 1267 – 5(2): Income Assistance**

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavummiut.

I will be speaking about the member's statement I made.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to revisit the issue of income assistance. Let me first start off by the information published by the federal government on the

Nutrition North program indicates that it costs \$404 per week for a family living in Sanirajak to eat a healthy diet, and for Igloolik, the figure shows \$422 on their website.

Mr. Speaker, also, the information published by the Department of Family Services in their business plan indicates that there are over 1,500 residents in both Sanirajak and Igloolik that received income support in 2019.

As the minister is aware, the *Income Assistance Regulations* provide that the monthly allowance for a family of four living in Sanirajak or Igloolik is \$1,455 per month. That works out to, if my math is correct, \$17,460 per year or maybe, if I'm correct, \$335 per week.

Can the minister explain how this amount is considered to be sufficient to ensure that families are adequately fed? (interpretation) 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 asking that question. We have put a lot of effort into this area. Before we sat here, previous governments have also put a lot of effort into it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there has been income reform that was started in the last government and continues to do so. It's this government that created the food basket to better reflect the cost of living in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still didn't get a clear answer when it comes to poverty reduction. Okay, then, let me raise this again.

When I raised the issue of how income assistance programs treat the funds received from family members or individuals through electronic money transfers or other means, in subsection 20(4)(1) in the regulations, that "gifts...if received regularly or in an amount in excess of \$40 a month" are considered to be unearned income, Mr. Speaker.

I believe this amount should be increased so as to better reflect the high cost of living in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister provide a clear timetable of when she mentioned the regulations, will it be done as soon as possible, immediately, or when will it be done? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik* for that question. I thought I had answered it previously, but I will clearly do so today. *Uqaqtitsijii*, there are many items within the *Income Assistance Regulations* that require updating. This work is ongoing, the income assistance reform. The changes are not minor and will be in the queue for the other legislative changes for the next government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is sad to hear the next government will have to rethink these regulations, but I was thinking to say “immediately.” Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let me say this loud and clear; as the community of Sanirajak is not a decentralized community, and people are looking for opportunities in the job sector, there are hardly any jobs. Therefore, when it comes to the last resort, they go for income assistance.

Once they are declined, their hope is declined; they are hopeless, as I mentioned in my member’s statement. I would like to reiterate my question again. I believe the Income Assistance Program should be looked at for reform so that it will provide more support to the residents living in communities with high food prices, I would say.

When it comes to unemployment, like I said, there are limited jobs. I am sure the minister knows the position I am coming from. So can the minister confirm to the House; rather than having this looked at by the next government, can she confirm that it will be looked at as soon as possible? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for raising this.

(interpretation ends) I wish we had this conversation before this budget that we just passed because there would be real monetary value today if I had made a decision when we are so close to the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, may I remind that there have been many changes to the income reform that many people are happy about. They don’t have to go looking to have forms signed to say they were looking for work. That doesn’t exist anymore. I know of single people who cried happy because the single income support had increased. I know not everybody is benefiting from the ongoing, but I thank you because you speaking and asking these questions are what guides this government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I'm seated. (interpretation ends) I look forward to standing up again to ask questions someday.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, earlier I made a statement on mental health with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased mental stress and addictions have been observed around the world. My first question to the minister is: looking at the figures in the area of mental health or addictions and the issue of COVID-19, how much has it impacted Nunavummiut? How much have mental health issues increased associated with COVID-19? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Mr. Main. They are compiling these figures as we speak, so currently it is impossible to determine if any increases have occurred. Nonetheless, what we can state now about the stress levels of our residents relates to the concerns held. Is it a deep concern or is it mental fatigue of constantly being on edge that is affecting our colleague's community?

The Arviat residents have held local radio call-in shows, mental health presentations by professionals who understand the situation of the challenges faced by the community, such as people tired of being stuck at home, tired of being lonely, tired of staying home and wanting to visit, as that is very obvious.

However, with respect to the actual work of the mental health workers, their responsibilities have not been increased as a result. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1268 – 5(2): Mental Health and Addictions

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Now, with respect to residents of Arviat, indeed, I do have comments to make, nonetheless, I also represent Whale Cove, and want all Nunavummiut to hear the news and on their behalf I am asking for details.

There are some immediately available services such as counselling services for people who may wish to speak with other people including a toll-free number for people to call, or to call their local mental health worker at the health centre if they want a face-to-face counselling session.

Additionally, the newest services available that can be reached via cellphone, texting is also now available and this is part of the (interpretation ends) Kids Help Phone

(interpretation) or just text 686868, apparently it is geared for younger people who are technologically advanced and are more comfortable texting or even online via computers, Mr. Speaker.

Now, let me post this question to the minister. These new services, such as the live chat using the online services, or the other one using cellphones to text with another person, are they geared specifically towards our youth? Is that why these were added, and are they able to choose amongst them? If the minister can elaborate on this issue, I would appreciate it very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the advent of the cellphone network, our children immediately began taking advantage of the cellphone texting applications and communicated even when sitting beside each other and would annoy many parents.

Cellphones initially seemed problematic due to overuse but now, it is almost indispensable in terms of the different uses now, Mr. Speaker, as this technology has allowed our citizens to still communicate when no visitation is allowed, and people are not allowed to gather in groups.

These restrictions initially applied to all communities in Nunavut, and social distancing along with limited public gatherings were applied, and when that happened the cellphone provided invaluable benefits obviously as people can communicate, text each other and to download videos to pass the time.

It also showed the abilities of our youth to create videos and various media while restrictions applied, and this was blatantly obvious in terms of the usefulness of the cellphone technology and computers, Mr. Speaker.

This also highlights what I announced previously last week where there is a new website being shown called (interpretation ends) Healing by Talking program (interpretation) and this is becoming more popular to use, and we encourage people to use that app. Let me announce a couple of points.

The email address is healing@gov.nu.ca, or call 867-979-5367. Anyone who calls this number can receive the services offered, help and counselling are available and they can also refer you to other programs that can provide more services as needed.

Mr. Speaker, they work as part of the government and if anyone who is on income support requires further assistance, or families wanting assistance, you can call 1-800-663-1142 for more assistance directly as there are many people who want help.

There are many residents who need the help, along with local community resources that they announce locally obviously, that provide information saying that if you are under extra stress or have no one to talk to, then you can call me, email me or text me. I have heard via Facebook posts, where services are available and counselling is also provided.

There are many ways to get help and all of these different avenues can all provide tremendous help, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. As my final supplementary question, I want to ask about the social perceptions specific to mental health as I don't feel it should be viewed as shameful. It is not humiliating to ask for help.

If anyone wants to receive assistance, Mr. Speaker, in my mind they should not face discomfort when asking for help but to look at all of the ways to receive help, irrespective of physical or mental illness. Then we can approach nurses or other mental health workers to ask for help and counselling to overcome their problems.

No one should feel ashamed of requiring help at all! Some people become quite distressed, especially youth, regardless of whether they are a female or male, and one feels compassion when seeing youth facing mental hardships and to try to get them to understand if you need help, you are not weak.

(interpretation ends) Asking for help is normal. Asking for help does not mean you are weak. Asking for help means that that is the first step to getting better and changing your life. I wonder if the minister, for my last question, if he could discuss why it is so important to remove the stigma around mental health and mental wellness.

(interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have lost way too many Nunavummiut because they were way too proud for mental help. Mr. Speaker, nobody is too much of a man to say they need help, and we have to stop the shaming of people who need help.

(Interpretation) Mr. Speaker, mental distress or stress does not target just weak or incompetent people, as it can affect anyone at any point of their life. Anyone undergoing mental distress shows this can affect any person, and with that said, if you have a concern and even if it feels unimportant, and even when you feel you won't be heard, no one can help you unless if you speak up.

Whoever you may be, do not overly worry about the difficulty as it will eventually pass and if you wish to be helped, then you must voice your wish to receive assistance.

Without a person voicing their need for help, no one will know how to provide the help you may need. No matter who you are, please voice your concern if needed. For men, do not use your masculinity to overshadow your need to receive some assistance, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to moving on, I wish to gently remind members that the majority also tend to have questions they want to ask, so of course it would help if questions are kept as brief as possible. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 1269 – 5(2): Nunavut Water Board

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned, I won't have any questions for the Health minister this morning.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment. As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Water Board's head office is located in the community of Gjoa Haven. I am very pleased to take this opportunity today to pay tribute to the important work being performed by the board.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the Department of Environment issued a call for nominations to the Nunavut Water Board, and I want to strongly encourage qualified residents of my constituency to submit their applications.

