

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of
the Whole*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Government House Leader; Minister
of Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy;
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation*

Hon. Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
Seniors*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Michel Albert

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	6
Oral Questions.....	10
Tabling of Documents	30
Second Reading of Bills.....	30
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	31
Report of the Committee of the Whole	61
Orders of the Day	61

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

016 – 6(1): Rebecca Kudloo Recognition (Akeegok, P) 1
017 – 6(1): Basic Radiology Training Program (Main) 2
018 – 6(1): 2021 Sport and Recreation Award Recipients (Joanasie)..... 3
019 – 6(1): Mould Remediation Update (Kusugak)..... 4
020 – 6(1): Healthy Children Initiative Funding for Early Childhood Programs (Gross)..... 5
021 – 6(1): Department of Environment COVID-19 Response (Akeegok, D) 5

C.

Members' Statements

048 – 6(1): The Niqihagut Project Update (Quqqiaq)..... 6
049 – 6(1): Office of the Public Trustee (Killiktee) 7
050 – 6(1): Information on Social Media (Malliki)..... 8
051 – 6(1): Iqaluit City Council (Brewster) 8
052 – 6(1): Recognizing Sanikiluaq's Qikiqtait Committee (Qavvik)..... 9
053 – 6(1): Reopening Elders Facility in Iqaluit (Akeegok, P) 9

D.

Oral Questions

024 – 6(1): Update on COVID Statistics (Malliki) 10
025 – 6(1): Vacant Departmental Positions (Nutarak) 11
026 – 6(1): Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project (Simailak)..... 12
027 – 6(1): Kugaaruk Power Plant (Quqqiaq)..... 14

028 – 6(1): Process for Community Street Lighting (Hickes).....	15
029 – 6(1): Employee Housing Initiatives (Brewster).....	17
030 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program (Savikataaq).....	18
031 – 6(1): Nutrition North Canada Program (Killiktee).....	20
032 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Power Plant (Sammurtok).....	22
033 – 6(1): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects (Qavvik).....	23
034 – 6(1): Petroleum Products Division Operations (Malliki).....	24
035 – 6(1): Caribou Population Survey (Simailak).....	25
036 – 6(1): Energy Initiatives (Savikataaq).....	26
037 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program (Hickes).....	28

E.

Tabling of Documents

009 – 6(1): Letter from Mayor of Rankin Inlet Regarding the Utilidor and Water Supply System (Sammurtok).....	30
--	----

F.

Bills

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Second Reading.....	30
Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee.....	31

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Hon. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Ms. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Quassa. I send my regards to the Inuit who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, as well as all the residents of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 016 – 6(1): Rebecca Kudloo Recognition

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings, especially those in Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today, the day after International Women's Day, to recognize the incredible contributions and leadership of Rebecca Kudloo, the outgoing President of Pauktuutit.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the dedication and tireless efforts of Ms. Kudloo in advocating for equality and access to essential services for Inuit women.

Originally from Igloodik, Nunavut, now living in Baker Lake, Rebecca Kudloo has served for three terms as Pauktuutit's president. However, Ms. Kudloo's advocacy work started long before her time at Pauktuutit. For over 36 years, she has been promoting holistic healing approaches, advocating for mental health services and resources, and securing funding for safe shelters to support women fleeing violence.

In addition to supporting survivors of intimate partner abuse, Ms. Kudloo also worked to provide resources and help for individuals who perpetuated violence. She recognized that perpetrators of violence were often themselves survivors of abuse and intergenerational trauma as well.

Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2022, while still President of Pauktuutit, Rebeca Kudloo was presented with the Women, Peace, and Security Civil Society Leadership Award for her work and achievements toward protecting and promoting the human rights of Inuit women. That award is very well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to congratulate Rebecca Kudloo for her contributions and achievement. She is truly an inspiration to our young women and girls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 017 – 6(1): Basic Radiology Training Program

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed to enhancing in-territory services and delivering training to prepare more Inuit for frontline health positions. As part of that commitment, we have been offering a Basic Radiological Technician (BRT) training program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Basic Radiological Technician program is a specialized educational opportunity offered to selected Inuit employees of the Department of Health. The training provides them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform basic X-ray procedures safely and effectively at all of Nunavut's health centres.

Uqaqtitsijii, by providing Health's Inuit workforce with this education, it empowers them to contribute to their community's health care team. When Inuit employees deliver these services, they improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of X-ray services in their communities and contribute significantly to reducing workload for nursing staff.

Uqaqtitsijii, the high-quality X-ray services provided by basic radiological technicians contribute to timely diagnoses and improvements to health outcomes for Nunavut residents, while also reducing annual health care expenditures. The program generates these savings by minimizing the need for medical travel.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am pleased to say there have been two graduates from Whale Cove and one from Resolute Bay with an anticipated 37 more students who will graduate from the

program in 2022. Additionally, there are 74 students currently enrolled in various stages of the program and actively performing X-rays in health centres as part of their hands-on learning.

Mr. Speaker, the Basic Radiological Technician program is included in Health's Inuit Employment Plan and, in April 2021, was awarded funding of \$2 million for two years by the Nunavut Implementation Panel. I would like to thank our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Government of Canada, and the Government of Nunavut Department of Human Resources for supporting this critically important Inuit employment initiative.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Basic Radiological Technician training program is an exciting opportunity for Health's Inuit employees, which benefits the health of all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 018 – 6(1): 2021 Sport and Recreation Award Recipients

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and my colleagues, as well as those following the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the 2021 Sport and Recreation Awards who have demonstrated their commitment to the sport and recreation in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Sport and Recreation Division awards are presented in the following six categories:

- Male Athlete of the Year – Qaritaq Kusugak (Rankin Inlet)
- Female Athlete of the Year – Haley Hachey (Baker Lake)
- (interpretation ends) Official of the Year – Nick Murray (Iqaluit)
- Coach of the Year – Kyle St Laurent (Iqaluit)
- Administrator of the Year – Maria Csaba (Kugluktuk)
- Special Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to sport – (interpretation) Lisa Oolooyuk (Rankin Inlet), Kay McKechnie (Iqaluit), and Shylah Elliot (Iqaluit)

Mr. Speaker, due to public health measures in place at the time, the annual awards gala did not take place. However, alternative arrangements have been made to recognize these recipients.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, additionally, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut will present four awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. These awards are presented to:

- Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut Youth Leader of the Year: Quentin Sala (Sanikiluaq) and Jeremi Boisvert (Taloyoak)
- Baffinland Iron Mines Recreation Leader of the Year: Ragily Singoorie (Pond Inlet)
- Canadian North Volunteer of the Year: Fernando Fernandez (Sanikiluaq)

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to acknowledge their accomplishments and congratulate all the recipients of the 2021 Sport and Recreation Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 019 – 6(1): Mould Remediation Update

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation adopted a mould mitigation and remediation program in 2016 to address issues of mould that was widespread in our residential housing stock.

Since then, we have remediated 152 units in 14 communities. This coming fiscal year's mould remediation program will be in 11 communities and addressing a further 52 units. This will increase the total number of remediated units by 33 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this is the largest number of units that we have done in a single year since we began these extensive remediation efforts in 2016.

These remediation programs represent considerable effort to work more efficiently to cut costs and move more quickly. Still, prevention remains the cheaper and better solution. If caught early, the most common mould problems can be solved by washing with soap and water.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I call on public housing tenants to help us stop mould right in its tracks. Anyone who sees mould in their public housing unit should contact their local housing organization and discuss the options available to remediate the issue. Please don't delay; do it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 020 – 6(1): Healthy Children Initiative Funding for Early Childhood Programs

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut, those in Iqaluktuuttiaq, and our colleagues here today.

Mr. Speaker, early childhood programs nourish the minds and bodies of our youngest Nunavummiut, kick-starting their journey for lifelong learning. The Healthy Children Initiative funding establishes space for children to learn through play, build a routine, eat healthy food, and discover the world using all of their senses.

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

Mr. Speaker, we want our young Nunavummiut to be healthy, creative, and confident in themselves. I encourage all licensed child care facilities and other organizations that are eligible who support early childhood development to apply for funding through the Healthy Children Initiative. Information on how to apply to the Healthy Children Initiative can be found on our department's website. The deadline for funding applications is March 15, 2022.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank childhood educators who have run programs to support and enhance the growth of our youngest population. We look forward to the continued nourishment of our youngest generation through this funding. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 021 – 6(1): Department of Environment COVID-19 Response

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the dedication of the staff of the Department of Environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite lockdowns, working from home, and balancing child care and other family needs, our staff continue their hard work to protect our land and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, our conservation officers remain busy keeping Nunavummiut safe. I want to thank my staff for working around the clock to respond to calls from concerned citizens about nuisance wildlife, including rabid foxes, and to our partners in the Department of Health for keeping the public informed of possible risks.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the research group has made progress on wildlife population assessments and other ecological work focused on many different species in all regions of Nunavut.

The Wildlife Research Division also continues to consult Nunavummiut, now through virtual meetings. I thank our researchers for keeping information about priority wildlife programs flowing and on schedule.

