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Tuesday, June 12, 2018

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Labour

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

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(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 10:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook) (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members, good morning. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Let's proceed directly to the orders of the day. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, and ministers.

(interpretation) At this time I request unanimous consent to go to Item 14, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 14. Are there any nays? There are no nays.

We will proceed directly to Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 009 – 5(2): Removal of the Member for Aggu from the Executive Council of Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, June 14, 2018, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that the Member for Aggu be removed from the Executive Council of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Moving on. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that you remain in your seats as you will proceed directly into Committee of the Whole once the documents are ready.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good morning, colleagues. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Welcome to Nunavummiut watching and listening to the radio. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 4 and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the following: Nunavut Arctic College, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Environment, Culture and Heritage, and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 –
Economic Development and
Transportation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday we did our opening comments. I would now like to ask Minister Savikataaq: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Savikataaq, please introduce your officials. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Udlu Hanson. She's the DM of Economic Development and Transportation, and to my left is the ADM of Economic Development and Transportation, Bernie MacIsaac. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday you did your opening comments. We are on page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Corporate Management. Any questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut. Minister and officials, welcome.

Your department administers a number of different policies. Your department's Small Business Support Program Policy expired on March 31, 2011. Information that is on your department's website indicates that the policy is currently "under review." What is the timeline for completing this review and what specific changes to the small support program are being considered? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that we have a number of policies that are outdated and we are working on all of them. It's one of the priorities and the specific policy that the member is asking about, our goal is to have it updated by the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Under this small support program I'm presuming it's for people who are just starting up a small business. What specific changes do you see occurring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These programs are being updated right now and I'm not familiar with exactly all the workings of it and the end goal of it, so I can, with your permission. . . . The program provides contribution to Nunavut individuals and businesses for start-up, expansion, training, and aftercare and support for outfitters and commercial harvesters.

Related to this, one of the things that we want to do too is to have more support for these small businesses once they get either be it a loan or a grant from the department so that we can have aftercare delivered so that they have a better chance of succeeding in the projects that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the minister is right on the ball this morning. He led right into my next question. The minister is well aware I asked about this in question period. When we're looking at aftercare, is that more in the lines of consulting with a small business firm that might be struggling or when you're talking about aftercare, is that more on a consultation basis or are you looking at financial support to sustain the small business? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All this is under review. We don't know exactly what aftercare will look like. All of that stuff will be considered because we want the business to succeed, but we don't want to fund projects that are unsustainable and just keep putting money into them. We want to make sure that we come up with a policy that is fair both to the client and to the government. On a side note, the NBCC also is reviewing their procedures so that they too will have aftercare if any one of their clients needs it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Just a comment on this before I proceed onto my next question. People who are trying to become private businesspeople are only human and have their families. Sometimes they go out for medical and in a way that sort of affects their business operations, but maybe that's something that can be taken into

consideration. That's just a comment.

You department administers a number of different policies. Your department's Policy on Program Partnerships expired on March 31, 2011. This policy governs your department's Community Capacity Building Program, which provides a contribution to every Nunavut municipality to allow each to employ a qualified economic development officer. The program also supports community economic development projects and the creation and implementation of community economic development plans. Your department's draft 2018-19 main estimates include \$4,454,000 in proposed funding for this program.

What is the timeline for reviewing the Policy on Program Partnerships and what specific changes to the Community Capacity Building Program are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The drafting should be completed by the end of this summer on the policy and it should be completely updated on the same timeline as I said earlier. Everything should be done on that by the end of this year. Like the member said, it's part of the funding that we get for EDOs to each community. It's very important and it's very beneficial to the communities. This is one of the priorities too and our goal is to have it updated by the end of summer. As you stated, it's long overdue; it expired back in 2011. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I was referring to small business that might be struggling. If this budget is approved, can that particular small business approach Economic Development to maybe get their feet back on the ground and prosper in their small business endeavour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my answer will be the same as when you asked it in question period. First, have this business owner go see the economic development officer and we will go from there. In that situation that you described, it's very hard because if someone is sick or can't do their work, then that's a different issue than economics of the business. There are personnel issues involved there, but go to that business, if they're struggling, they can go to the economic development officer and they can talk together and find out how to help this business. We're here to help the business because small businesses in Nunavut are a huge employer and it gives people self-reliance to have their business and be their own boss. Talk to the EDO. The EDO can direct this person on exactly where this business can get help on what type of help it needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question here would be maybe on a consultation basis or to support a small business in communities. Does your department or any other government department consider financial accounting systems that could