Can the minister confirm how many seats the Government of Nunavut is presently trying to fill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Nunavut government is trying to fill one seat on the water board. I believe there is more than one vacancy, but to the best of my knowledge, and I don't have the information in front of me, the government's member is one that we are trying to fill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I recently tabled correspondence in the Legislative Assembly from the Mayor of Gjoa Haven, and I again pay tribute to the municipal council and its hard-working employees. The letter which I tabled indicated that additional infrastructure needs associated with the Nunavut Water Board have been identified.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the department works with the Nunavut Water Board, the Municipality of Gjoa Haven, and the federal Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs to address needs in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with all our stakeholders in every way we can. To do with the Nunavut Water Board, that's an institution of public government. It was borne out of the *Nunavut Agreement* and we work with the federal government, with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and with the board members to make sure that we can assist them in any way in their needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the department's business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the upcoming 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years are to "Review capacity needs for the completion and implementation of the Nunavut Water Management Strategy" and to "Develop a State of Nunavut Freshwater Ecosystems report..."

Can the minister describe the extent to which his department is working with the Nunavut Water Board on these initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The role of the Nunavut Water Board is to approve or not approve projects that use water as their main goal. Mr. Speaker, what the member is talking about is our strategy in terms of the freshwater that is around in Nunavut to make sure that it will still be there and that we can monitor it. To be clear, we're not talking about the water that municipalities are using for drinking; we're talking about the free waters, the water bodies within Nunavut, the freshwater bodies within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1270 – 5(2): NIHB Negotiations

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to you, as well as those who are watching the proceedings, especially my husband. Thank you.

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

Mr. Speaker, in his minister's statement today the minister noted that the federal government has yet to confirm its response to Nunavut's request for adequate funding under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program for medical travel for Inuit.

Earlier in this sitting, this Assembly approved the '21-22 budget for the Department of Health, which included an estimated \$20 million in savings as a result of agreements with the Government of Canada with respect to co-payments for medical travel flights.

For further clarification, given the minister's statement earlier today, can the minister clarify how the 2021-22 budget for the Department of Health will be impacted if the Government of Canada does not agree to the new NIHB agreement by March 31, 2021? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot explain exactly the impact that it will have at this time. Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister of Health to know that he has my full support for his efforts to get fair and equitable funding support under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and I fully recognize that the costs of providing good health are high and we need to be able to invest in the health of our citizens. Can the minister tell us when he next anticipates addressing this issue with his federal counterpart? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The effort is there from my office with the Minister of Finance's office and the Premier's office. There is more than the Department of Health at play in this.

As early as this morning I sent a letter off to the federal Minister of Health on this matter. This matter is not going to go away. The federal government has to pull up their socks and start paying for what they are responsible for and for far too long the Nunavut government has subsidized the federal government in the care of Inuit in Nunavut and that has to come to a stop. Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister clearly indicated, the federal government has this fiduciary obligation to Inuit for a long time and this issue should have been addressed long before now.

The minister has indicated that if the federal government does not meet this obligation then the Government of Nunavut will hand this aspect of delivering healthcare to Inuit back to the federal government.

Can the minister clarify how and when this major change in the health care delivery will need to occur if the federal government does not live up to its responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The care of Nunavummiut health care will continue. We will continue to carry that. As of April 1, any medical travel bills where Nunavummiut Inuit will be forwarded to the federal government and they will handle all those bills. It would be effective on April 1. Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

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

Question 1271 – 5(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Consultations

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I want to mention this event, though it occurred already last week on Sunday when the people of Kugaaruk held a prayer session to remember the residents of Arviat, and previously, the other community of Taloyoak also held a commemoration prayer event. All the residents of the Netsilik riding are keeping the residents of Arviat in their thoughts and prayers.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, I have raised the issue of housing on many occasions during this sitting. Although I strongly support the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plans to construct new units in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, more work needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's senior leadership to have a firsthand understanding of what is happening in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, as today is our last sitting day, I want to take this opportunity to formally invite the minister to visit my constituency of Netsilik before the House reconvenes in the spring. Will the minister accept my invitation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. I am very happy to get that invitation. It is good to visit the communities and I would like to visit your constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. The people of Netsilik will be expecting you now.

(interpretation ends) The role of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's district office is to support smaller communities. Can the minister indicate how frequently the Nunavut Housing Corporation's senior staff visit Kugaaruk and/or Taloyoak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to how frequently senior staff visited those communities right now. Each community has a housing association office, and they all provide community concerns to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I do understand that it is not always possible to travel. Can the minister indicate how frequently the Nunavut Housing Corporation holds teleconferences with the elected members of our communities' local housing organizations to discuss issues of concern? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that people in my office call the communities and they are notified when there are concerns in the communities. They had a meeting of foremen here in Iqaluit and the managers from the communities were also brought here to meet and to look for solutions to concerns.

The offices work together, also through meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1272 – 5(2): Vaccination Rollout in Iqaluit

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and they are regarding vaccinations.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Minister of Health for his recent announcement of expanding Iqaluit community vaccination clinics to include all adults. I would also like to thank all of the health care workers who have made clinics possible, who have received much praise for their efficiency in running their clinics like a well-oiled machine.

Mr. Speaker, vaccine hesitancy has been a challenge facing our government across all communities. I am proud to say I look forward to joining Iqalummiut and my fellow Nunavummiut as I have received an appointment to get my first dose of the Moderna vaccine on March 25.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is: would the minister be able to provide an update on the progress made of the rollout of the community vaccinations in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the appreciation my colleague is giving to our hard-working COVID team.

Mr. Speaker, the public health office in Iqaluit has been very busy lately. They have vaccinated, since March 11, so this is quite a bit more now, on March 11 they had vaccinated just over 2,000 people and since then to now it has been quite a few days. I'm sure that number is quite a bit higher. The phone is ringing off the hook and we hope it continues to ring off the hook.

If you don't get through the first time, try and try again. Over a thousand people have received their second doses to date, Mr. Speaker. It's going very well and I encourage people, and they have been, to be patient and if you don't get through the first, second, or third time, please do not give up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for providing that update. I'm very happy to see that the rollout has received much interest and much uptake in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, clinical trials have proven that the Moderna vaccine is highly effective in preventing COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the two-week mandatory isolation costs the Government of Nunavut approximately \$14,000 per person and in total has cost the government several million dollars.

I would like to ask the minister: how long will this mandatory isolation continue and more specifically, will fully vaccinated Nunavummiut still be required to isolate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to know that we are getting more and more people across Nunavut getting vaccinated at a much faster rate than the rest of this country.

Mr. Speaker, in the foreseeable future, up until probably once we have gone through every community and everybody who had missed and wants to be vaccinated has been vaccinated in Nunavut, only at that time will the COVID team and the chief public health officer begin to look at what kinds of things we could do, such as easing the hubs. I don't think the hubs will be gone completely, but we can't take a look at those and other possibilities and scenarios until such time that we have gone through the process of ensuring that everybody in Nunavut who would like to be vaccinated has had the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister again for providing that detail. As the minister has previously indicated, the intention is to have Nunavummiut reach that 75 percent herd immunity by the end of April.

Mr. Speaker, for my next question, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation made a minister's statement on March 11, just a few days ago, on the construction scheduled for this summer, and in the statement the minister had indicated that all construction workers coming to help build units will continue to go through the mandatory 14-day isolation period in the southern hubs, as required by the chief public health officer.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has stated that he's confident that the vaccination campaign could wrap up by September, and the Prime Minister estimates that as many as 16.5 million Canadians will be fully vaccinated by Canada Day.

My next question for the minister is: as the costs of the isolation of construction workers costs the Government of Nunavut in excess of \$20,000 per worker and in addition, in total several million dollars, does the minister and the chief public health officer intend on requiring fully vaccinated construction workers to continue to go through the mandatory 14-day isolation period? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The isolation hubs will be there for a while, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the construction people coming up that have been fully vaccinated, I hope they will be fully vaccinated. They're just starting the 85 and over and 80 and over in most of the provinces, but in the case where they were actually vaccinated by that time, again, it's something that the chief public health officer, with the COVID team, will be taking a look at to see if and when things like this could start happening.

It's something that they would not want to commit to doing at this time, but there are so many different variables at this time in terms of the vaccination and with the different variants that are going out there and all these scenarios out there. We will have a much better picture and be able to respond to those kinds of questions a lot closer to summer than we are at this time. I will gladly keep my colleagues and the public informed as to the progress as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1273 – 5(2): Medical Assistance in Dying

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask questions to the Premier as being the leader of the government and ultimately the spokesperson for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I made a statement last week on the dangers of Bill C-7, medical assistance in dying, and for the Liberal government to introduce last-minute amendments to include those who suffer mental illness. Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut we have the highest suicide rate that is attributed to mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) the question I wish to pose is to the Premier, and if his government took into consideration of the impacts of the federal Bill C-7, which I brand as legal suicide or as it is called medical assistance in dying. Has the Premier offered any positions relative to the federal proposal being dangerous for residents of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject matter our colleague is bringing forward is a very complex matter, and not simple. Also, the federal government has already voted on the legislation as far as I was briefed, and with that vote, they made that decision.