And our corporate services team continues to work from the office to ensure payments are processed and services continue. Their support ensures that each HTO has access to \$25,000 in funding to enable harvesters in all Nunavut communities to provide country food for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all staff at the Department of Environment for their creativity, hard work, and dedication in the spirit of Qanuqtuurniq during this pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Before we go on to the next item, I wish to advise the members that the Member for Kugluktuk is absent from our proceedings, and I look forward to his participation in the legislature next week. Also, the Member for Amittuq will be absent from the House for today.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 048 – 6(1): The Niqihaut Project Update

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on the Niqihaut project in my constituency of Netsilik. The Niqihaut project was a winning submission by Taloyoak's hunters and trappers organization, which received \$451,000 through the Arctic Inspiration Prize in the year 2020.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Niqihagut project, meaning “our food,” details the development of a country food economy to create opportunities for employment and help address food insecurity within the community.

Mr. Speaker, this project submission included a sustainable and monitored harvest, as well as a cut-and-wrap facility to collect, prepare, and distribute food to the community.

Mr. Speaker, members of Taloyoak’s hunters and trappers association have arranged to have a prefabricated building shipped from Montreal on sealift this summer. The property where the building will be located has also been secured through the Hamlet of Taloyoak. At this time the program is expecting to operate by this fall.

Mr. Speaker, the winning submission also outlined a potential protected and conservation area of 90,000 square kilometres named Aviqtuuq. At this time it is unclear when the potential area may receive protected status as it depends on a successful negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations and express my appreciation to the manager of Taloyoak’s and Niqihagut’s project lead, Jimmy Oleekatalik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate my sister and brother-in-law for the birth of a healthy baby girl. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members’ Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member’s Statement 049 – 6(1): Office of the Public Trustee

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the public trustees in our communities and possibly through the Department of Justice.

The people of Nunavut wait a very long time to get everything settled. For example, if an individual has a house or a lot of property, we now have a lot of property that has been given away, and that’s why I’m standing today. The individuals who have been left behind have to wait a long time in order to get the affairs organized of the deceased individual. It could be private houses, boats, heavy equipment, commercial buildings and so on.

Just this morning, after a period going over 5 years, as apparently my father never signed an agreement as a last will, so my mother was left as the estate holder, today actually just this morning, she signed off on ownership. Here it is, almost five years later. This process is just too long-winding, and the amount of time required to finalize the estate need to be handled with faster processing, and it has to become an urgent priority which is why I am standing on behalf of all constituents, to prove to our government that they have to assist

the residents, and that this is urgent and should be a top priority. There are many people in this situation that I know of now.

It's not only my community, there are people in Clyde River whose properties are decaying due to aging and the properties are locked up as they are in the hands of the public trustee. Something must be done about it today. There are individuals who can take on those tasks. I hope I am understood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 050 – 6(1): Information on Social Media

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Communication is very important and all Nunavummiut should have access to communications. I would like to bring up something about the government and their publications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking questions at the appropriate time.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Member's Statement 051 – 6(1): Iqaluit City Council

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to congratulate two new Iqaluit city council members who were appointed to council last night; Ookalik Curley and Paul Quassa.

I first met Ookalik Curley when the two of us were part of the GN Sivuliqtiksats Management Program in... . I believe it was 2003 that we joined that program. Ookalik was born and raised in Iqaluit and is a very wise woman. I think it was really great that she was appointed to council on International Women's Day, and I think that she will bring a great deal of insight and wisdom into the deliberations of city council. Congratulations, Ookalik.

I'm not sure if you guys know Paul Quassa.

>>*Laughter*

I have known him since I was a child and welcome back into the political realm, Mr. Quassa. To those who put their names forward and many of whom spoke so eloquently and passionately to the questions posed of them, I congratulate you as well for having that courage and taking that opportunity and I hope that you consider running in the next city council election.

I would just like to give special thanks to two of my friends, Swany and to Sam, Sam Tilley, who I think will make an excellent city councillor if he decides to run during the next election. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 052 – 6(1): Recognizing Sanikiluaq's Qikiqtait Committee

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today to recognize Sanikiluaq's Qikiqtait Steering Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtait Committee was recently awarded funding from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association through the Arctic Eider Society and the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association.

Mr. Speaker, this funding will make possible a number of community programs, including eider down sewing, qamutik making, and seal hunting.

Hunters and seamstresses with past experience will be coordinating the programs seasonally with support from the Arctic Eider Society and the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association. I strongly encourage community members, especially our youth, to apply to participate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many community members have put in a lot of hard work over the years, but I would like to acknowledge the members of the Qikiqtait Steering Committee: Mayor Johnny Cookie, Deputy Mayor Emily Kattuk, and councillors Lucy Appaqaq and Dinah Kittousuk from the municipal council; Moses Appaqaq, Sanikiluaq's QIA representative; Lucassie Arragutainaq, Eli Kavik, and Puassi Ippak from the hunters and trappers association; and Joel Heath, Johnny Kudluarok, and Mick Appaqaq of the Arctic Eider Society.

In particular, Lucassie Arragutainaq of the HTA has put in a lot of time and effort, including paperwork, proposals, meetings, planning and organizing.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtait Committee provides excellent programs for the community of Sanikiluaq and I hope that they succeed in getting longer term funding to continue their good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 053 – 6(1): Reopening Elders Facility in Iqaluit

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to talk about our elders, who we hold in high esteem. We heard

repeatedly that we should open up the elders' home as soon as possible, and I am very pleased that the facility was opened in February. Pimaksirvik Corporation has been awarded a contract to care of the facility. I would like to thank Minister Main and Minister Kusugak, who worked very hard to reopen the elders' home and to repatriate the elders.

I think we all agree that we hold our elders in high esteem and I'm very pleased that we will be repatriating the elders in the upcoming week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 024 – 6(1): Update on COVID Statistics

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

Mr. Speaker, even though we are tired of talking about COVID, I was told by one of my constituents that something not true had appeared.

(interpretation ends). Mr. Speaker, I have been following COVID-related numbers which are published on the Government of Nunavut website. Yesterday, it appears that the number of COVID-related death for Nunavut was suddenly quite high. This raised some concerns. I would appreciate if the minister could set the record straight and clarify exactly how many Nunavut deaths have been due to COVID since the pandemic began. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question.

I agree with him wholeheartedly, we have to make sure that we give out the correct numbers for COVID-related issues within Nunavut. We would like to make sure that there is clear and concise information going out with the number of deaths because of COVID-related issues. I don't have the numbers with me right now, but from 2020 and on and to date, and looking at the numbers and how I understand them, some deaths occurred outside of Nunavut and counted in the province where they died. It depends on where the death occurs.

I will take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question has been taken as notice. Next member. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 025 – 6(1): Vacant Departmental Positions

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. My question is for the Minister of Human Resources

(interpretation ends.) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, information published by his department indicates that there are approximately 183 GN positions located in the community of Pond Inlet. 40 percent of these positions are currently vacant, that's over 70 jobs.

In looking at current job competitions for the community, I noted that two positions in the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services are being advertised as coming with staff housing, but two positions for the Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services are advertised as having no staff housing available.

(interpretation) Can the minister clarify how the government determines which positions come with staff housing and which do not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. The issue of staff housing is highly correlated to the overall housing crisis that we have in the territory.

The Government of Nunavut and the Staff Housing Allocation Committee that oversees the distribution of staff housing units finds itself in a very difficult and precarious situation where we have a very limited amount of staff housing units which are available and move-in ready. As such, over the last few months, as the Staff Housing Allocation Committee has found itself in an increasingly difficult position. It has been forced to allocate staff housing in a more restricted way.

Most recently over the last few months, the Staff Housing Allocation Committee has predominantly only been allocating staff housing units to the number one priority listing, which is in relation to positions which are related to public safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) A concern that has been raised in the past involves staff housing units that have been vacant for extended periods of time. Can the minister confirm how many GN staff housing units in Pond Inlet are currently vacant and available for staff and

can he confirm how many units need major repairs before they can be occupied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for the question. I will keep my response as short as possible. There are currently eight staff housing units which are available and move-in ready and which have been allocated and are at some point in the competitive process. In addition to that, there are four units which do require some renovations and we are hoping those can be completed and the units allocated within the next three months. However, there are five units in Pond Inlet which do require major renovations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) As I noted earlier, there are dozens of vacant GN jobs in the community, and I remind the House that Pond Inlet is a decentralized community. Can the minister clarify how the government decides where to construct new staff housing units in Nunavut communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for the question. The responsibility for the construction of new staff housing units is the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as is the allocation of those new constructions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 026 – 6(1): Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Baker Lake, I have been a strong supporter of ensuring that the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project between Manitoba and Nunavut benefits Baker Lake and our region's other communities.

Information published by the project proponent indicates that "the project will connect communities of the Kivalliq region of Nunavut to the Manitoba electricity and fibreoptic grids. The project will be rated at 150 megawatts of capacity and have a fibreoptic bandwidth capacity of at least 1,200 gigabits per second. This will be Nunavut's first infrastructure link to southern Canada and will provide enough power and fibreoptic

capacity for the Kivalliq region for generations to come. The project will also provide renewable energy to the mining industry in Nunavut, allowing for more sustainable operations.”

Can the minister update the House today on his department’s role in respect to this nation-building initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, my department is aware and has been in discussions with the proponents for the Kivalliq hydro and fibre link, and we’re looking at whether or not there are complementary linkages with respect to the project, the fibre link that the department is proposing from here to southern Canada and potentially linking the Kivalliq in future years. As for the hydro part of the project, we haven’t been a part of the discussions around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. As the minister will recall, a number of MLAs, including myself, were copied on a recent exchange of correspondence between the minister’s department and the president of the Kivalliq Inuit Association concerning the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project. The correspondence indicated that “When the Government of Canada announced the Universal Broadband Fund in November of 2020, the Government of Nunavut took advantage of the opportunity and prepared a submission for fibre in Rankin Inlet and Arviat.”