be taken into consideration or suggest it to the individual who's wanting to sustain a small business opportunity? If I'm making sense, in order sustain your small business, you need an accounting structure. Would that be taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that would be taken into consideration. I have known in the past, this is quite a while ago now, but they used to offer a Simply Accounting course. I don't know if that program is still available, but if there were such programs, if an individual needs help on what type of accounting program would best suit their needs, then yes, all that can be discussed with the EDOs because that's what they're there for. They're flexible and they may be able to just say, "Okay this accounting type of program would work very well in your situation and your size of business." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. I'll move on here. Your department's draft 2018-19 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Update the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy based on prior community consultations and the *Turaaqtavut* mandate." I do know that they did come to Baker Lake and we were welcoming them.

The first Nunavut Economic Development Strategy was released in June of 2003 and reached the end of its 10-year life in the spring of 2013, five

years ago. It is now June of 2018. What specific factors account for the delays in updating the strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy has been worked on for a while and it was pretty well complete, but my department went back and looked at it and decided that there was not enough community input. Consultation was done again with all the communities to get the communities' input on the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When we look at the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, what does the department anticipate to be different from the current Nunavut Economic Development Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're focusing on trying to create more jobs and getting more jobs out, but in terms of the overall strategy, it wouldn't change that much other than technology is going ahead by leaps and bounds. All that would have to be considered because, in the old one, there might not have been too much emphasis on Internet business or opportunities on the Internet. All that would be brought into there too. It's just to update it so that we're caught up with the rest of the world and so that we can come up with the best strategy for Nunavut so that we

can get full economic benefits from any businesses or any opportunities that we have in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I look at the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy and when we look at Nunavut, as we all know as MLAs, we've got the mining industry within our territory and we've got fisheries going on in some communities, and then tourism could also be expanding. When you look at renewable energy and stuff like that, it is the reason why I'm asking these questions.

I see Economic Development and Transportation as the leading department in creating these strategies as we're moving on. My question here would be: when you take those into consideration, like what I have just mentioned, are those taken into consideration with the strategy that is currently being formulated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All that is being considered because I forgot to mention earlier that back in 2011 mining was not as big in Nunavut as it is now, so that's definitely a factor. With the strategy, you want to make sure that there's no competing interest, whether it be the federal strategy on what they want to do or what we want to do. We want to make sure everything is in line so that it will run smoothly, but all the stuff that the member mentioned, all the different sectors of the economy there, yes, all

that is being considered and will be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions here. I'm just going to step into the NNI Policy for a moment. In the business plan on page 225 when it speaks to the NNI Secretariat, it states that "...promoting long-term economic development...by maximizing the participation of Inuit and Nunavut residents in the Government of Nunavut's procurement activities."

When I was asking questions to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, he stated clearly at the end that they do have conditions in their contracting to promote local hiring in general, not just for Inuit. Like I stated the other day, just for the background, there are a lot of non-Inuit that live in the territory that support Inuit families. I think it's very important that long-term Nunavut residents gain the benefit of hiring after the Inuit labour force is exhausted. I just want the details of how NNI supports local hiring and contracting across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not 100 percent familiar with the NNI Policy, every part of it, but I do believe that there is a section for northern hires. There's more emphasis on Inuit hire, but there's also a section on northern hires because we want people in Nunavut to work or to do business. It makes way more sense to get