I have not discussed this matter with our own Member of Parliament yet on this particular matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, many Nunavummiut have mental illnesses and some of them get shipped down to the south for treatment. Bill C-7 says that people with mental illness are also eligible in the federal government's proposed legislation. The way I perceive it, it seems to say it would be better to just kill yourself if you're mentally ill and that's really dangerous to open that door.

Now, many people get sent down south. Our Premier just stated, he has not discussed this with our Member of Parliament. It is unfortunate while the Premier should be representing our people; especially these Inuit sent south who don't have a voice. Can the Premier inform the federal government that we do not have any of that capability here in Nunavut? We don't have any mental health facilities in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This legislation has been discussed for many years now, and it is already in place, and it has had a few amendments already.

With respect to the terminally ill patients for whom the government made this legislation, it is very specific to those patients who are enduring end of life terminal illnesses, and only patients in that category can be provided medically assisted death if they voice their wish to die.

They would receive this assistance only in that case, and there are many factors that have to be checked off, and I know that this is very difficult to get approval for this particular assistance. As far as I know, no patient in Nunavut has ever applied or been approved for this particular treatment.

Nonetheless, it is impossible for me to provide an appropriate response to the question the member just asked me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier just stated this legislation has been in place for a couple of years now. This is false information. It is not true, since it was just recently assented by the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I want Inuit to understand this fact, as he should be informing our people since many of them fall into depression, and we don't want them to see this alternative and we don't want to see patients being killed willy-nilly.

Whenever the federal government has legislation in place, they try to arbitrarily make decisions and manage it as this is their power. He should be voicing Inuit concerns about this issues but he just stated that there is nothing we can do about this legislation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear a single question, yet I wish to respond to his allegation. This federal legislation, yes, recent amendments were indeed just enacted; nonetheless, the actual Act has been law for a number of years that the member alluded to.

Yes, the amendments were related to depression and mental stress. However, it is not as easy as the member suggests, it is quite a complex process as I know that patients who are terminally ill and who wish to apply for this service require medically clearance and approval from doctors. Nunavummiut need to know that this has arrived. This Bill C-7, here I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Bill C-14 Legislation on Medical Assisted in Dying received Royal Assent on June 17, 2016.

(interpretation) The actual Bill C-7 was amending the existing legislation through the same type of process legislatures follow throughout Canada, and this legislation applies to all of Canada. Some residents approve this Act, but many residents also oppose the legislation.

For actual concerns, I would have to formally meet with our MP as she is our representative in Parliament to exchange our concerns and to provide our position on how she should vote, but since the vote took place the discussion period is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1274 – 5(2): Victims Assistance Fund

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the Victims Assistance Fund.

As the minister is aware, the *Territorial Victims of Crime Act* establishes the Victims Assistance Fund, which is a special fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. Those who come into conflict with the law may have to pay a victim fine surcharge. The Victims Assistance Fund is used to support community based projects and support services for victims of crime.

Mr. Speaker, the department's 2021-24 business plan indicated that an evaluation of the Victims Assistance Fund has been completed. Can the minister confirm what the evaluation concluded and when it will be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for this question. The Victim Services Unit does a number of great initiatives across the entire territory under a few different categories.

Mr. Speaker, with the review, I would have to follow up with my officials on what were some of the best lessons learned from that review. There was a delay in the implementation of some of the programming. As the member mentioned, this is funded through federal program dollars and there was just recently a new agreement signed, so there was a bit of a gap in there. I will follow up with my officials to find out what some of the best practices were learned from that review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. I look forward to the new agreement. I'm sure it's better than the previous one.

Mr. Speaker, the most recently tabled Nunavut Victims Services Annual Report was for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The report indicates that there was no revenue from the territorial victim fine surcharges during the fiscal year. Can the minister confirm how much revenue from territorial victim fine surcharges has been collected over the past three fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I don't have that level of detail with me. I can say that in the latest year we're reporting, 2018-19, there was over \$50,000 in cheques issued through the Victims Assistance Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Mr. Speaker, Part II of the February 2021 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette* includes a new victim surcharge order. The order indicates that victim surcharges imposed under the federal Criminal Code are now payable to the territorial Victims Assistance Fund. Can the minister clarify the reason why the order was made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the review and as part of discussions of ongoing support for this program with the federal government, it's just a way of streamlining the process, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Question 1275 – 5(2): Transboundary Caribou Management

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. I would just like to wish everybody here a safe break when you make your way home. We will see you all in a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of transboundary caribou management.

As the minister will be aware, there was some discussion recently in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories about this issue. I noted with interest that the NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has publicly expressed interest in meeting with our minister on transboundary issues related to the caribou herds in our region.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue from the Nunavut perspective? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with all our counterparts on transboundary caribou herds. In this instance it's the Northwest Territories and we had planned to have a face-to-face meeting and then COVID happened and that has not happened. The working group has regular conversations with the Northwest Territories' working group members. We have the caribous' interests in our hearts and some of the

caribou populations that have transboundary are having population decline issues and we're working with them on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing the results of your meetings with our neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the issue of wolf predation in our region has been a major concern, and one of the specific issues that I have identified is the need for enhanced incentives for Nunavut hunters to harvest wolves.

Can the minister indicate what actions are being taken to coordinate transboundary responses to the issue of wolf predation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the Northwest Territories for the wolf project that is happening in their territory. We know that the wolf harvesters from the Kitikmeot, mainly Kugluktuk, go down to a specific area where the Northwest Territories Department of Environment has targeted where they feel that if the number of wolves are reduced in this particular geographic area, that it would be beneficial for the caribou. We are working with them on that.

Mr. Speaker, as the member is aware, we introduced a new program last year within Nunavut where any wolf harvester, if they bring in samples for a wolf, they get \$300 per sample that is brought in. That program has been very successful in my opinion, and it will be continued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet spoke in the House yesterday about the need to take strong action against meat wastage and other unacceptable practices.

Can the minister indicate the extent to which this has been identified as an issue in my region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject of meat wastage has been brought up several times in this House.

The government, the Department of Environment, and everyone, no one wants to see meat wastage. It is against the law and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* does not support meat wastage.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut should take what they need and only take what they need to harvest. There are times when there is a sick caribou that may be left behind, and in those instances, please take a sample, provide it to your conservation officer and report it that you found or killed a sick caribou for humane reasons.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone sees anyone wasting caribou meat, they are encouraged to report it to their conservation officer. When a conservation officer gets a report of any meat wastage, the conservation officer will investigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1276 – 5(2): Alcohol Education Committees

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions last fall about the issue of alcohol education committees, and I paid tribute to the important work of these bodies that have to deal with difficult issues when they meet, basically talking about what I'm mentioning here.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate that his department was working on a new training package for alcohol education committees? Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work, including the funding and support that his department provides to alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Alcohol education committees across the various communities where they are operating in are sometimes a thankless job and I do appreciate alcohol education committee members for making sure that their community needs are being met.

Mr. Speaker, there have been, as I'm sure, we hear the COVID-19 has delayed so many training opportunities and meetings and different types of dialogue across the world, and it's no different here. We are currently looking at, if we cannot hold in-person training, virtual training opportunities. I'll have to update the member and alcohol education committees with more details as those are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the minister has previously indicated that his department is currently undertaking a review of the territorial *Liquor Act*. Can the minister clarify how alcohol education committees will be consulted and involved in the review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate this line of questioning. Mr. Speaker, whenever we do any type of legislative review, such as the *Liquor Act*, to actually create a new *Liquor Act*, we want input from all stakeholders, whether it be members of public, whether it be organizations, whether it be other levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol education committee members are our “boots on the ground” in the communities that deal with alcohol on a day-to-day basis and I think their input would be crucial in the review of the *Liquor Act*. There will be letters being sent out to different stakeholders. There will be calls for submissions. I strongly encourage any chair of the alcohol education committee, if they have input that they wish to offer, please do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, when I last raised the subject with the minister, I suggested that the role of alcohol education committees should be expanded to include the responsibility of providing information to the public on the health risks associated with the use of cannabis. Can the minister clarify how he has addressed this suggestion? 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. Again I appreciate the member’s interest in this. I know that alcohol education committees in the past have felt, in some respects, not given as many resources as they could have available in their tool kit to provide education on alcohol use and healthy usages. Mr. Speaker, the department is just finalizing some information packages that will be distributed to all alcohol education commissions across the territory.

Another way that we’re working to encourage participation, as recently our cabinet and Financial Management Board have approved increases in the honorarium rates for alcohol education committee members so that they can be duly compensated for the time committed to assist their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member Rumbolt.