For the record, can the minister confirm how much funding was provided by the federal government in response to his department’s submission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut had submitted a proposal for approximately \$100 million and this is towards affordable broadband and Internet services in western and central Hudson Bay. As of yet, we haven’t secured this funding *per se*, but we’re looking at maximizing the fibre network as we proceed with the different projects. There are many different fibre opportunities that are presenting themselves and so we’re trying to find ways we can work with each proponent. The fibre world is a big network around the world, so there’s tremendous opportunity there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Earlier I mentioned that I have been a strong supporter of this project. I believe this will help our health care staff,

our schools as well, as our children will be able to have access to higher Internet speeds to help with their education. I'm assuming that the Government of Nunavut will take advantage and connect our Government of Nunavut buildings to this network.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department is working with the Kivalliq Inuit Association to plan for connecting Government of Nunavut buildings in the region to this future fibre network? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This along with other exciting initiatives, we're very much in the discussion phase with Inuit organizations. With respect to connecting fibre to our communities, the large part of that is to connect our government services in all office buildings, including schools and health centres, and all the core networks of our operations across the department. This is a large part of that to provide services for Nunavummiut. As we proceed with fibre, it's to support our services to Nunavummiut and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 027 – 6(1): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation concerning projects in my constituency of Netsilik.

As the minister is aware, Kugaaruk's power plant was constructed in the year 1974, before I was born. When it comes to power plants in Nunavut, it is one of the oldest.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application to the Utility Rates Review Council for approval to proceed with the new power plant.

The QEC's application states that "the estimated cost to complete the project is \$38.915 million. This project has been identified to receive funding from the [federal] Arctic Energy Fund for a contribution of up to 75% of eligible expenses."

Can the minister confirm whether or not the federal funding has been approved for the new Kugaaruk power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Kugaaruk will be receiving a new power plant and we are still working on receiving federal funding that will be set aside for the project. That is all I can say about the matter at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's application indicates that Kugaaruk's new power plant will be "capable of integrating renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines or solar panels, should the opportunities arise in the future." Can the minister describe how the QEC is working to identify these opportunities for green energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new project for power plants that is being worked on is so that plants can use less diesel fuel. That has already been applied to the project and we are looking to see what else can be added to the project. It will be much better than the old system and it should be useable for the next 40 years. It will use less diesel fuels and also be more environmentally friendly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's applications indicate that the project will have no impact on rates until the time of QEC's general rate application following the project coming into service, which is expected no earlier than the 2026-27 fiscal year. Can the minister confirm when the Qulliq Energy Corporation's next general rate application will be submitted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for asking those questions. The price of electricity is different in the different communities and there are many different rates. We are looking into this to see how they can be standardized. We will need to have more meetings on the matter first though. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 028 – 6(1): Process for Community Street Lighting

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, when a hamlet or the City of Iqaluit requests further street lighting, sometimes the process can take a period of time from the municipality or the city approval and request to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to install the street lighting. I'm wondering what the minister can respond today on how that process works, where some of the bottlenecks are, and how it can be streamlined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa: Oh, I think I'm going to like this hot seat for now.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) The streetlights that are being replaced, there's still quite a number of communities that need to be worked on that need new lights installed. There's Iqaluit, it was one of the first communities with streetlights replaced. After one year, they have been working on the different communities and they need to do all of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a streetlight is approved to be installed, and I'm using the City of Iqaluit as an example; I know in my riding there were a number of incidences during the campaign that were raised to me. There are some areas of my constituency where there were some concerns of safety, in particular around one playground where they were approved for a streetlight to be installed, but when it was installed, it was installed over the street, not over the playground.

My question to the minister on this, Mr. Speaker, is: if a light is installed on one side, could a light be installed on the other and would that mean additional costs for the City of Iqaluit or would it just be considered one streetlight? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When things are being installed, they all cost money and if we did that, it would cost more money because we would need to install an extra light. The group would have to explain why they want the light in a particular spot. I think they would have a better chance of getting the light in that particular spot if they asked for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the work across the territory on installing LED lights. It is a great step to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and bring more energy-efficient lighting into our communities. I know we can all see the difference for those that have had the experience of being able to see from the traditional lights to the new LED ones.

I believe this question has been raised in the past and I just can't remember the response. With the difference between traditional street lighting to the LED, what is the difference in kilowatt consumption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Now I regret that I didn't go to school, maybe.

>>*Laughter*

I can tell you that in Iqaluit, before LEDs, in one month the city was paying \$21,474.75 per month. After the LEDs were installed, the bill for the city lights came down to \$16,464.49. That's the difference between those two. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 029 – 6(1): Employee Housing Initiatives

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Iqaluit and Iqaluit-Sinaa specifically.

My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating all parties involved in the recent signing of the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association and the recent announcement of a tentative agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union.

Mr. Speaker, in my questions yesterday to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I raised the issue of the GN Staff Condominium Program, which was introduced to encourage homeownership amongst our government's workforce, as we're all aware.

As a former manager and leader in the public service, I am acutely aware that far too many of our government's employees are living in fragile housing situations. Just because you have a job does not mean that you necessarily have a home.

When the minister sat on this side of the House during the previous Assembly, he raised the issue of staff housing on many occasions, and he spoke frequently about the need for the program to focus on reducing inequities.

Can he elaborate for us today on what specific actions he plans to take as minister with respect to this issue? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: I would like to thank the member for the questions. It is true that I have in the past on multiple occasions raised my concern over the inequities and as such, I am proud to share with the Assembly that in my role, I will be initiating a review of the GN Staff Housing Program with an aim to address that specific matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, minister. I'm wondering: how many casual and indeterminate employees are currently homeless or near homeless? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the member for asking the question. That is a very good question and a legitimate concern. Unfortunately the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Human Resources do not currently collect that information from our employees, so I cannot provide an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Speaker, the current business plan of the Department of Human Resources indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year is to "contribute to the analysis and dissemination of data from the Nunavut Governments Employees' Survey and Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis to fulfill obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement."

Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be very helpful if the minister's annual report to the Legislative Assembly under the *Public Service Act* would include detailed statistical information concerning the housing situations of our workforce, which would help us as decision-makers to target specific housing support initiatives to specific demographics. Will he commit to ensuring that future reports include information in this area? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the member for asking another great question. That is an excellent recommendation and I will take it into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 030 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Human Resources just perked my interest here. The minister just stated that a review will be starting for the staff housing inequities.

Can the minister tell the House here when this review is starting, when is it completing, and will he table the results of the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Now it's my turn for the hot seat.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that I plan to initiate a review of the overall staff housing program. Mr. Speaker, I hope that one of the objectives of the review is to identify any inequities. However, beyond that, I'm unable to respond to the specific questions as to when the review will start or will be completed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister stated that he is going to do a review, he does not know when it's going to start, and he does not know when it's going to end. Was this review planned or is he just coming up with the idea now? Can the minister just elaborate on that some more, please? The minister must have spoken with staff, so if he can elaborate. He's going to do this review of staff housing and not sure when it's going to start and not sure when it's going to end. Will this review be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for the question. It is true that this is a relatively new initiative and I have had some very preliminary discussions with staff at Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, I can ensure the member and the House that the review will be completed. However, as we are only in preliminary discussions, I can't provide any information as to details on timelines, which I do not know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member was on this side of the House, on many occasions, MLA Lightstone mentioned that sometimes people are in government staff housing too long and there should be a limited period where a person can stay in the staff house and move on to either get their own house so that that staff housing can be freed up for someone that needs it.

Will this be part of the review, whether the length of stay a GN employee is welcome to stay in government staff housing can be in staff housing? Is there a possibility that during this review, the minister will state that the GN's staff housing are only available to employees for an X number of years or whatever the number is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the member for the question. The matter of housing our employees and Nunavummiut in general is a matter of concern for us all.

As to the member's specific questions, again, I cannot respond to provide answers which I do not know. I cannot stand here and state that in the future I will provide a statement in one direction or the other. Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that it is important that no decisions are made unnecessarily and, more importantly, it's extremely important that all decisions are made in an informed fashion.

Mr. Speaker, research will need to be done and a review will be conducted on the staff housing program. Mr. Speaker, other than that, that's all that I can state right here and right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 031 – 6(1): Nutrition North Canada Program

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just use this since you are all looking at me.

>>*Laughter*

Good day, Uqqummiut. I'm in training and I'm eager to learn. I would really like to learn and I'm really shy, not like yesterday. You understand that.

I would like to state that my questions are for the Premier, and they concern the Nutrition North Canada Program.

As the Premier will recall, he held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada in December 2021. Mr. Speaker, information published from that meeting indicates that they discussed a number of issues, including "Elder care, education, health and mental health, housing, and diversifying the economy."