someone who is in Nunavut hired or to do business with the government as opposed to someone from the south coming up to work or a business coming up from the south to work and bringing their own workers. We do have emphasis on Inuit hire and Inuit businesses, but there's also the secondary interest of northerners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that for me. I'm going to go back to a document, *Reducing dependence. Supporting communities*, in June of 2016 and it was tabled on June 6, 2016. It's a report on the review and reform of income assistance and economic development. On page 14 of that document in Pillar 4: Invest in job creation and reducing barriers to work, in Reform 15 it states that "EDT will build on this work by exploring a pilot project to provide capital for the creation of new private daycare spaces in one community." I don't see anywhere in the business plan that this is being worked on. I'm just wondering what the status of that Reform 15 is, working in collaboration with Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, if Mr. MacIsaac can answer that because anything to do with from a long time ago, he has the corporate knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that commitment dated back to a relationship that we had developed with the Department of Family Services where we actually went to every community in Nunavut to ask them and talk to them about economic development and also on income assistance reform. One of the big takeaways from that consultation was the need to remove barriers for employment for people in the territory.

At that time we contemplated a pilot for daycare centres somewhere in Nunavut. Unfortunately we haven't gotten there yet. We were still working out the details because it's more departments than just the Department of Family Services and EDT that would be involved in that. We were in discussions and at this point we have not completed that yet, but we did explore the idea of barriers to employment. That's going to become a real focus on this policy renewal that the minister mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came across it in our briefings with Family Services and I highlighted that point where I thought it was quite an interesting idea. I didn't recall it when it came out. I thought what an intriguing concept and I would like to hear how it develops as this policy review takes place and how this project comes to life. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name on the list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister (interpretation ends) and your officials.

I'll try not to use too much time here, recognizing that we do have other departments to go through. I think ED&T is a very important department in terms of what we need in Nunavut. We have a huge need for more jobs. We have hundreds if not thousands of people willing to work without opportunity. I think, when you look at it from a labour force perspective, our resources are stranded in terms of the labour, that people who want to work are not mobile because they don't have a lot of money sitting in their bank account.

In terms of a department-wide perspective, it's mentioned in one of your priorities under the SIP program to streamline applications. Has there been recognition within the department that the process is too cumbersome? What is that priority trying to address? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's one of the policies that's being looked at and reviewed again. We're looking to streamline the application process where it's just one, but at the same time to be more accountable to it. If a business says they're going to do X, Y, and Z, then we want to make sure that X, Y, and Z gets done. It's all part of the review. I'm sorry to say, but a lot of our programs are overdue. The policies are expired and we're working on that. We just want to make sure that the policies reflect what *Turaaqtavut* wants us to do too.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. In terms of streamlining, again, what is that priority referring to when it says "streamline the process"? What is the existing process right now? What are the issues with the existing process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're hoping to get that administrative portion of it down. Some business or some clients or individuals that apply for SIP find it quite an encumbered process. It's very paper intensive, to put it simply. We are trying to make it so that it's not such a burden on the person applying for funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. I would like to remind my colleagues to refrain from using acronyms. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My apologies, Strategic Investments Program.

I think it's good to hear the minister acknowledge that the process is cumbersome. This is just a comment. It would be useful to take that same lens and look at all of your grants and contributions policies because, speaking from experience, there was a big shift about 10 years ago and my understanding is that it was driven by the

Department of Finance at the time. They wanted greater accountability and whatnot, but the result was that at the end of the day, for a carver, for example, to receive a grant when it comes to carving tools, you're talking 15 pages of forms and things to go through and initial and sign, and it's very cumbersome.

I think, if that initiative was broadened out to the different programs, it could save you some money and allow you to put more money out on the ground. When it comes to efficiency, and I asked this same question in the committee, does the department track your own administrative costs? Let's say, to deliver \$100 to a carver in Whale Cove, how much does it cost the department in administrative workings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't track that, but just from my common knowledge, the amount of paperwork to give out \$100 might not be much different than to give out \$10,000.

I get your point to it where, if under one of the grants and contribution, if you're applying for a \$100 grant to buy a carving tool, it shouldn't be that hard. It should be straightforward and simple like a one-page document, who you are, how much you want, what you want it for, and where you're buying it from, something as simple as that. We are looking at all the programs to try to streamline them because we are a service department. We're here to service our clients that are coming here and we don't want to make it such a burden that

they don't come or they give up. We also want to make sure that the funding is transparent and all accountable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. Again, a suggestion and maybe you have already looked at it, but in terms of the those small amounts, say it's for carving tools or whatnot, the department could consider delegating authority to EDOs in the community and say, for example, "Here you go. Here is \$10,000 to support the artists in your community. You choose who is going to get \$500 here; you choose who is going to get \$1,500 there. We're going to give you kind of a block and maybe there are eight carvers that you want to support. Go ahead and give us a report once you're done." It's just a suggestion.