Motion 112 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We didn't manage our time too well today, Mr. Speaker, and not all of us got to ask questions. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Just a reminder to the members: we will break for lunch when we reach Item 19.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet.

Question 1277 – 5(2): Income Assistance and Bingo Winnings

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I listened to the discussion between the Premier and the Member for Aivilik, I recalled this saying which I just want to voice, as the Government of Nunavut is unique compared to the Canadian government.

Our foundation is based on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangat* and members have heard mostly what this entails. We do not hold the hands of our residents in their daily lives, but are like the outer skin protecting them, as our elders like to remind us.

Nonetheless, the question I want to pose is for the Minister of Family Services. It has been three years since I last queried the minister on the status of bingo winners, in particular, income support clients who won at bingo are not allowed to get the pot.

What is the status of this policy in terms of the rules surrounding community bingos, as any resident who wins at bingo should collect their winnings if they win. They count as real benefits, so where is this review now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question again. I previously responded that the whole (interpretation ends) income support (interpretation) program was under a comprehensive review and that review is still ongoing, and it is unfortunate that your question has not been answered for over three years. However, we are quite aware of this issue now and it is under consideration obviously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Nonetheless, throughout Nunavut, the cost of living continues to rise and when people win at bingo, most of them use it carefully as they buy more food, buy skidoos or furniture.

I don't think as a government we should be constantly treating residents as irresponsible residents as we know that most Inuit today, at this time, are facing hardships in trying to maintain stability. I want to ask the department if they have commenced this review, and when the review will end. When will you be able to table it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded previously that too many correlated factors are still being studied to determine the role of the Income Support Program. However, they are not written down. During this calendar year these issues will be finally reviewed, mostly likely in the next fiscal year.

Now, I have yet to see a final report on this review, but there are many areas that require minimal amendments, quite a number are now listed here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I know that this minister rarely likes to respond with fluffy words as she really wants to show tangible results only.

Now, in recalling the whole issue, when a person wins at bingo I feel that should be prioritized, since the policy has yet to be drawn up, so is there anything today? It is going to be Friday soon, and when a person wins a bingo game, the income support worker investigates right away.

This has happened where the income support worker takes away their winnings, and with that outlook, can the minister prioritize this so bingo winners can keep their winnings? There are many issues requiring amendment, which I totally understand but I feel this should be fast-tracked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) And I thank you for continually asking about bingo. There are many of us who play bingo.

Unfortunately I have to say with the income reform, there were priorities in the sense of which regulations are going to impact the majority of individuals, and when it comes to

bingo playing, I don't think that was the priority because it is a small portion of income recipients.

You have to prioritize when you are looking at the reform. It was the food basket. We have increased it. There are fewer regulations in the sense of people having to go out to prove they went looking for a job. Positive things have come from income support and we will continue to do so.

Believe you me, the staff are watching and I have asked about the bingo as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1278 – 5(2): Air Transportation

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have raised questions and concerns since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic about the need to accommodate Sanikiluaq's unique circumstances in respect to travel to and from the community.

Mr. Speaker, we went from having six flights a week a year ago down to two flights a week. We had three flights to Montreal, three to Winnipeg. We no longer get flights to Montreal and we're down to two in Winnipeg.

I want to ask the minister: are there any talks or ongoing discussions about going back to three flights a week in Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are in discussions with my colleagues in trying to determine how best to serve the community of Sanikiluaq in terms of air transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we went down to two flights a week and these two flights are Sundays and Tuesdays, and there are times such as today when a flight gets cancelled. It's my understanding that Sanikiluaq's flight was cancelled today and the next scheduled flight is not until Sunday. That means patients are rebooked to fly again in five days' time, which means they have to go back into isolation for another five days.

Can the minister update us today on what his department is doing to ensure that the people of Sanikiluaq can get better responses to airlines and maybe even if they could do more make-up flights in between so that they don't have to spend an additional week in isolation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally understand where my colleague is coming from because if the weather is out on Sunday, and it could happen, then they stay longer and longer. It's very hard for that to be acceptable, Mr. Speaker. Actually, this morning as we speak, we're trying to see how we could better address the situation, especially when it's weather-related and time-sensitive such as that, Mr. Speaker. We are in discussions and I really hope to have an answer sooner than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good that the department is looking into this; it's very important to the community. I would just like to get a more definite answer from the minister. He said they would have an answer sooner or later; if he could give me a more definite answer and how long it's going to take to look into this and keep the community updated on the progress on this item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff are trying to find out, with support from other departments, to see if we can't create a make-up flight on situations such as today. Hopefully, before the day is over, I will have a more definite answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1279 – 5(2): Guaranteed Basic Income

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Family Services and they concern this subject of guaranteed basic income.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services currently have contracted out a feasibility study on a guaranteed basic income system for Nunavut. Can the minister provide an update on the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study contract? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question and it's actually your question that started this process of looking into the guaranteed basic income. My recent update this morning was they're still finalizing working with a potential contractor on this file. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) During the minister's recent appearance before the Committee of the Whole, this was on March 9, she indicated that the government was moving in the direction of providing a guaranteed basic income to Nunavut residents. Can the minister clarify why this approach would be an improvement over the current income assistance system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't know if it will be a better system, but we are in the process of trying to hire a consultant to do research on if this is the route that our government wants to go when it comes to income support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess my last question for the minister is: will this study be completed before the end of the term of this Assembly and, if so, will the minister commit to tabling the results of the study in this House as soon as it's completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can't say if it will be done, but I certainly will keep the House apprised of the status of when it will be complete. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1280 – 5(2): Nunavut's Suicide Prevention Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2015 during our Fourth Assembly, the Premier of Nunavut of the day declared suicide a crisis across our territory. In 2017 Nunavut's third Suicide Prevention Strategy, *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq*, was introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I know suicide is a difficult topic to discuss and I think there are different views to many different people whether or not it should be discussed more openly or whether or not it's a topic that we shouldn't be discussing openly.

Can the minister provide, perhaps, an update on whether the *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan* is having a positive impact on reducing the number of suicides and suicide attempts across our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be quite honest, it's really hard to gauge whether a program reduced the number of suicides or suicide attempts. How would you base that on previous years' suicides? I really have trouble responding to that in a manner with any concrete answer, Mr. Speaker. I can only hope that the Inuusivut programs that are out there are helping people and helping people to get out of the trauma and the situations that they are in, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the amount of money that the government spends on providing services, there's got to be some way of knowing whether we're on the right track or not.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent sitting, this Assembly approved the Department of Health's 2021-22 budget, which included almost \$5 million in contributions for the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, as well as over \$2 million in core funding for the Inuusivut Division.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a bit of a concern of mine that significant amounts of public funds are distributed through grants and contributions, but we often have very little idea on how these funds are spent and what is being achieved. It is important to build on successes and invest in them further while moving on from activities that are not productive and we need information to make these good decisions.

Can the minister tell us what kind of ongoing monitoring and reporting takes place to evaluate the activities funded through the *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan* and whether he would be prepared to table a status report on its progress during our next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money that is used for social purposes or making sure that people live longer or people going through hardships to see how we can help them, all that money that is being used. They do help a lot and through education and taking part in things and family involvement. They help people. They get checked to see how they feel about them to see how they improve the communities whenever those monies are given out. They are set up in the contribution agreement. They have to report on how it ran, where and if there are going to be other considerations, and they have a form they have to fill out and they use those. They get to see where it helped and where they can be improved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. I just hope that the minister will be prepared to table a status of the report so that we can all find out whether or not these programs are effective. We all have a duty to make sure that the money that we approve in the House, which are public funds, are spent in the direction that they are supposed to be and achieving the results that were intended.

Mr. Speaker, in looking through the Quality of Life Secretariat information on the Department of Health's government webpage I was very impressed to see the kinds of initiatives that are out there. There is ASIST training, Safe Talk programs, Mental Health First Aid training, and other ones that are available. There are help lines listed and information for individuals on how to discuss suicide safely especially if you are worried about someone.

Unfortunately, we don't hear enough about these important programs. Not everyone has access to the internet or knows where to look for this kind of information. Will the minister commit to increasing his department's efforts to publicize and promote these important suicide prevention programs for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1281 – 5(2): Income Assistance

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on the questions raised by Mr. Kaernek. My questions are for the Minister of Family Services regarding income support.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kaernek has raised some very legitimate concerns on multiple occasions and it is very frustrating for the member asking the questions as well as the member listening to the questions when a clear response is not given.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lightstone: Before I begin, I would like to paint a clear picture so the minister will be able to understand the issue of concern. Poverty in Nunavut is a matter that affects all communities. Many Nunavummiut do not have the economic opportunities and income support is their only option.