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier confirm if the Nutrition North Canada Program was raised during their meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. If I understand the question, I think she's asking about Nutrition North. Maybe I misunderstood. When I meet with the Prime Minister we discuss all the important issues and this has been included. I'm proud to say that Nunavummiut have representatives in the federal government. The important issue is that food has to be readily available and we have discussed that. Maybe she can restate the question. I would like to provide a proper response; I would like to understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, can you rephrase your question, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If he didn't understand it, then maybe I'll read it again. I'm confused whether I'm going to finish my question. Yes, it's on the Nutrition North Canada Program. I don't think that was mentioned in the information I have on December 14 and that was my question of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague again for clarifying that. Food is a very important issue in Nunavut and in our communities. I would like to point out clearly that Brenda Janke and Ms. Kotierk are members of the board and they deal with it independently. They look at the Nutrition North program, including Nunavut. We have always discussed how we can provide assistance in Nunavut because food is very expensive. I met with the leaders on this issue of how Nunavummiut can be provided assistance with food, perhaps with country food, for example, and how we can provide more assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I recently received correspondence on January 25 from the Mayor of Clyde River, Alan Cormack, concerning the Nutrition North Canada Program. In his letter, he pointed out the high cost of food and that they have a single store. That's the letter I received and I think I gave you a copy, if you recall.

One of the specific concerns raised in the letter was the need to make it easier for individuals and families to place direct food orders in order to help address the high cost of living in our remote communities.

On July 15 there was a news story, and I've seen it before, and I'll quote it, "Good food should be available at a lower cost. Fresh foods with healthy foods, no matter where they are."

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clarify how he is working with our federal Member of Parliament to achieve improvements to the Nutrition North Canada Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member again for that question. She is talking about a sensitive subject.

We have seen stores with empty shelves, especially in Clyde River, through blizzards and also because of COVID-19. We feel for them. We're well aware of how they have been

impacted. It's true that we're always looking to see how we can lower cost and how we can provide assistance.

On her question, the Nutrition North Canada Program is run by the federal government but we always push for... We'll identify to Minister Vandal and we'll keep... Where else we can provide assistance. I can point out that we're always looking into this. We'll be planning for the future and how we can provide assistance to poverty in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for responding to my question. For my last supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I will speak in English (interpretation ends). During last Thursday's sitting of the Senate, Nunavut's Senator raised the subject of how to reduce the high cost of transporting nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to our remote communities.

(interpretation) From what I've seen, Mr. Speaker... (interpretation ends) This recommendation was that the federal government would introduce a carbon tax exemption of jet fuel that is used for cargo flights from southern Canada to the north.

Can the Premier clarify whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports such an exemption? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank you once again.

We are well aware about the high cost of prices because goods have to be imported from the south to the north. I think that's felt in all the communities. We will keep looking at the carbon tax and how it affects the prices of nutritious food. I will use country food as an example. We harvest country food within in Nunavut and I am very pleased that my colleague has brought this issue up. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 032 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Power Plant

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is aware, Chesterfield Inlet's power plant was constructed in the year 1975. It has been in operation for almost half a century and I believe that it is older than a number of Members of this Legislative Assembly!

>>Laughter

In December 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application to the Utility Rates Review Council for approval to proceed with the new power plant.

The QEC's application states that "the estimated cost to complete the project is \$34.956 million. This project has been identified to receive funding from the [federal] Arctic Energy Fund for a contribution of up to 75% of eligible expenses." Can the minister confirm whether or not the federal funding has been approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall your question, but I can't respond directly. (interpretation ends) I'll take the question as notice.

Speaker: Your first supplementary... . Sorry. Your question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 033 – 6(1): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to say "good day" to the people of Sanikiluaq. I will try to take all the energy from Ms. Quassa today as well.

>>Laughter

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and they concern the subject of alternative and renewable energy projects that are taking place in my constituency of Hudson Bay.

As the minister is aware, an initiative that is underway in my constituency is the Sanikiluaq High Displacement Renewable Energy Demonstration Project. The objective of this project is to produce clean electricity for the community and reduce the use of diesel fuel.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet in person with an environmental assessor who was in the community to conduct scoping work in respect to the project.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the Qikiqtaaluk Business Development Corporation and the Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation on this important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the exercise, up and down.

(interpretation) From what I understand, you're talking about how we're working together with different entities. We are working with others to reduce the use of diesel fuel, to produce clean electricity, and how we can reduce the cost of production. Not only for those categories but also what is needed in the community. We can negotiate with those entities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, one of the main goals of this project is to reduce the use of diesel to generate electricity for the community.

Can the minister clarify what savings are anticipated to be realized by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and its customers in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for asking that question. I do not have the documents in front of me at this time, (interpretation ends) so I'll take the question as notice.

Speaker: The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 034 – 6(1): Petroleum Products Division Operations

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) the most recent annual report of the Petroleum Products Division indicates that it provides five different fuel products to Nunavut communities; diesel, automobile gasoline, jet A-1, naphtha and aviation gas. Concern has been raised to me from my constituency in Aivilik that retail stores often run out of propane before the annual sealift.

Can the minister clarify how the Petroleum Products Division is involved in order to distribute the propane? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member.

Regarding petroleum products and the different types that are being made available to the different communities in Nunavut; with propane we have distributed with different retail outlets and I'm not sure if the government is involved, but we try to make sure that we

order enough to make sure that the communities do not run out of fuel before the sealift supply comes in. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister look into the issue and see if the government will be able to distribute propane? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can probably review it and possibly look at different types of containers. There are different types of laws that have to be followed when we're talking about containers for propane products. We could look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his department recently announced a retail fuel price increase on all diesel products, gasoline, and jet fuel. The announcement indicated that these increases "reflect rising costs on world oil markets." Can the minister clarify what role, if any, his department has on setting the retail price of propane? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I know, the government is not involved in setting up the prices of propane products. They don't set the price, but if I'm mistaken, then I will notify the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 035 – 6(1): Caribou Population Survey

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

Now, I believe population surveys are done on caribou during the summer months by helicopter. In the coming summer, I'm asking if a survey will be conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: My apologies. The Hon. Minister of Environment, David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are different herds that are studied. For the Qamanirjuaq herd, a survey will be done in the month of June and it has been approved and the planning is in the works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Caribou are not in one constant area. For example, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds also migrate to Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan. If I understand correctly, or should I ask whether the minister would meet with other environment ministers in the jurisdictions where the caribou also migrate to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's a protocol to meet with them and we want to meet with other jurisdictions. We're planning to meet with the NWT government, but due to COVID-19 measures, nothing was being done. I recently received a call that they want to meet on the issue again on the caribou that migrate to other jurisdictions. To date I have not met any of my other colleagues, but I am planning to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister. The question is about concerns that are being raised relating to surveys. I would like to ask: are there concerns being raised about the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq herd? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 1994 to date, surveys have been done. The numbers show that the herd has been reducing in size, which is a concern of ours. But we cannot say they're a species of concern although we are planning to do more surveys on the Beverly herd in 2023. The last survey of the herd was done in 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 036 – 6(1): Energy Initiatives

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. When it rains, sometimes it pours.

>>Laughter

As the minister will be aware, the federal government Department of Natural Resources announced \$750,000 in funding in April of 2021, for a renewable energy project in Arviat. The stated purpose of the funding was to "Conduct a front-end engineering design study for a hybrid wind, solar, and energy storage systems to develop a detailed plan

covering everything from power purchase agreements to environment assessment and permitting to enhance Nunavut's community ability to deliver renewable energy and reduce emissions.”

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also be aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working to develop its new Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program, which allows existing commercial and institutional customers to generate renewable energy on their premises and sell all generated energy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In February of 2021, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals to develop a specialized pricing strategy for renewable energy suppliers to sell energy to Qulliq Energy Corporation. The contract for this work was awarded in April of last year.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that Arviat project cannot move forward until such time as the Qulliq Energy Corporation finalizes this work.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) The only way for QEC to move forward with the IPP, and that is what you're referring to, approval process before securing supplemental funding is by using the current price based on the avoided cost of diesel, which is \$0.25/kW now. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, she tabled the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report in the Legislative Assembly during yesterday's sitting of the House. The report indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been developing the independent power purchase program, which will allow producers outside of the utility to generate power from renewable energy systems to sell direct to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Inuit organizations and municipalities will be given the first opportunity to own and operate community-scale installations in their respective regions.

Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made in the Kivalliq region under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Although I don't want to make a mistake in my response, (interpretation ends) I hope that I will make the correct response. For the IPP

program or the PPA price, it's for all communities within Nunavut and as of right now, it's in its next GRA filing. The QEC is recommending a harmonized electricity rate for all communities in Nunavut.

Currently the commercial electricity rate in Iqaluit is \$48.31 and in Whale Cove it is \$112.87 per kilowatt. If the harmonized electricity rate is adopted, the issue of the price differential between communities will be eliminated and the CIPP price offering will be the same in all communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister misread. \$48 and \$104 per kilowatt hour is really, really high, so I hope that was misspoken.

As the minister will also be aware, the federal announcement of last April also indicated that \$400,000 will be provided to the Government of Nunavut to develop community energy plans in Nunavut. The announcement indicated that the funding would be used to create comprehensive community energy plans with communities in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the development of Arviat's community energy plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the earlier report that was tabled by the previous minister, it was already tabled and the plans in place. I will have to scrutinize it to provide more detailed information and once I clearly understand what it entails, I can inform the member, if that's okay with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 037 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, the minister mentioned a few moments ago that he was going to be initiating a review of the staff housing policy. I just want to get initial clarification if the minister is meaning the GN Staff Housing Policy or the GN Staff Housing Procedures Manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. If I recall correctly, I had indicated that the Department of Human

Resources will initiate a review of the staff housing program itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that clarification. I will likely follow up at a later date, but I guess my question right now is, when we look at the procedures manual, it talks about the six different areas of eligibility and allocation: base rent, adjustments to base rent, rental assistance, tenant damages, and shared accommodations. The staff housing policy has the general authorization and accountability, eligibility and allocation, and rental rates.