In terms of the priorities that you have in your business plan there... I just have to steal from my colleague here. There is one that jumped out at me. In terms of the potential for mining and employment, it says here, "Build on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Agnico-Eagle Mines..." I have representatives from that excellent company here today, "...and pursue similar MOUs with...active mining companies."

I thank the minister for providing a copy of that MOU. When I was going through it, it's very broad. In terms of those MOUs, what are the key focus areas for the department that you're trying to collaborate on? I understand that there are many different factors, but what are the top three that you want to work with,

with the mining companies?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three key areas that we would like to hear about would be employment, training, and education. Those are the three top areas that we would like to build on and build up that capacity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's good to hear because I think I would probably agree that those are the key areas where we stand to benefit as a territory.

I understand that for mine training, the longer term goal may be for a Nunavut-wide mine training organization. In terms of the short term, the very immediate potential, the potential is there at the Meliadine project in Rankin Inlet. In terms of short-term "achievable," what is the department doing to mobilize resources to make sure that Nunavummiut are getting on board before the ship sails, so to speak, and production starts? What are we doing to ramp up our efforts to train Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mining industry is getting bigger in Nunavut. It's in all three regions now. We're absolutely aware that the mining industry brings

lots of good quality, high-paying jobs, and we're all in support of that.

One of the things that we're working with is the budget is not huge, but the budget we're talking about now is \$200,000 for mine training. We work with communities to get specific training that they may want in that community to get their citizens ready to be employed or employable. We work with the hamlets if they come up with a proposal and send it and it seems like a good idea.

One example that we will bring up, both myself and the member are fully aware of because we're both from Arviat, is the work readiness programs that the hamlet runs in Arviat. It gets potential employees for Agnico Eagle ready to be employed. Even if they don't work there, it's broad enough too that it helps them get employment elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister mentioned \$200,000 that is under one of your policies there, and I understand more money has gone towards mine training through SIP, the Strategic Investments Program. Do you have an estimate of how much your department will be putting towards mine training in this fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have \$500,000 slotted for this year under the Strategic Investments Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll just comment that in terms of return on investment, I feel that it's a very good investment and I encourage you to direct as much funding into this area as you can because my experience is that typically it's leveraged by the private sector and/or the federal government. If you have your ducks in a row, you put one dollar into mine training, you might end up with three. It's just a comment and I think it's a very important area, especially given the timing of the Meliadine project.

My last question on this one is regarding the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. Historically that was a very useful tool to pull in federal investment in different areas. I think that we have been without that strategy for too long. In terms of the actual rolling out of the new strategy, when can we expect to see that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We should have the framework done by the fall of this year. Just a comment on the member about mine training, yes, we agree that mine training is very important and we also realize that the longer we wait, the more jobs we will lose to people from the south. We need to get people trained right now in the mining sector so that when the jobs open up, they are there and trained enough to work at the mines when it's done. The program that you just talked about should be done this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll go back and thank the minister for his comment. When it comes to mine training, who is the lead? I know it involves Nunavut Arctic College, ED&T, and possibly the Department of Education. Who is the lead department and how does that work within the government goal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that Arctic College would have to be the lead in terms of mine training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How can I say this nicely? I find that a bit worrying if Nunavut Arctic College is the lead on mine training because they have a lot of other things on their plate. With all due respect to the college, they have a lot of other things on their plate, and do you know they're dealing with everything from adult basic education to training teachers. I think a sector council approach similar to what the Nunavut Fisheries folks are doing would be the best. I don't expect the minister to commit to anything, but has there been any discussion of putting ED&T in a lead role in terms of the mine training file within the government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been some discussion, and we work with Arctic College and Family Services. We're looking at the big picture. The reason I said that Arctic college would play the lead role is they are the college. They have many different programs that they put out and this would be one. They have the Nursing Program, they have the teachers program, they have all these other programs, and they are set up to train Nunavummiut. We work with them and there have been some discussions, but we are in charge of mines, so we will work with them. We realized that we have to get as much training as we can have done if we want to get the benefits from the mines that are here and that probably will be opening up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The reason I was interested in if your department could be in a lead role is when you look at we're trying to train a large number of people in a short period of time, say, to respond to industry development, you want to have more than one go-to for that service. It may be a very specialized type of training that you need. We as a government, as a territory, we need to have that freedom to pull in outside expertise. It could be utilizing other educational institutions with the understanding that yes, Nunavut Arctic College is absolutely important and in the long term, yes, we need to build capacity within Nunavut Arctic College.