When a family on income support runs out of money and food, and there are no food banks available, they must rely on family members who are employed, who have steady incomes, and most likely family members who have left the community to follow employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, income support recipients count on those family members to send food. Often the only option is electronic transfers. I would like to ask: when a family on income support runs out of food and money, why is it that when a family member sends them money to buy food today, it will reduce the income support recipient's money available to buy food tomorrow, next month? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you for that question. My staff are watching, so they are going to know what I reiterate every time I meet with them.

You have to remember, Mr. Speaker, the department is the 'unflavour' of the day because we are dealing with people. It is a real challenge. I think I sat after the standing committee... . We have had in eight years six ministers. Imagine trying to make change with those kinds of changes.

In saying that though, thanks to your support in this House, we have achieved a lot with Family Services, including income support, and we continue to meet to work on that. So my hope is that maybe with the staff listening, that there is some sort of correspondence that will be provided to you before this term. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for reiterating that there have been recent income reform amendments, but that is an issue that corrected matters of yesterday, and we are raising concerns that affect income recipients today.

Mr. Speaker, when someone sends a family member money to buy food, they end up losing their income support available to buy food next month. I appreciate the minister committing to sending correspondence on the matter, but what we would really like to see here is a commitment for the minister to make amendments to the regulations which would allow for one-time transfers within a reasonable limit that would not penalize a family, an income support recipient who has run out of food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you. I thank you because you provided a potential solution. It is easy to ask a question. It is another to solve it, so I really thank you for your suggestion. It makes sense. So I will certainly be working with my department on that suggestion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Question 1282 – 5(2): Language Revitalization

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was one of my campaign promises previously in 2016, and earlier I spoke about the representatives chosen to work on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and who will use the language as well. It will also assist our traditional culture, and for that reason, I want to ask this question, Mr. Speaker.

As Nunavummiut, we have good policies and we practice a great culture with traditions in our local areas. Our culture and our language have to be preserved and protected. Our lives, our cultural practices, our language are ours to keep alive and preserved. Our language, as Inuit tend to state, is a source of strength and we understand if we don't use our language, then it too will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, I considered this a very important foundation, and we must constantly use our language as that is what makes us Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to hear from the department: what types of strategies or plans to try to revitalize the loss of certain dialects, and preserve of our dialects as Inuit living in our communities are in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I am sorry as I did not hear which minister. Who are you directing your question to? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not identify the minister. It was directed to the Minister of Languages or rather the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the question. Now, there is a body tasked with the preservation and protection of our language, and there are courses available through that body.

If we look at the future, we don't anticipate residents will stop talking, and in the communities, funds are made available for local Inuktitut classes or classes to help preserve and protect our language, as well as for cultural practices.

I hope I answered his question, but I am unsure if I did or not. Perhaps he can clarify if this is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When would this government make Inuktitut the operational language of day to day operations? When can we start to see examples of this? Should we have any expectations on this goal?

Mr. Speaker that is what I wanted to understand more about, hence my question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that matter, as the legislation outlines the need to work towards protection and preservation of Inuktitut, English and French.

These languages are the ones identified as being required within the working environment, and these three languages are to be available in the event, especially recognizing 85 percent of the population is made up of Inuit within Nunavut.

We know we must always have Inuktitut services available, and this has to be available no matter which region you are in, to provide services in the language of their choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our communities, as well as our municipal and territorial governments, they have staff that must also be able to speak Inuktitut within the workplace.

When will we be able to see Inuktitut becoming more of the operational language of the government within their workplaces? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Culture and Heritage, Ms. Nakasuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question.

This government's departments have the ultimate goal of having Inuktitut as an operational language, but right now we have asked all offices to have a person fluent in Inuktitut in case their services are required.

If we were to envision the language requirements within the legislation, the Department of Culture and Heritage has funding available that is provided to the various departments, held by this government. To use the Department of Education as an example, we provide funding to the Department of Education for language services.

The government departments have to be able to provide services in all three official languages I mentioned earlier, as these languages are required to be made available at every government workplace.

As well, this applies to the government agencies but in terms of private businesses, they can also apply for funding to comply with the legislation, especially for Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun signage or language services, or to provide business signage.

There are funds specific to that purpose, but these funds are largely for non-government businesses, but for government agencies and such, they have to have an employee who is fluent in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please be aware that the time allotted for Oral Question period has lapsed. Let us proceed with our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 082 – 5(2): Status of Decentralization

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a written question to submit and it is directed to the Premier, specifically the Department of (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The subject of my written question is the status of decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is detailed. Although I am more than willing and able to read if required, I would request that it be entered into the record as read, and I have provided a copy to the Clerk.

1. Expressing the information in a comparable format to that which was provided in Returns to Written Question 12 – 4(2) and 26 – 4(3) and 4 – 5(2), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut’s decentralization initiative as of March 1, 2021?
 - (a) From April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2021, how many Government of Nunavut departmental, board, agency and Crown corporation positions (broken down by entity) were decentralized from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay to another community (broken down by community)?
 - (b) As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled on an indeterminate or term basis with employees considered as members of the public service?
 - (c) As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled with Nunavut Inuit and how many were filled with non-Inuit?
 - (d) As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled with persons who were previously living in the decentralized community or elsewhere in Nunavut, and how many were filled with persons relocating from out of territory?
 - (e) As of March 31, 2021, how many positions had been vacant for more than six months (broken down by employing entity and community)?
2. As of March 1, 2021, what was the status of the implementation of the “Key Actions,” “Key Recommendations,” and “Timelines” contained in the Government of Nunavut’s *Decentralization Action Plan*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2012?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that the member’s written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement. (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Main.

Written Question 083 – 5(2): Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My second written question for today is also to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental

Affairs. It is on the subject of the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle.

My written question is detailed. I would like to request that it be entered into the record as read.

1. With respect to the *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle* that was signed on August 15, 2019:
 - a. What is the current status of implementation of the provisions contained in each of the 14 chapters and two schedules of the *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle*?
 - b. What is the current status of negotiations between the parties in respect to a Final Devolution Agreement?
 - c. What is the current status of the Government of Nunavut's *Request for Proposals for an Implementation Service Provider for the Transitional Human Resources Development Strategy* (RFP 2020-63)?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 376 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy

Tabled Document 377 – 5(2): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 2020

Tabled Document 378 – 5(2): Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated 2015-16, 2016-17 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table three documents; the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy, the 2019-2020 Annual Report on the Administration of the *Access to Information and Protection Privacy Act*, and the Nunavut

Tungavik Incorporated 2015-16, 2016-17 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society titled, *Resilience in Life*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 379 – 5(2): FPT Ministerial Report on the Ministers Responsible for International Trade Roundtable

Tabled Document 380 – 5(2): FPT Ministerial Report on the Committee on International Trade

Tabled Document 381 – 5(2): FPT Ministerial Report on Energy and Mines Ministers Conference

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table three documents:

- The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Reports on the Ministers responsible for International Raid... uh, international raid... International Trade Roundtable.

>>*Laughter*

Sorry. My collusion just got exposed. The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Minister's Report on the Committees on Internal Trade and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Reports on Energy, Mines, and Ministers' Conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 382 – 5(2): 2018 NHC Contracting and Procurement Activity Report

Tabled Document 383 – 5(2): 2019 NHC Contracting and Procurement Activity Report

Tabled Document 384 – 5(2): 2020 NHC Contracting and Procurement Activity Report

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table three reports: the 2018, 2019, and 2020 Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting and Procurement Activity Reports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 385 – 5(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Tabled Document 386 – 5(2): Report on Members’ Absences from Sitzings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Tabled Document 387 – 5(2): Declaration of Assent for Bills 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50

Tabled Document 388 – 5(2): Declaration of Assent for Bills 25, 35, 37, and 51

I have four documents to table today. The first document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements.

The second document is the Report of Members’ Absences from Sitzings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

The third and fourth documents are copies of the Declarations of Assent that were signed by the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice in respect to bills passed during the September 2020 and the fall 2020 sittings of the Second Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly.

Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 58, 62, 63, and 64 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 107 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 2 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 12:27 and Committee resumed at 14:01

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order, please. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 58, 62, 63, and 64. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Bills 58, 62, 63, and 64. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 58?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act – Consideration in Committee

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Ehaloak, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then proceed into your opening comments. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everyone. Today I would like to introduce my colleagues, Ms. Constance Hourie, who is the Deputy Minister, and beside her is Acting Director Legislation, Mr. Thomas Ahlfors.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before members of this House for the clause-by-clause review of Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.

The bill proposes amendments to the Act to provide the City of Iqaluit with the authority to distinguish between groups of people within their land administration bylaw. It would allow Inuit who have been residents of Iqaluit for at least two years to have priority in the land leasing process, followed by all other individuals who have been residents of the city of Iqaluit for at least two years.