Other than those items that are listed in the policy or the procedures manual, what is the minister hoping to accomplish through this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for the question. The matter is a concern that would impact many Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, the overall intention of the review of the staff housing program is aimed at overall improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that in the last Assembly, there were discussions in this House on similar initiatives and there was a lot of work that was done, and the two, the procedures manual and the policy that I just spoke to was just tabled less than three years ago. To me, the amount of work that goes into those kinds of reviews and what comes out doesn't change a lot in a few years.

I just want to get some confirmation, a little bit more specific than just general improvements. Are there specific targeted initiatives that the minister is looking at bringing forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the member's questions and concerns on this topic. As to specific targeted information, I cannot provide any further details at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To members, time allotted for question period is now over. Next item, No. 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 009 – 6(1): Letter from Mayor of Rankin Inlet Regarding the Utilidor and Water Supply System

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to table a very important letter from the Mayor of Rankin Inlet with respect to urgent concerns regarding the capacity of the utilidor and water supply system in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the members to review this letter with care. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Second Reading

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:20 and Committee resumed at 15:49*

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Good afternoon, committee members. We will get the meeting started. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to with: Bills 1, 2, and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 capital main estimates, Bill 2, and the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We have agreement. Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials. They are the same as yesterday, but just for everyone's sake, please reintroduce them. Thank you.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister, Kyle Seeley, then to my right is Mandy Hickey, sorry. She is the Director of Financial Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. We left off yesterday on page J-3, Mr. Savikataaq was asking questions for the rest of the committee. Unfortunately the paper I had yesterday is missing so any other names you will have to re-rise your hand so I can put you on the list please, thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: You know we have to press it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday we were going back and forth with different policies and I happened to download and print the next one. It is a dated, revised March 2021, same expiration date, April 1, 2025. I hope we are on the same policy now and I read it and I could not find much different. The funding amount allotted is still up to \$250,000 per community.

I know the deputy minister, Mr. Seeley talked about a base amount and he has come up with \$103,000, I believe it was, and then it goes from there. He said it goes on the number of roads and whole bunch of other factors, but I could not find that \$103,000 figure here. Can the minister explain if they throw a dart, throw dice, how they get this figure of \$103,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification that \$103,000 was the old maximum per community and so the new one is \$250,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the base amount then? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$103,000 is now the lowest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying not to be a stickler here, but I might be getting in that direction. I do not see that figure anywhere in this policy so I am wondering if it is not in the policy, how can you come up with a figure that is not in the mobile equivalent policy on how you give out the funds?

It is very clear it is \$250,000 per municipality, per year maximum and it talks about a base amount. The minister and his officials are talking about \$103,000 as a base amount, but I cannot find anywhere in here where it talks about what the dollar value is for base amount. Can I get clarification? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thanks again, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow my deputy to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The base amount referred to in the policy is the amount historically administered through the program. This program is not a new program. It has been around since, I am going to say, 2012.

The original amount in the program... . That budget has been built up over the years and currently is at the \$103,000 per community. That will be the base amount because this is

a block funding program to communities and the premises of the program is if municipalities receive that base amount annual, they manage that block of funding and invest it appropriately in purchasing mobile equipment.

We referred to the \$103,000 as the base amount that we are building the base plus formula from simply because municipalities would have incorporated that base amount in their forward planning and their budgeting forward placement of mobile equipment, subject to approval of the new funding, the maximum amount any one community would receive would be \$250,000 annually and the minimum amount \$103,000 with the remainder of the communities being distributed between the two ends. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will just be a comment, and last comment, I think just for clarity's sake, this is policy that this program is administered on, and we know what the maximum is. It talks about a base amount, and I think just for clarity, the base amount should be written out in the policy that is used to distribute these funds that will be given out.

I fully support the idea and the think about the bigger communities with more equipment get more money, and I fully, completely support that, but I think just so there is no confusion that if it's being administered under the Mobile Equipment program- which I know it's been long, and I've read the history, it's gone up and up over the years- that when you talk about the base amount, you should say what the base amount is there within the program that is being done. Thank you, and that's all.

Chairman: Thank you, that was just a comment, but Minister Joanasie did you want to add to anything on that?

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll take the comments into consideration and hopefully we can move on from this program, but I appreciate the interest level.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, thanks for your appearance again. I would like to ask whether a fire hall would fit into the category of a parking garage.

Chairman: Thanks to the member for that question. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have other question, I just wanted to find out whether a fire hall is in the category of a parking garage. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. So, I've got Local Government Services \$25,989,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We'll move on to page J-5. Infrastructure \$11,333,000. I'll just give members a moment to get to the right page.

Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions on the planning studies. If I'm not mistaken, just for clarity, the planning studies are the same as what is normally called a 'pre-planning studies.'?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie, can you...?

Hon. David Joanasie: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The planning studies within this... it's not the pre-planning studies, it's the planning studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the minister enlighten us on if any of the planning studies funding from past years have been carried over? Let's say for the past three years.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you will give me a second.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have projects that are carrying over, but at this time I can't say how much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I meant the actual planning studies, not projects, but in the last three years, have any of the planning study funds been carried over or are these planning studies for projects or actual studies for the project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have planning studies that will be carried over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister let us know... ? I believe that last year there was no money for planning studies, but there were carryovers. In the last three years out of each year's budget, how much of the budget was carried over because the money was not spent, because the studies were not done? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: If you can give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will have Ms. Hickey respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Hickey.

Ms. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I don't have the carryover amounts in front of me right now as that will be a bill that will come forward during the spring session, but I can tell the member what has been spent for the last three fiscal years under planning studies. For '21-22, it was \$1 million; '22-23, it was \$1.2 million; and for '19-20, it was \$600,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hickey. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be a fair statement to state then that for the past three years when there was funding that roughly only 50 percent of the study money had been spent? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be a fair statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain why we should grant him more money, then, if he can't even spend 50 percent of the money that has been allotted each year to the department for studies? It doesn't make sense to me if you're spending only 50 percent of the money for three consecutive years that you're asking for more money because, looking at the trend, okay, maybe 50 percent of it would be spent. Can the minister elaborate? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do want to progress as many projects as we can. We have a high priority list, I know, so with that, we are seeing a

huge increase to our capital spending for this department and, as was noted by the standing committee's opening comments, by over 119 percent. We are trying to progress on our capital needs, from the planning through to construction and completion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: If I might interject just for a moment, I know there has been some confusion in the past about preplanning and planning; these are just planning dollars. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister says there are a lot more projects now. When there were fewer projects, they couldn't get the studies done and that's why the money was carried over. What has changed that they can take on even more projects and not carry over the planning studies? Can the inform us: what has changed that the minister feels or in his position that these projects will go ahead more? There are more projects and we couldn't finish the fewer projects, but we're going to do more projects. What has changed? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are, like I said, trying to proceed as best we can, given the realities that we face and even within a pandemic, we are still proceeding with our best foot forward. With that, we are recovering from it and eager to get back to work to get a lot of the work that needs to get done. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this government to tackle our priorities on our capital needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three years ago, before COVID, before the pandemic, with fewer projects, roughly 50 percent of the planning studies were spent. Now we're coming out of COVID, but COVID is still here; I imagine there are still supply chain issues, there are still limited contracts, there are a whole bunch of more hindrances. Does the minister truly believe that more projects will be able to get completed and more studies done than pre-COVID times? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have the capital planning process and, of course, given the great needs across the territory, this planning envelope is where we're trying to address the critical infrastructure needs of our communities. We do think we have the capacity to proceed; otherwise, we wouldn't be presenting a budget for consideration today.

As with past years, the realities that we've had to have carryovers are due to different factors, and I think that's going to continue on, but I think right now we can proceed with our budget, as we didn't have any projects in planning in the past year or two, so that's

something that we want to re-engage in and get those projects on the go again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I'm just thinking it might alleviate some of the back-and-forth on this if we could be provided with a list of the projects that are anticipated to be planned. Minister Joanasié, do you have that information with you?

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have it with us, but we can provide it to the committee, perhaps, after our deliberations here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry to interrupt your line of questioning. Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, your suggestion is good.

Are there any current projects that were carried over that will be completed this year that have nothing to do with this new funding that are being worked on or are there no planning studies going on right now? I believe that there was no planning money last year, if I'm not mistaken. Can I just get clarification on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: If you will allow Ms. Hickey to respond to the question, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Hickey.

Ms. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. There was money allocated last year and I believe we provided a letter to the committee just after our standing committee appearance that showed a list of all projects that are in planning and anticipated times that they would be finalized. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't recall seeing that; I'll have to check with our staff, but maybe we will get back to that. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't remember seeing that either, so it would be good to get that. It must have fallen through the cracks somewhere, but that's it for my line of questioning for now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the planning studies. We would have proper questions if we could see the document. I'll wait here, but it just says Nunavut various planning. I think we need that document to ask proper questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasiae.