It's just a comment; it's not really a question. (interpretation) I am finished,

Mr. Chairman, at this time. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 8, 2016 the government's Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development was tabled. The report stated that they're reviewing what further work needs to be done by Economic Development and Transportation.

My question is, the Government of Nunavut's most recent annual report on grants and contributions spending indicates that your department provided a total of \$23,665,937 in contribution funding to organizations and individuals during the 2016-17 fiscal year. How many full-time and part-time jobs were created? (interpretation ends) My question is: how many full-time and part-time jobs were created or sustained by the spending of \$23 million? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member correctly, the jobs created were the community economic development officers in each community and the core funding for them and the jobs that are created by the projects they have done are roughly about 45. If I can just get, with your permission, Ms. Udlu to supplement my knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hanson.

Ms. Hanson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The jobs that the minister is referring to are in relation to funding that the department provides in total, not specific to the report that was mentioned in collaboration with Family Services. There are 25 community economic development officers, one in each community, plus we provide core funding to organizations in Nunavut which also create jobs, about 10 jobs, and then we also have project funding, as members know, that would provide at least 10 jobs as well. We're looking at about 45 jobs specifically from Economic Development and Transportation funding throughout programs. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his deputy minister for their proper responses. One of the priorities on page 229 states in the fourth bullet that the Department of Economic Development will "Continue working with partners and stakeholders on the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait." I was wondering what that is. (interpretation ends) So that I can be very clear in my own mind, reading the business plan page 225, fourth bullet, "Continue working with partners and stakeholders on the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait." Mr. Chairman, that's my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tallurutiup Imanga is a marine protected area that has been

designated by the federal government. What the member is talking about there is the oil and gas potential that it has. We work with the feds and they check to see what the oil and gas potential is in that area there. I believe that has been done and it has been designated a marine protected area now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question, looking at page 241 of the business plan, third bullet, Alianait. Earlier in the week I questioned the minister about traditional drum dance festivals that are held each year. They are authentic and I believe they keep the true ancient songs of the Inuit tradition. The Alianait festival receives a line item of \$175,000 every year. Why is it that there are no line items for traditional drum dance festivals, which have been ongoing for the last 15 years? How did this line item get into the government budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the good question. The reason Alianait has a line item is, and I'll explain it as best that I can, they cater to many areas in terms of the cultural and tourism industry and it's because they're Nunavut-based. It's broad, they bring in singers, they bring in artists, and it's a wide range. It deals with more than just one small thing. For example, what the member brought up, they just deal with drum dancing and it's just one item that

is done. This one deals with singers, artists, and performers. It's because it's broad and they have a mandate and they have been doing it for a long time now.

I remember clearly the member's question there. The drum dance group or committee can apply to ED&T for the culture and tourism funding. There is money for that. They can apply for it. They can go see their community economic development officers and they can be guided as to where they can apply for a funding source if they fit within the guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie, you said that was your last question. I'll give you one more. Thank you.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. Thank you so much. My question is: looking at the entire business plan for arts, tourism, and traditional, how does the department protect intellectual property rights? How is the department dealing with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't know how to answer that question, how we protect that. With your permission, if Mr. MacIsaac can elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We strive to, as a department through our funding programs, and we have a number of funding programs which address and give opportunity to what the member described. Anybody

can apply for attendance at these various festivals or for training or for support of any kind that relates to their particular field, whether it's drum dancing or singing or any kind of music. We have supported many in that regard. We have supported over 300 different opportunities in the territory for economic development like this.