Mr. Chairman, the city has been pursuing the power to ensure that Inuit and Iqaluit residents have an advantage in the competitive and land leasing process since 2018. However, this has not been possible to do so as the Act currently does not provide the city with this authority.

The Department of Community and Government Services supports the city in its efforts to pass this bylaw and is proposing amendments to the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* as a result. By working together with the City of Iqaluit and identifying improvement areas to the legislation to support the city in solving its challenges, we are modelling the values of Piliqatigiinniq and Qanuqturniq.

Land administration bylaws are among the few municipal bylaws that require ministerial approval, and to grant this approval, the department must also ensure that the proposed bylaw is compliant with relevant legislation. In this case the proposed amendment to the Act will allow the department to approve the bylaw and provide the city with the necessary authority to implement its land administration bylaw.

The City of Iqaluit is the only municipality in Nunavut incorporated under the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*. All other municipalities are incorporated under the *Hamlets Act*. As a result, the amendments proposed under Bill 58 would apply only to the City of Iqaluit and only within the scope of their land administration bylaw.

I welcome questions and comments from members on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I'm the co-chair in place of John Main, who is our chair I am speaking.

As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in her opening comments. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of her department's work to consult with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and other stakeholders with respect to bringing forward similar amendments to the *Hamlets Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. I will now open up the floor to any questions or comments that members have on the bill. Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Ms. Towtongie mentioned, when can we expect to see a similar bill to address the needs of the other 24 communities in the territory? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The members should receive amendments to the Municipal Act by spring of 2021. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Have any other municipalities indicated an interest in putting in similar rules with regard to their land administration or is this still a question mark? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they haven't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main, you're good? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments first of all on Bill 58, which in English is called (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, (interpretation) I would like to understand how it is different. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. When it comes to the title, "Cities, Towns and Villages," Iqaluit is the only community in Nunavut that is considered a city and their funds to administer their office, they charge land taxes to residents, and in the municipalities... . I mean, Iqaluit is the only city in Nunavut that charges land taxes.

In all other municipalities, they are funded by the territorial government. Their land leases are done through either yearly land leases with members or they have equity leases, and they can't charge taxes to any of their residents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any more questions or comments? If not, I'll ask members to go to their legislative binders to Bill 58, which is tab 58 in your binders. We are on Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 58 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 58 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members [for] when we were in appearance with the regular members, and all the questions that they came up with. I would like to thank my colleagues in the Department of Community and Government Services for all of the work that they have been doing for myself and my colleagues.

Unfortunately I have news to say that this Deputy Minister Constance's last appearance in this House as she will be going home and spending time at home with her family. So again, thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Hourie.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. On behalf of the committee I thank you for the amount of work that you and your staff have put into this behind the scenes. I know it is a one-liner, but I'm sure a lot of work went into getting this to the point it is today. Ms. Hourie, all the best to you in your endeavours from here on.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. We will take a very brief break. I will ask members to remain in their seats while we set up for the next department, which is Bill 62. Thank you.

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Consideration in Committee

Welcome back, members. Again, we are going to move onto Bill 62, and I would like to ask Minister Hickes if you have officials you would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, if you could please introduce your officials and then go on into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Steve Mansell, the Deputy Minister of Justice; to my left, Dwayne Twerdin, Assistant Deputy Minister of Courts and Justice Services; and to the far right, Amy Short, Legislative Drafter.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. The bill before the Legislative Assembly today is a minor technical amendment to the *Judicature Act*. Specifically the Department of Justice is looking to make a minor amendment to the regulation-making power in the *Judicature Act* to clarify what fees can be paid and collected by the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Currently the Act only allows for the payment of fees for reimbursement of expenses of interpreters, reimbursement of expenses of witnesses and professional fees. The current *Court Fees Regulations* and Fees and Allowance Regulations go beyond the scope of what is allowed under the *Judicature Act* and contain a number of other fees vital to the operations of a court.

Mr. Chairman and members, the fees contained under these regulations are necessary for the operations of the court and to pay for the many hard-working professional court reporters, interpreters, sheriffs, and clerks who make the Nunavut Court of Justice one of the most efficient and effective in the country.

We propose amending these regulation-making powers to clearly authorize existing regulations and to allow the Department of Justice to review and update them as needed.

I will now take any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of work to build capacity in the area of interpretation of court proceedings and translation of court documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. I will now open up the floor if there are any comments or questions on the bill. Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I want to state I am in support of this bill, and I want to speak to say that our court interpreters who provide this service whenever the court party comes into our communities, and the docket has court cases identified, the interpreters are indispensable.

Particularly in the case when the communities have residents who are not fluent in English, as some communities still rarely speak English amongst each other, and

interpreters are very valuable so we want to see them get their due, in terms of an appropriate wage.

As well, this should reflect the heavy stress they are placed under in their roles in communicating between two cultures, so this bill is understandable, and based on my understanding, we believe it will have tangible benefits which is quite endearing. I thank the minister for that.

(interpretation ends) My question is regarding the minister's opening comments where he mentioned that the court system is one of the most efficient and effective in the country. I wonder if he could explain that statement a bit more and how it's determined that it's efficient and effective. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the operational details, if Mr. Twerdin would be able to respond to the member's question, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Twerdin.

Mr. Twerdin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a great question, Mr. Main, in regard to the efficiencies of the court coming from an operational standpoint, who was a clerk of the court and a sheriff just after creation and see how far the court has come in the last 21 years. When we talk about efficiencies when criminal and civil proceedings are filed with our court, our clerks and our staff ensure that we have quick turnaround times for court dates and ensure there are minimal delays with filing of documents, filing of precedence, and ensuring that all members of the court, including the judiciary, defence, and the Crown, are all on the same page to pursue matters with the least amount of delays as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Ma'na*, Mr. Twerdin and minister. I think it's great that the department is, it sounds like, comparing the system here in Nunavut to systems elsewhere in the country. It's important for us to know where we stand. Is there like a ranking on different measures? Is there access to inter-jurisdictional comparisons that would be publicly accessible for MLAs to look at or for members of the public if they are interested in the court system? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While there is not a ranking system *per se* across the country, Nunavut has an exceptional reputation for short wait times for courts as well as one of the quickest turnaround times in criminal courts in the country. If we are using those as benchmarks, it does justify and establish the comment that I made

in my opening comments, especially taking into consideration our geographical challenges.

I have spoken earlier during this sitting during a minister's statement of how important it is to have the court circuits operating on a continual basis, for one, but as well as how many courts are currently operating. There are typically in any given day three different courts working on most business days.

I was just informed that there is a Macdonald-Laurier Institute that does have some standards that publish an annual report card. I don't have that information right in front of me right now, but I'm sure that in the downtime in the next few weeks, if the member is interested, he would be able to do some research on that and if he has any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I am interested in that and I will try to look into it, but maybe just to clarify that statement, "efficient and effective in the country," just to clarify that, that's a statement that's coming from the department itself. It's not something that has been agreed upon and amongst different jurisdictions it's the department's position that it is "one of the most efficient and effective," I believe were his words. That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, these are according to national standards. Our court times between charge and sentencing are some of the shortest in the country. In the national report card we continue to receive "A" ratings on these measures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I don't see any more names for comments or questions, so I will ask members to please go to Bill 62 in your legislative binders, which is also tab 62. Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 62 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 62 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, closing comments?

Hon. George Hickeys: Just very briefly, I know the Chair mentioned in the last bill that there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and although this is a one-line bill, there was a lot of work done behind the scenes, as I'm sure members can appreciate.

I do appreciate the support. Court operations is a very critical component of our judicial system and this will help streamline some of the process and assist with any capacity issues that we have and just make the whole operations even a little bit more efficient. I thank the Chair and members for their support of this bill. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for the work that has gone into this bill. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. I ask members to remain in their seats while we set up for the next department, please.

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act – Consideration in Committee

Thank you. Welcome back. We're moving on to Bill 63. I would like to ask Minister Akeeagok: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, if you could please introduce your officials and then move on into your opening comments. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Jimi Onalik, my Deputy Minister, right behind him is John Hawkins, our Assistant Deputy Minister, and to my right is Matt Bowler, our transportation policy, and to his right is Amy Short, our Legislative Counsel.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to be here before the Committee of the Whole to present for your consideration Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act*.

(interpretation ends) Bill 63 seeks to accomplish two primary objectives: the amendments address gaps in regulation-making powers to ensure that existing and future regulations are supported; the amendments will also give municipalities the ability to prosecute *Traffic Safety Act* offences and retain the fine revenues from convictions.

Under the current Act, long-standing *Traffic Safety Act* regulations lack authority, including the *School Bus Regulations* and the *Demerit Point Regulations*. As a result, it is

not possible to amend such regulations until the appropriate regulation-making powers are included in the Act. For example, as a result of this problem, we have not been able to administer demerit points for the Act's new distracted driving provisions.