Hon. David Joanasiae: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. Yes, we do have a follow-up letter to the standing committee. We thought it was in your hands, but we will make sure that it's in your inbox and it does have a list of projects in planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasiae. Maybe I suggest that we will take a five-minute break and that list can be provided to the committee. We will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:11 and resumed at 16:27

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I do apologize for those watching. That was probably the longest five minutes in their lives, but we did have to get some copies of some documents and it did take a few more minutes than we had anticipated. I do apologize. Mr. Malliki, please proceed.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In pre-COVID plans, Naujaat was going to be included, but there has been no change. I would like to know what the status is of these plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Minister Joanasiae.

Hon. David Joanasiae: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me double-check here.

I'll have to get back to the member on the status of... We are working on the design for upgraded wastewater treatment. The preferred site has been identified and further investigation is underway to determine suitability. The design is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2022 and construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2023, to be completed by the following fall of 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not included in the plans that I have on my list. Is it because the planning portion is done that it is not included in the list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasiae.

Hon. David Joanasiae (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to start with the design phase in the upcoming fall in 2022 of this year if you can understand me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The member must have understood you, he does not have any more questions. Mr. Simailak. Oh, Mr. Simailak is not in the Chamber at the moment. Just wait one moment.

Mr. Simailak, go ahead please.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that. Your department's proposed 2022-23 capitol estimates include \$2.305 million for the Baker Lake Water Treatment Plant Project.

The substantiation sheet for this project indicates your department has "Completed an assessment in the water treatment plant. The consulting firm has provided a recommendation to replace both raw water intakes to ensure the long-term reliability of the water treatment plant. The assessment also included a review of the turbidity issues. However, it has been determined the further planning for this work is required and will not be included in the project at this time."

Can you clarify how it was determined that that their turbidity issue could not be included in the project's current scope and can you confirm the timeline for undertaking this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you will have my deputy clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question on water quality in Baker Lake. The water intake project replacing the core infrastructure that lies under the lake's surface to bring water to the plant to treat was prioritized by the department as the initial project to ensure water security in Baker Lake.

The issue with turbidity in Baker Lake as a recreational lake in a very large body of water subject to high wind gusts and a lot of turn-up in the fall presents some different challenges as far as the filtration to minimize the turbidity to ensure that the drinking water is within drinking water standards.

The longer term examination of additional filtration to be built into the water treatment plant that I believe was built around 2014 and is owned and operated by Community and Government Services is going to be a longer term solution that is going to take a little bit more investigation to see how that additional filtration and membrane systems can be built in, or we will need to go with additional media filtration inside the existing footprint to the building, or if it will be an addition on to the existing water treatment plant.

So again the department did prioritize ongoing water to the plant for treatment and distribution into the community in the next phase of that priority will be supplementing or enhancing the treatment system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses, but going back, I have been raising this issue since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, the constant boil water advisories and due to myself and my predecessor advocating on that issue.

I did receive a commitment from the minister's predecessor that work would begin last year on the filtration equipment and now I am hearing that it being further delayed and I was under the assumption that money was already set aside to do the filtration equipment to meet the new water quality standards.

I appreciate that the raw water intake takes precedence, but I do not understand why both jobs cannot be done. The raw water intake will be replaced, I appreciate that, but we're going to continue to not meet the water quality standards set forth by the regulators, I guess. I still don't understand why both cannot be done at the same time. Can the minister clarify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we want to proceed with this project within our financial resources and capacity to address not only Baker Lake's needs but other community water needs as well. We have huge needs across the territory, but right now we think the best way forward is to proceed with the water infrastructure, working on the intakes for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. For final clarification on this issue, the raw water intake replacement will be done this year, this summer. Will the filtration for the addition to the water treatment plant be completed in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short-term priority is to review the flow through media filters and to see if optimization will improve particle removal, as well as review cartridge filter systems and investigate modifications to improve particle removal; and then the medium term is to provide upgrades for the raw water intakes that may improve the turbidity level, and investigate potential chemical additions to improve the media filtration process; and over the longer term is to complete schematic design,

detailed design, and construction of the treatment process upgrades. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still didn't hear an actual timeline. He mentioned short-term, mid-term, and long-term, but what are those? What kind of timeline are we looking at here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate the review process would be the first year, so over the next year, and the following year, we will see how that responds. I think that in the next few years we will see if we can address what my colleague here is trying to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on, your 2022-23 budget includes \$1.5 million for planning studies. When will the list of planning studies be provided to us, and can you clarify today what planning studies will be done in 2022-23? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The list itself is the one that was just provided, but the timelines may not be which ones; if the minister can respond to that question. Thank you.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. If I can get clarification on the question, is he asking on the preplanning studies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe the member is asking for the timeline on the planning studies being proposed out of the \$1.5 million right now, which ones are anticipated to be completed this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman or...

>> *Laughter*

...thank you to me. Minister Joanasié, please.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the laugh.

We're working with the Department of Finance on this and hopefully in the coming days that will come to the committee's attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak, you're complete. Mr. Sammurtok, please proceed.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the utilidor for Rankin Inlet, in your business case, I'll quote, "Rankin Inlet's pumped water and sewage distribution system had been installed in the 1970s. The system has been expanded and some areas upgraded since its original construction. However, most of the original system has not been in place and is now well beyond its designed service life. Constant low water pressure, pipeline breaks, freezing, and leaks have plagued these areas and require continuous maintenance and repair." On top of that, the pump houses, "Pump house and lift stations are running at and beyond capacity, and various upgrades are recommended to accommodate future growth and additional connection."

Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering why, in their business case, they're indicating that the pump houses are at their limit. When they're doing the utilidor system replacement, why don't they build the pump houses at the same time? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we are experiencing some challenges in Kangiqsiniq with respect to the utilidor system and this is what we're coming forward today with is to replace that system and get it up to date as soon as possible. The next phase after that would be...as I had my colleague ask me the other day around the water treatment plant, that's the next phase after this utilidor upgrade. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if they're going to upgrade the utilidor to bigger sizes of piping. Will the original pumps be able to give out the same capacity as what it's doing now? Will you need to put in new pumps or whatever? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'll have my deputy respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pump size will be upgraded to accommodate the additional volume of water and effluent that we need to keep up the pressure for fire suppression and for service in more distant parts of the community and the different loops. To keep up with a rapidly growing community like Rankin Inlet, the pumps will need to plan for future expansion.

I will just point out that the things do flow both ways within the utilidor, so certainly the water pumps for fire suppression and for household, domestic use as well as commercial, we need to keep up those as well as institutional, but the project on today's substantiation sheet is about the lift stations for the wastewater. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Just to follow up, you're going to upgrade the pumps to accommodate the pressure volume of the larger size pipes. Now, my question is: when will you be able to replace those 40-year-old pump houses? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're taking a phased approach on the water needs of Rankin Inlet and the lift stations right now are the most vulnerable, so that's the most attention that is required at this time. Following that, we are looking at how the water needs of Kangiqsiniq will be addressed after this initial phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The utilidor system piping replacements, when does this construction start and when will it be completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's ongoing. As I mentioned, there are different phases to this utilidor project. This project is going to total at least \$15 million of GN's funding and right now we're requesting the \$7 million to proceed on this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it will be multi-year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: When does the construction start? Maybe you will be able to answer that one better than my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. Once we approve this project, then we're going to start this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that information. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the list of projects and I see the seniors' long-term care facilities in the regional centres for the Qikiqtaaluk and

Kitikmeot. It's my understanding that the planning for the centres was not approved in the last Assembly to play into the timeline that's listed here for completion. I'm just wondering how much time that has cost us and whether or not I'm actually correct there. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, if you will give me a minute.

Can the member clarify her question, please? The status on that is that the site selection is still ongoing and this is still contingent on funding availability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think the member was asking what kind of delay was a result of the money not being appropriated in the last Assembly and having to wait now for planning dollars. Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget line item for that project had been removed and as a result, it has delayed the project by that much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Just a follow-up to that, how long will the delay continue towards the completion? I mean, we have all raised this issue, I think, about the importance of caring for our elders here at home and I'm sure every community is waiting with baited breath to find out which community will actually have these facilities. When can we expect to know when those communities will be chosen and for the planning to continue? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the planning for that facility has been done, but the design cost has not come forward yet and that would be through the Department of Health. Of course it's a big topic of interest publicly, so we are trying to see how we can support this priority for this legislature among others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. (interpretation) Ms. Brewster, are you done? Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for Nunavut-wide planning for arenas. There are eight communities listed and on the second page of your letter, summary of requests provided by municipalities, that's submitted and integrated community sustainability plan in 2021. I'm wondering which communities, if you have a list of the submissions for those communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're aware that there are five communities that have submitted their integrated community sustainability plans and those lists are available through the Building Nunavut website. There are some technical difficulties around that site, but if the members would like copies of those sustainability plans, we would be more than willing to provide them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the funding source, same subject on arenas, it says 75 percent federal funding. Which entity does the funding come from within the federal government? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are bilateral agreements with Infrastructure Canada to support such things as arenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Business cases have been developed for three communities: Gjoa Haven, Chesterfield Inlet, and Arctic Bay. The next communities in line for arenas are Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, *ammalu* Clyde River. How are business cases determined for the next communities that require business cases for planning studies? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on a few things. For example, when a community comes forward with their lists and how they prioritize each need, how high it is on their list, but also the condition of their facilities, those are all part of the assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different topic, within the planning studies, the undersea fibre optic cable installation, it notes, "Additional planning ongoing," looking at different routes. Is one of the possible routes coming from the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: If you will give me a second.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have looked at a variety of routings on this project and so that's going to be decided upon in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, minister, and I thank Mr. Qavvik for his questions. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually am too short to be able to see whether or not my light is on, so that's why I had a little problem with my starts here.