In terms of intellectual property, that largely remains the responsibility of the particular artists. For example, if they were to put out a CD or they were to put out a movie or something like that, then the intellectual property would belong to them. They would copyright that presumably along the way.

At the same time there is a federal program. I believe it still exists. I think it's call the Igloo Tag Program where there is a certification process in place where Nunavut art can be certified and once it is certified, there is a tag attached to it, and then that certifies that that particular piece of art came from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister and your officials.

Now, within your proposed business plan, the Department of Transportation has a program related to policy development and funds are disbursed with a maximum contribution of \$300,000. Has the Department of Transportation ever considered increasing this amount? That is my first question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member elaborate where the \$300,000 is in the business plan so that we can find it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program currently provides a maximum contribution for a specific project of \$300,000. Is the division planning to increase that amount? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying what funding source he is talking about.

At the moment no, we're not looking at increasing the amounts and that is due to, if we increase the amounts, then that decreases the number of communities that will get approved funding. This program is very popular. It's very much oversubscribed, meaning we have X amount of dollars and it's usually double or triple the amount available that is put in for applications. We are not looking at increasing the maximum of \$300,000 per applicant at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the clarification. That's discouraging to hear. The reason why I say I am disappointed is to speak to our

historical experience, as in the 1980s Hall Beach had jet plane services.

The reason why I spoke about that is because our community is constantly looking for development. As part of my platform, I pushed for economic development which would benefit the smaller communities. If more consideration can be given to this option to incorporate larger plane services, it would provide tangible benefits, such as increased employment, increased tourism.

The opportunities available to smaller communities should be mentioned in policies. Is it even mentioned in your policies? Let me start off with that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular policy, entitled and let me say it in English, (interpretation ends) Community Transportation Initiatives (interpretation) fund currently for 2018-19 is set at \$1,500,000 for the whole of Nunavut. Also, within this program, it outlines the criteria for applying for the fund. Communities can use the funds, which is quite popular, for community access roads along with marine infrastructure improvements, as long as it is within the specified parameters.

Last year the fund received a one-time increase to \$4 million. The \$4 million fund we set was used entirely by the communities. It is one of the most popular programs of the communities, and is used almost exclusively by them. Currently we're not looking to increase it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the residents of Hall Beach also apply for that fund, as you mentioned, from that \$4 million fund for our small craft harbour or dock. Perhaps if you look at the hamlets from a community perspective, they can make one application to conduct a feasibility study for a dock, conceivably by this summer. Can a community apply just for this type of preparatory project from this fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently the call for applications from this fund was sent on March 12 to the hamlets. Now, the communities that have applied have already submitted their proposals. The applications are currently being reviewed and the determination as to which proposal is approved and for the totals is underway. The deadline has already passed for applications, although I am unsure if Hall Beach submitted an application or if they applied. However, if they applied, the application would be reviewed as all applications are in that phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To reiterate, how many communities put in a proposal from that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, 16

communities have submitted proposals.

To add an addendum, next year the (interpretation ends) Oceans Protection program, no acronyms, (interpretation) was created specifically for small harbours or docks where there is a sealift laydown area adjacent to the facility. Those will be reviewed next year. There is \$93 million that has been set aside over five years for Nunavut related to the small craft harbours, and it would be a good addition to the existing policy, but it won't go ahead this summer. It will be, however, ready for next year.

We will conduct a study of every community and meet with the hamlets as well as the shipping companies to determine the priority status of each community. This is especially where the communities may incur safety issues or dangerous conditions, so this would be under the (interpretation ends) Ocean Protections program (interpretation) as the aim is quite similar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for providing more details on that program. Indeed, every community is continually looking for development. As I indicated to our local hamlet council, I would search for every opportunity. When I had my meeting with the hamlet council, we started to search for economic development opportunities specific to the transportation sector. I certainly hope they approved this funding request.

Another matter you mentioned is the section related to community access

roads. Hall Beach is located on the mainland while Igloolik is an island community and I represent parts of Igloolik. Now for this program, what if both communities submitted a proposal? As per my previous reference, \$300,000 is the maximum contribution which you may not increase. I wonder if the MOU, or (interpretation ends) memorandum of understanding, (interpretation) could be used by a community to work on an access road over several years.