The review also identified a handful of housekeeping amendments to regulation-making powers in other areas, such as signage, vehicle weight restrictions, and the rules applicable to National Safety Code vehicles.

Bill 63 will correct the *Traffic Safety Act's* regulation-making authorities to ensure existing regulations are enforceable and that they can be amended when necessary.

The Traffic Act currently gives municipal bylaw officers enforcement powers, but it does not give municipalities the authority to prosecute offences or retain the revenues from fines. Prosecutions must be handed over to the Department of Justice or the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, who have limited capacity to carry out prosecutions of traffic violations.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments contained in Bill 63 will allow municipalities that see the need for more prosecution of traffic violations and that have the capacity to prosecute them to handle prosecutions themselves, just as they do on their own bylaws. Training will be made available for municipalities who want additional guidelines on how to prosecute traffic violations, and the department has had preliminary discussions with the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization for this purpose.

The *Traffic Safety Act* modifications create an "opt-in" system, so municipalities will need to request the ability to prosecute, and those that prefer the status quo will not need to do anything. Municipalities who choose not to prosecute their own traffic violations will continue to have the ability to request assistance with prosecutions from the Department of Justice or the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer any questions that my fellow members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the department providing adequate resources to those municipalities that choose to take on new enforcement responsibilities under the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I now open up the floor to any questions or general comments. Before I go to the first member, I just want to apologize to Mr. Kaernek for yesterday where I missed seeing his hand, but I see today that he is in much brighter colours so he's easier to see. We will start with Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That was yesterday, so I'm okay on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister, in your opening comments you said in the second area, "...administer demerit points for the Act's new distracted driving provisions." If you can further elaborate on that with the distracted driving provisions. Does that mean any driver? Let's say for instance, I'm a passenger on a taxi coming from the airport to the hotel and if I see the driver using text or whatever. Does that mean that if I say, "Don't use the phone, please," does that mean that that would relate to this? That's just one question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We passed the distracted drivers...we amended the Act to include that and that is the very thing is for those that are using their phones in their vehicles. If they are doing that, they are breaking the law. With the one that was passed, what this will allow is that we can put demerit points into whoever gets charged or is convicted of violating that particular section of the Act. This would allow us to set regulations to have demerit points added onto whoever infringed the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the city considered as a municipality? Very last question. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. For the purpose of this legislation, yes, when we do reference "municipality," we include all, including the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

I've just got a couple of questions on the minister's opening comments on page 1. It says in the second paragraph, "...*Traffic Safety Act* offences and retain the fine revenues from convictions." My question is: from the municipalities that have given fines to traffic violators, what has happened to the money they collected from the charges? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the most difficult things that we have been trying to do. In the way the *Traffic Safety Act* does happen and if there is conviction and the fines are paid, it goes to our territorial government coffers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for responding to my question. On the next page it says, "The amendments contained in Bill 63 will allow the municipalities that see the need for more prosecution of traffic violations and that have the capacity to prosecute them to handle the prosecutions themselves...". This is quite baffling to me. They don't need to go through the court system to prosecute the violators. I guess the question is: who will overlook the prosecution cases? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My legal counsel might correct me on this, but from the work that we have been doing in trying to make this simpler, this is where the municipalities will be able to do the prosecutions through the Justice of the Peace, which from our perspective should make it easier for the municipalities to collect. This is only if the municipalities opt in to wanting to prosecute traffic violations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could explain a little bit more about the opt-in, opt-out options for municipalities. Specifically I'm interested in whether the department understands how many municipalities have expressed an interest or will have an interest in opting in. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the reason why we are putting that opt-in, opt-out. We look at the number at the number of traffic violations that have taken place throughout our territory. I know the city has the volume for it, whereas the smaller you get, the [fewer] traffic violations take place.

I do have to apologize for the rest of the communities that we have not had the level of consultations that we have done to our municipalities. We have consulted with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on this particular Act to amend the *Traffic Safety Act*, but we haven't gone to each of the communities. This is a tool that would be allowed

for municipalities to opt in and opt out, which is why we put this provision in, to ensure that municipalities do have that time and do have that option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Based on the opening comments, it sounds to me that if they opt in, that would be out of a desire to see more enforcement and prosecutions of the *Traffic Safety Act*, and so that's if they opt in, but then the opening comments also mention that if they opt out, they can still enforce things, but the prosecution would fall with the Department of Justice or Public Prosecution Service of Canada and it's mentioned that there are capacity issues there.

It sounds the opt-out option doesn't really work because of the capacity issues when it comes to prosecution. Am I correct there that there is real human resource capacity issues with the Department of Justice and Public Prosecution Service of Canada that would affect the opt-out option? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be the case because you're dealing with the *Traffic Safety Act* versus other Criminal Code... . Justice basically takes precedence for a lot of the work that has been done by these wonderful courts, but it will not stop the enforcement side, which is still intact, and it will not stop the allowance for us to start trying to prosecute and fine through this.

We will continue to go through the current system if the municipalities choose to opt out, but what we will do from our department is continue to try to improve that. With the inclusion of Justice of the Peace as one of the court systems, I think that's going to improve from our perspective if we start to go in that route, but that's something that we still need to work within our department to get to that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question is to clarify this on the record that when it comes to drinking and driving or driving under the influence, that is something that would remain with the RCMP because it's covered under the Criminal Code. Am I correct there? That is my last question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I just want to ask...we're talking about traffic safety here and I'm just wondering where the issue of, when we're talking about safety, another safety part is I see vehicles here that don't have the proper wheels. They're having summer wheels and they're going all over the place. It could be also a safety issue and I'm wondering: where is that part of traffic safety? Where is that? Is it under this legislation somewhere or is it under other legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is under this Act. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it specifically mentioned somewhere? Maybe I just didn't see it. I'm just trying to look for where it would be mentioned because I guess the other thing is it is fine and dandy having legislation and Acts and regulations and policies, but what you need is somebody to actually look out to make sure that people are adhering to these rules. When it comes to winter tires, how would that be monitored? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the person who has been working on this and I want to give him an opportunity to elaborate on the first question and I understand that he has the response for the second question that our member has asked. Through you, could I ask Mr. Bowler to respond to both questions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Bowler.

Mr. Bowler: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question of equipment and the safe condition of vehicles is not within the bylaw-making powers currently spelled out in the *Traffic Safety Act*. This would give municipalities the option of enforcing the relevant provisions of the *Traffic Safety Act* or regulations directly prosecuting them.

Unfortunately I don't have the exact provisions in question. I don't believe we have provisions addressing, let's say, winter tires specifically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I know some jurisdictions in Canada have it mandatory that at a certain time of the year they have to have winter tires on their vehicles. If you don't mind me asking, is it mandatory that at a certain time of the year that vehicles have to have winter tires on and, if not, would you consider making it mandatory? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask. Maybe I can ask my question to my staff here, but no, under our Act, it does not have that very specific thing.

If I am incorrect, I'm going to ask, through you, my assistant deputy minister to respond on this, but this is what we're trying to do is to allow us to have these regulations drawn up. If we need to make regulations related to winter tires as Safety Act, I'm not 100 percent sure if I'm correct, but if I could ask, through you, Assistant Deputy Minister Hawkins to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister is correct. The regulations are relatively easy to amend. This allows the municipalities that opt in the opportunity to enforce those regulations if they wish.

I don't have the Vehicle and Equipment Regulations here with me, and I don't believe that they address winter tires. I believe that they do address proper tires, but I'm not positive on that. The regulations are relatively easy to amend. What we're trying to do here is get the ability to enforce those regulations into the hands of the people who are closest to the situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. The reason why I bring this up is, as we all know in Iqaluit, we do have a lot of traffic. There are a lot of vehicles on very limited road space, especially the taxis. I don't want to point out, really, any, but the swerving at the back and the rocks flying and with just so much traffic coming back and forth, if you don't have four-wheel drive and you don't have winter tires, I think it's a safety issue. I really do believe that that should be somewhere spelled out a little bit better because if it's not, it might be just something overlooked and not enforced.

Like our Chairman said, there are other jurisdictions in Canada that have enforced this and I do believe it's a safety thing. I think, with the roads that we have here and the amount of traffic, I would like to encourage the department to, perhaps, talk to even the municipality under the regulations now that "This Act will allow you to enforce this," that the municipality be encouraged to do that too when it comes to winter tires. (interpretation) That's it. It's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments. Next on my list: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments on page 2, in the third paragraph, I'll read it in English so you can understand me. (interpretation ends) "Municipalities who choose not to prosecute their own traffic violations will continue to have the ability to request assistance with prosecutions from the Department of Justice or the Public Prosecution Service of Canada." (interpretation) I would like to understand: when we are talking about traffic safety, what exactly does that mean? Can he explain that to me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question. Presently within the Act, the bylaw officers in the municipalities can write tickets for anyone who breaks the law by quoting the section contained in the (interpretation ends) *Traffic Safety Act* (interpretation) provisions, and in those cases, it would reach the Department of Justice or it may be referred to the federal level to try to get assistance to deal with the assistance that is required to be provided, and that is what we propose to provide.