I'm just curious about whether or not the RFP for...and I haven't checked, I'll be honest. I haven't checked to see if the RFP for the deep water sea port warehouse has gone out yet. It says spring 2022. That's it. Yes, sorry. I apologize. Has the RFP for the warehouse for the deep sea port gone out as per the list here that says it's going out in spring 2022? Thank you. Apologies.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Give me a second. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be under ED&T whether or not that project is at the RFP stage, if I understand the question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: That's it for now, thank you.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Correct me if I'm wrong. I want to talk more about the money for petroleum products. Maybe I should wait until we get to that section, or can I proceed now with it? About Petroleum Products Division. Is it okay if I do it now?

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. It's two pages from now we will be into the Petroleum Products Division.

Any other names for this page? Right now, we're looking at infrastructure. \$11,333,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, next page. J-7, Information Management Information Technology. \$20,700,000. Any questions?

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several questions on the fibre infrastructure for various communities. Is it still in the plan in in there, it says various communities, that initially it was just Iqaluit and Kimmirut, I believe is that still the plan? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The route is still under consideration and as I mentioned we are coming forward with a decision on that in the very near future on which routing is the best suited and which communities would be impacted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is not the total project being requested right now, but the total project was at \$209,000,000. Is that still the projected total cost for the fibre project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, yes, that's the projected cost that we have presented here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to read something from a news article here that was published a little while ago. It says "This project is now expected to be finished in 2025," which is still the projected finish time, but it goes on to say "Paul Currie, the spokesperson for the Community and Government Services Department said in an email. The project's cost, originally put at \$209 million, is also expected to increase due to inflation and supply chain issues. Can the minister elaborate on it, if he is still projecting it to be \$209 million? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'll have my deputy elaborate on the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The budget that we're planning within is the \$209 million that was projected when the project was approved. The commentary in the media, I read the same report and I'm not confident that that report included the full context of the response that was provided by one of our officials. With the project right now, we are planning within the budget, inflation pressures are what they are, and the completion date is a year or two out. That being said, I'm not convinced that that article provided the whole context of the official's response. I hope that addresses the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister too. We have received a copy of the letter that was written from the NTI president to the Premier

and it says, “Collaboration between the Government of Nunavut and Inuit organizations on bringing fibre to Nunavut,” and I’ll quote just a small portion of it. “I’m writing today to follow up on a February 8, 2022 meeting with Minister Joanasié on the potential for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut to collaborate on the development of an undersea fibre optic network that would bring the highest quality of broadband to Nunavut.” It goes on to say, “Minister Joanasié advised that the government had an approved project going forward to further consideration and funding approval for the Legislative Assembly’s next session,” which is what we’re dealing with right now. “We suggest to Minister Joanasié that pausing the approved process for the GN project and signing a non-disclosure agreement with NTI would allow us to work collaboratively to compare the details of our respective proposals and projects and move forward in partnership of the project that has maximum benefit for Nunavummiut. Minister Joanasié, kindly direct us to your office with our request.” Minister Joanasié directed to the Premier’s Office.

With this letter that has been written to the Premier, will this letter affect in any way the project proposal and planning that we are debating right now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for that question. That letter, we do have a response drafted and I believe the Premier hasn’t sent this either. We’re going to sign off on a response, but at this time we are proceeding with this project and anticipate that if there are any partnership opportunities with Inuit organizations or other interested parties, it will be on this project that we’re presenting here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for complete clarity, this project is going to go ahead as is, as a sole government project, and the Government of Nunavut will own this fibre and will control the price of the Internet coming in and will control what’s being distributed. Is that a correct statement? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the plan here and if there are any opportunities for partnership again once this infrastructure is built, we’re open to those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m not against partnership, but if the minister can just elaborate on what he means by partnership. Is there going to be money put into partner to extend this fibre or is he talking about partnership to control or

distribute this fibre once it's put in just to Iqaluit here? If he can just elaborate on that a bit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a partnership in place right now, but we are proceeding as is. I don't want to prejudge what it will look like. I think it could be different ways, but I think those are yet to be explored. For now, this project would serve our government and Nunavummiut on our information technology needs and the services that we need to provide as a government. I think partnership opportunities are yet to be explored and fully fleshed out, but I think that can go different ways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that there have been several proposals or options on where the fibre might come from. Does the minister know where the fibre will be coming from? Is it Greenland? Is it Northern Quebec? Is it Newfoundland? Is it from the western Arctic? Has that been decided yet? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for that question. We have narrowed it down. It's going to be from southern Canada, but again, we will be coming forward with it on the routing and then proceed to the construction as per this funding request from this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Can the minister elaborate on southern Canada? Is it coming over land and through the Hudson Bay? Is it coming all the way from Newfoundland, which is southern Canada? Can he just elaborate a bit on what southern Canada means in this context? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going to be undersea. Apart from that, I think I don't have much more further options to provide the committee at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be a fair statement to state, then, it's coming from the south somewhere through the ocean and the GN is going to own and operate the fibre, it will be 100 percent owned by the GN? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point that's how it stands. Yes, it would be 100 percent GN owned and operated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I waited for this time about the fibre optic. I have been a community service provider before for Qiniq. A known fact about fibre optic, once it's cut, we won't have a network anymore; we're down. Does CGS have a backup plan once the fibre optic is down? It's a known fact. I have known this fact before because I worked and opened fibre optic Internet, and once that fibre was cut, that was it and we had no more Internet. Is there any backup plan? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, the backup plan would need to rely on our existing satellite network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did Community and Government Services take a look at the request for proposals from SSI [Micro]? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No we haven't looked at proposals unsolicited. We have not issued a request for proposals yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe if I can interrupt for a moment, do you anticipate putting and request for proposals out in the near future? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe that would come this spring would be when the request for proposals go out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I looked at the request for proposals it is a great proposal, it is a great proposal. I would recommend that Community and Government Services take it into great consideration for the fact that all of Nunavummiut has community service providers and what the request for proposals stated that they would hire extra three more in each community that would mean we would get technicians to work in every community and then they would hire technicians and that is 75 to 100 more Nunavummiut to work so I strongly suggest that the Community and

Government Services take in the request for proposal and take it into great consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was just a comment, but does the minister want to respond to it? Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: No I just wanted to thank the member for that suggestion and consideration. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once fibre optics has started would all the communities get it, or only some of the communities get it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently with what we are trying to go ahead with Iqaluit using most of the bandwidth on satellites and our biggest goal right now. In the coming years if we can reach other communities and if there was enough funding can be approved through the Assembly other communities would be impacted also if it was approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being the case, when I was mayor, we also dealt with this a long time by roundtable and still has not been studied. It is being studied right now. Kivalliq Inuit Association with federal government funding. Will that be connected to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if he can clarify, is he talking about ends here Kivalliq hydro-fibre link? I think he is asking about that?

Mr. Chairman, presently with the funding proposal it is for internet service to Iqaluit. However, with a colleague from Baker Lake asking as I stated we would be asking for further \$100 million from the Universal Broadband Fund for the Kivalliq communities if we can connect in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this were to go ahead it will be owned by the government. Would it be available to individuals for non-government people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Government would be the biggest user but it would be available. It would be able to be used or bought by individuals and it would be set up that way. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): You're done? Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, I can actually say that without creating a laugh in the House.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, with the fibre project that has been proposed, and when we look at some of the information that I've seen in the media, as well as the information that the now chair read out in a letter, there was also an options paper that came with it.

I'm a little perplexed that it seems there is such a strong desire to have the ownership side of it when there may be opportunities to look at partnering. I'm thinking a little further down the road than just the actual construction of the infrastructure. It's the maintenance and the follow-up that's continuously needed.

I guess what I'm asking, is there an opportunity to partner with the CanArctic group that I know the minister and his officials have been in touch with? I'll start with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are focusing on our project, the one that CGS has presented and has been working on for a number of years. This is the project we feel where the partnership can occur, or if it will occur, if it can occur, then it's on this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to backtrack just a little bit.

In October of 2021 there was an RFP for the Government of Nunavut marine fibre project strategy oversight advisory consulting services. I have to almost take a breath in between there. The RFP closed in December of last year, which was a few months back. Which entity has been awarded the contract to perform this work?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The company is called Ledcor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize when this project first got started a number of years ago there weren't many options of how to look at ownership, and maintenance... . But it appears to me now that there has been substantial work put in from the private sector, and again an unsolicited proposal term was used and I'm quite familiar with that.

But, at the same time if there's ways to leverage dollars, as an example Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has put some work into the Gray's Bay project, into the Kivalliq power and fibre project there, and it seems like they're open to some investments in the Qikiqtaaluk project. It sounds to me like that option is closed, from the way the minister has been talking. I just want to get confirmation that there are still opportunities.

If there are ways to leverage dollars... . Especially when we get substantial amount of dollars from the federal government, it typically means it's a substantial amount of dollars for the Government of Nunavut, it's usually a cost-share basis. Anytime we can leverage more dollars from outside partners, it's an advantage, for one, and it has, as my colleague Mr. Malliki touched upon, access to more communities.

It seems like there may be a real opportunity to sit down; I'm not saying maybe go all the way to create a committee again and just start from scratch kind of thing. I know there has been a lot of work put in from Community and Government Services over the years and it sounds like there have been quite a bit of advancements from the private sector in this field as well, with an Inuit-owned enterprise, I might add. I just want to get some confirmation from the minister that there is still going to be an opportunity to look at some of these third party partnerships. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will look at any possible partnerships and see where we can work together best with different parties that have an interest and stake in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that commitment from the minister. The next commitment that I'm going to request is maybe indirectly through the minister. It was mentioned that the Premier will be responding to the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's letter. We did get a copy of the letter that was sent, obviously, to you as members. Can I ask that the standing committee also be included in the response to that letter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you will receive a response to that letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have questions for fibre infrastructure, Nunavut various, although it might not be related to the budget for this fiscal year, 2022-23, but in the previous Assemblies, Hudson Bay, specifically in my constituency of Hudson Bay, Sanikiluaq, it has been in the talks of the possibility of connecting fibre optic to Sanikiluaq from the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network, which was installed last year, 2021, to the Nunavik region of Quebec. I'm wondering: has your department communicated with the region to possibly connect Sanikiluaq through a procurement process? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't done what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering whether your department can commit to considering possibly doing a planning study in the future to put a request for proposals to connect Sanikiluaq from the fibre optic network. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to commit to doing an RFP *per se*, but I think we can look at some kind of an... . This might be something that would flow through the hamlet. We can work on a fibre optic project and the eastern arctic network that the member speaks of, that is the Kativik Regional government network, but I am also advised that Sanikiluaq has very good satellite coverage, so once Iqaluit for example has fibre connected then Sanikiluaq would see along with other communities exponentially faster and more reliable internet through the satellite network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not going to be asking this question, but if the Kivalliq Inuit Association should have the fibre optics and if it goes through Rankin Inlet, would that be linked in with the proposal that you are talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Kivalliq hydro fibre link and it would go from Manitoba and I believe those projects would be starting at the same time and with the KIA proposal we are looking from Iqaluit to Kimmirut and we are also looking at which communities will be affected. I cannot say at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we approve the moneys, when would we know where the route is going to be going from Iqaluit to the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are only looking at Iqaluit now with this proposal. We are also making another funding request from the federal government and should we be approved we would also have to be looking for monies from the Legislative Assembly. We are currently not looking at linking with the Kivalliq. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like we do not know... We are looking a lot of money, but we do not know which communities are going to be linked. I think it would be best if we have the plan and the route and everything else before we talk about the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this, only going towards Iqaluit we are looking at the other communities that are likely links and should this money be approved we will know and we would also inform you as to how it is going to be going about.

We would also have to look at other funds to link with the other communities and once we have all of that information we would give you the information and which communities are going to be linked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like we are going to link one community at a time. What I'm thinking, and what I would like to know is to see a few communities linked at the same time and not only focus on one community.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Kivalliq Inuit Association and their proposed project, we would look at which communities are linked but that's for future years. Right now, we're looking at Iqaluit as a priority for now. It's going to be using quite a lot of money, but we are also using satellites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to switch gears and ask about your proposed 2022-23 capital estimates that include \$3.5 million in funding for communication technology infrastructure upgrades. I'm just wondering what specific upgrades are planned to be undertaken with this funding? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This includes \$250,000 in RSO upgrades as well as \$750,000 in Rankin Inlet, as well as Cambridge Bay data centre generators \$2,000,000 in local area network rooms as well as ever-greening \$500,000 on new technology pilots. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. The use of acronyms can sometimes be confusing, I'm assuming that means regional school operations? Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering how that connects with expenditures in the past and whether or not there is a natural progression to ensuring that all these communities and systems can talk to each other. And I'm just wondering how the communities are chosen? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, and I thank for the question. The budget CGS has been using for lifecycle renewal on our information technology upgrades, the \$3.5 million has been used up fairly well each year. As for the locations, regional centres is part of... they have data centres these important infrastructure for our government to function. That's part of why those locations are selected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Information Management. Information Technology. \$20,700,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-9. Petroleum Products Division. \$200,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the word “Arviat” on there, I mean, I have to say something.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this project is delayed one year due to circumstances beyond the department’s control. I would just like reassurance that this project absolutely will go ahead next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will proceed definitely next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that confirmation. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the substantiation sheet, the stuff that’s going to be built and the number of tanks, one of them is a jet A fuel tank, which is needed in Arviat, and I’m glad that they will be building one so that airplanes can use Arviat as an alternative. My question is: will that come with a separate fuel truck then that would do jet A or would they have to share an existing one with P50? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can defer that question to the deputy. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The new tank facility and distribution centre or gas station in Arviat does include a full retrofit, including new fill stations to accommodate a growing community with multiple pumps. The fleet size, as far as the fuel delivery trucks, is also included into that growth.

Keeping the different fuel types separate is also important. You can’t mix or cross contamination with the fuel, so that would be included in it. I do say that with a caveat that there are serious supply chain issues with the chassis for this specialized equipment designed to operate in the cold temperatures and carry fuel. That is part of the forward planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get assurance from the minister that the island dispensers will be winter grade, snow grade, or Arviat grade, whatever the term can be? We have had nothing but trouble with our gas and diesel dispensers for a number of years. At times we’re down to not one dispenser, one pump for the whole town of

3,000 people. Can the minister assure me that they will purchase and install and operate island dispensers that will take the harsh conditions in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I guess they've got to be polar bear proof too. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be getting the best of the best of what we can provide in terms of dispensing fuel for the community in Arviat and in any community. I think Mr. Speaker, my colleague here, is ready to design his own dispensing machine for the community that will fit the grade, but if any community experiences issues with these types of... A community needs fuel to run and we encourage you to contact our department and the PPD will be on top of it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last comment, I fully support this project and I know that all our members will vote to pass the project because it's a very important project for Arviat. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to fuel prices they are skyrocketing globally. What has this minister done to ensure the high cost is not touching Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. That is an O&M question but I will allow the minister to respond as I know that question is very pervasive throughout the territory, if not the country, if not the world. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, fuel prices on a daily basis are changing rapidly.

To date, the Department of Community and Government Services began to purchase fuel back in November. To date, 71 percent of fuel has been purchased for Nunavut. Looking at the increase in fuel costs we are constantly monitoring and how will we be utilizing our purchasing for 2022-23 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. I have some more names on my list, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious about- I don't know a lot about tank farms but I do know about you know, issue of contaminants getting into the ground and on the *nuna*. What I'm wondering is, if it's a replacement and is there the cost of any remediation that needs to be done built into the project? If it's a whole new site,

I'm just really curious about what is done to protect the land and air, water around the tank farm? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry if I didn't catch the whole question but in the capital process for tank farms it involves looking at what are the regulatory and legislative frameworks that we must meet and adhere to. There is remediation, if there's any spill potential, we're looking at risks and mitigating them as much as we can. But, there's whole different phases to that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: I'm done, thanks.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can hear me? Thank you.

The comment I want to make, perhaps you already know yourself personally, although it's not listed here, there is a big concern, and something I want raise as a question to the community of Clyde River. I believe we have all heard over the news... . Will there be funding for emergency situations for communities due to fuel shortages or lack thereof in some communities, although jet A-1 fuel may available.

Here looking at the seats and the communities that have fuels, Clyde River is the only community not listed here. For that reason, under emergency funds I would like to see, as you mentioned that you want to be notified anything related to fuel, so I raise this as a concern and I will have a follow up question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. The Petroleum Products Division began to look into this immediately and in Clyde River the fuel tank, since last week this was already looked into and what actions can be taken.

However, with respect to emergency response we have provided support to the community or the hamlet and I mentioned that we will be sending fuel to the community. And they will be arriving to the community this week, will be flown in to the community.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the cost, how is it with the price of fuel, with different kinds like gasoline, jet fuel, how are they categorized? Is Jet

A1 more costly than the diesel that we use in our homes? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you for the question. Jet A1 is more expensive. For example, compared with diesel and that's how it is right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That clarifies further the need the community of Clyde River needs and grocery products are also very expensive there. With respect to home fuel often they have problems with home owners who lack in parts so I raise that first as a question, as a concern, emergency wise. And I will want to keep in tune on this but I guess I'll end that there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank, Mr. Chairman. This has been an urgent matter for us and the Petroleum Products Division has looked at how we can accommodate the community of Clyde River. There are various factors that came into play. There are things that are out of our control, such as the weather, but we are reviewing what mitigating actions we may take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I have no more names on my list. Petroleum Products Division. \$200,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-2. Community and Government Services. \$58,222,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the review of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To keep it short, I thank the officials who are here with me. I also thank my colleagues for their questions on the various capital projects that will be going forward, and I am hopeful that much

support will be given for the upcoming months and years. Have a wonderful day. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I just have one final comment for the minister. In notes with the discussion we had earlier with the paperwork that we received and the confusion, I'm wondering when we're going to get the list of the new projects under the planning envelope. I'll look forward to receiving that information from the minister through the chair in the very near future. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Progress has been called. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not debatable. Sorry. Sergeant-at-Arms, please excuse the witnesses. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report progress, and the Chairman thanked himself, Mr. Speaker, which added some levity to the response.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

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

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