At this time the bylaw officers are employed by the hamlets and they are able to provide that enforcement capability now. Nonetheless, they do not have the power to collect fines from rule breakers, so that is our priority at this time to make these amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any more names for questions or comments. I will ask members to go to Bill 63 in their legislative binders, please.

Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 63 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 63 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, closing comments, please.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my legislative colleagues, I voice my gratitude for your approval in amending this legislation and as we review the other pieces of legislation, problems only appear when you are implementing the legislation and some provisions cause problematic problems.

Since this was identified, and resolved by our efficient staff, it is now amended to our satisfaction and due to your continued support, I am very appreciative of your help and I also thank my diligent officials for conducting their work, so I thank them for undertaking these difficult tasks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and answering the questions, and the work that has gone into this. We look forward to those communities that opt into it. We look forward to it being enforced in our communities.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. I'll ask members to remain in their seats while we get ready for the next department.

**Bill 64 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Thank you. I'll start by asking Minister Akeeagok: do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue on to your opening comments, please. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Deputy Minister Jimi Onalik, and on my right, he is no stranger, Peter Ma who is the Chief Executive Officer for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Also to the left of him is Amy Short, our Legislative Drafter.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to be here before the Standing Committee on Legislation to present Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

Bill 64 proposes a single change to the Act to increase the Nunavut Business Credit Corporations current legislative lending limit from \$1 million to \$2 million.

(interpretation ends) The proposed amendments to the Act do not require any additional or incremental funding. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation currently has access to \$40,000,000 in funding from the Government of Nunavut. The Corporation is currently only loaning out \$12.6 million of its available portfolio. Bill 64 will allow the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to ensure that more money from their portfolio is invested into Nunavut communities.

Increasing the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's loan limit will provide additional opportunity for economic development, job creation and job training in Nunavut communities, which in turn will lead to more individuals being able to provide for their families.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be happy to answer any questions the members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Does the Chairperson of the Standing Committee have opening comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments. The standing committee looks forward to further amendments to the legislation being brought forward in the next Legislative Assembly to address other recommendations that have been made by the corporation's board of directors and MLAs.

On June 8, 2016, the Government of Nunavut's *Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report indicated that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation will "...place a greater focus on job creation when reviewing departmental programs." The standing committee notes that the annual reports of the Nunavut Development Corporation provide significant detail concerning job creation activities of the corporation, and encourages the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to significantly expand its public reporting in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. I will now open up the floor for any comments or questions on Bill 64, starting with Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick comment; I am in support of this. I think it is a good bill. Looking at the smaller communities, the next places to look for

employment will be the private sector, especially the new mining communities. That is where all the new jobs will be, and I'm hoping this will help build some new bakeries, or seamstress shops, or garages with mechanics, and whatnot, to service the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. There was no question in there; it was more of a comment. Thank you for your comment. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I do have a question and that is in reading page 1 of the opening comments it states that "The corporation is currently only loaning out \$12.6 million out of its available portfolio," \$40 million. My question is: does the minister feel that the increased amount from \$1 million to \$2 million, if you increase the lending limit, will it increase the number of loan requests? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in talking to the board of directors and our chief executive officer, yes, that's the whole intent is to increase that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me how many requests have come in for more than \$1 million but couldn't be accommodated because of the way the legislation currently sits? Do you know the number of requests that you would have to turn down because of the way the legislation currently sits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the corporation, they had to turn down five. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation now going to go back to the five if this is approved and is the increase of \$2 million something that would be still on the table? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the intent and having received the letter of support from the various private sector along with some of the associations, that has been a consistent message that I'm hearing to increase this limit. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I just want to say that I do support this proposed legislation. I think it's needed. I think it's time that it was changed. It's something I brought up in the House quite a number of years now, so it's great to see that it's finally coming into place. I just thank the minister and his staff for working hard on this and bringing this forward. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to ask along the lines of what Mr. Simailak was commenting on. What sectors is the existing portfolio of loans in currently? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of sectors and in our 2019-2020 annual report it has listed a number of activities that have asked and there's a percentage of the portfolios that do take place. I'm just going to use one, the top one, which is construction, which is taking 29 percent of the portfolio, followed by the service deliveries and there is aviation, hospitality, real estate, retail, and transportation that are on that portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The reason I asked that first question was to try to understand whether this new higher limit was anticipated to expand the portfolio in specific sectors. Let's say for example, construction, is that a specific sector where this increased limit will be useful or is it, for example, in fisheries? Maybe it's a sector that hasn't been accessible or active as much to date. Are there any anticipated effects of this increase in specific sectors? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was not specific in terms of which portfolios, what we're targeting. There are a number of factors that are taking place and a number of factors that the board has asked me repeatedly in terms of increasing this. I think one of the big ones is in terms of the values that are happening. We aren't keeping pace with what's out there and so that's one thing, the technology aspects of it, and also just a number of those, but it's something that I have given trust to the board in terms of what they have asked for and is provided through this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No further questions, just a comment or observation that further to Mr. Simailak's comment, there is a business opportunity associated with the operating mines and there appears to be a bit of a disconnect between the objectives laid out in Inuit impact and benefit agreements in terms of business development and the connections between the different parties on the ground level, community level, including the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. If that could be considered or looked at, I would appreciate it, but happy for this bill and I will support it. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Main. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I fully support this bill. I just have one and I appreciate the minister and his staff for working hard in terms of developing or promoting the local businesses and giving them support.

My question is: when a person applies for a loan, what's the turnaround time before the proponent can receive the funds? I note that they have to do their due diligence, but just out of curiosity, what's the turnaround timeline before the applicant sees his money? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. It depends on the level of ask that they are asking for. I think, in terms of what their application is, it can easily be called to a meeting with our corporation and go through this, but it will depend on the level of ask that is being asked for the corporation. From the discussions I have had with the CEO, some of them are a pretty quick turnaround. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more questions or comments? If not, I'll ask members to go to Bill 64 in their legislative binders, please.

Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*. Clause 1.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 64 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 64 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, members, for the positive comments on this. We strive on continuing to do this. We do have a wonderful board of directors there that is working really hard, along with our staff that's there, and we continue to strive.

I do note that there are more legislative changes that the board wants us to make and something that I'm committed to doing it, but I give a huge shout-out to the Board of Directors for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. If anybody is interested in becoming a board, please contact me because we do have a vacancy and I am looking for one. Also, if you could pass that along, I think, with some of the good comments that were made, I think we might be able to find somebody along with that.

I thank the staff. I know it's a one-line amendment, but it was a lot of work and I thank the staff behind the scenes that put a lot of effort into doing this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for the work that has gone into this and we look forward to this bill helping people in Nunavut in furthering their business careers.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. Members, considering that this now concludes the business before the House for the last three weeks and there is nothing else on there, I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 58, 62, 63, and 64 and would like to report that Bills 58, 62, 63, and 64 are concluded and are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. (interpretation) Is there a seconder? Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. (interpretation) To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 58 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 62 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 63 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Bill 64 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Rankin Inlet North, that Bill 64, the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 64 is ready for assent.

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to the bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Eva Aariak (interpretation): This is my first opportunity to sit in this seat, and I am ecstatic to be here for the first time to speak in this role.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills, which I will read in English; otherwise I may misname them in Inuktitut:

- (interpretation ends) Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act*;
- Bill 59, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022*;
- Bill 60, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*;
- Bill 61, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*;
- Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*;
- Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Traffic Safety Act*;
- Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*;
- Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*;
- Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
and
- Bill 68, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2*.

(interpretation) These are the bills you reviewed with great commitment during your sitting, a period lasting over three weeks, and I noted your dedication and diligence in completing your tasks in this session.

Now, at this time, since you have now accomplished your tasks on your plate, the only matter left is your travel back to your homes, and concurrently spring is approaching so I hope you will happily prepare for the spring activities Inuit practice and have a safe trip home as you journey home. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As the Commissioner said so neatly, I want to repeat her wishes for a safe trip home for members who will be travelling home, and I am

very appreciative of the immense works you dealt with here during our session. We will see you in May.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 27:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to adjourning our session, I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude on your behalf to our House interpreters who assist us to comprehend the discussions daily.

>>*Applause*

Further, I thank our young pages, who are always delivering water and documents, thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Indeed, onto the final point. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:23*