In looking at the Amittuq riding, if Igloolik felt that they wanted to build a bridge connecting to the mainland and the Hamlet of Hall Beach wanted to intersect with their project by building a road up to that point, if such a plan were developed jointly, would it receive approval or would it be too expensive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since Igloolik is an island, it would involve a long span bridge and a bridge that long would be exorbitant in cost. That would obviously be expensive. Whether it would even qualify under this program is hard to say. It most likely would not be possible, as the limit of this annual program is only \$1.5 million which is for all of Nunavut.

Nonetheless, an application could be submitted to the federal government program called (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund, (interpretation) which has funding for this type of larger project and this could be reviewed through those lens. This type of project would surpass the total funding of \$1.5 million that is provided.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for elaborating on that. This is why I mentioned this potential type of project. Personally people, including myself, don't want to spend their limited funds on a ticket from Hall Beach to Igloolik, which is a 15-minute flight. I don't like to spend my money on such a short flight, as I prefer to spend it on necessities. It is unfortunate that there is no vision or foresight in the department for this type of project.

Now, let me try another tack. My constituents of Amittuq, who live in Igloolik, and in light of the prohibitive cost of this type of project, could look at different program options. For example, to use the costs of sealift as reasoning, again in looking at cost differences from Igloolik to the mainland, would this type of project still be too expensive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This (interpretation ends) Community Transportation Initiatives (interpretation) Program isn't for highway types of projects, as it is slated for community access roads. The program for access roads is specifically for reaching hunting areas or to areas near multiple cabins or to make improvements in existing marine infrastructure.

What you are referencing is more of a project that may be suitable for private businesses. If someone wanted to

establish a business that ships between communities and they wanted to include Hall Beach and Igloolik, I am not sure which program would be suitable for that type of project. However, this program isn't for this type of huge construction project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are flying everywhere and I appreciate your responses.

Now, development opportunities are something I stated I would focus on for both communities. This type of project would allow for equal benefits in Amittuq for my fellow residents there, as a conjoined road would allow for increased tourism, to reiterate that reason. Employment opportunities would open. Perhaps even though it isn't under your mandate, it would also improve safety in looking at search and rescue, as maybe it would allow easier searches at least in my estimation.

With that being the case, those who applied under the community access roads program, how many projects have been approved or denied in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps my colleague can clarify if he's talking about 2017-18 or the present year, 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): The past year, the year that just passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll count them first. I counted a little over 30 proposals that were approved for 2017-18. As I stated earlier, in 2016-17 there was a one-time increase of \$4 million so that more projects were approved. Eighteen communities were approved, but some of them had two proposals. Some of the communities applied for access roads, some for small craft harbours and dust suppression. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like that to be further reviewed under policies. That would be a benefit to tourism.

Now I will turn to community freezers. How is that running to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the member can clarify his question. He's asking how it's running. I don't fully understand what his question is on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll elaborate on community freezers. It's probably

proposal-driven when communities apply for freezer funding. We are all aware that Hall Beach has the best *igunaq*. I'm asking this question: how many communities have put in proposals under the community freezer program? Maybe that's clearer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in two parts. Some are proposal-based, some is purchase of freezers, and some is set for operations and maintenance. The community freezer for Pond Inlet was just completed. Taloyoak's freezer was just finished. Arctic Bay's freezer will be started. The freezers for Arviat and Sanikiluaq are completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his responses. Maybe I'm finally making sense.

I indicated earlier that I feel old when I talk about the 1900s. The freezer in our community is getting very old. It's very close to the beach and it's getting eroded by salt water. The HTO in Hall Beach is responsible for the community freezer. I would support them if they submitted a proposal. With that, is it possible to access funds so we can get a new freezer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I don't know how the community freezer in Hall

Beach is because it's not in my documents, but if it's quite old, you can submit a request for a new community freezer, possibly through the hamlet or the hunters and trappers organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you for that response. I'm sure they now understand. Going to another subject, our carvers in Nunavut work very hard for a living, they carve every day to feed their families and house them, and so on. Are there any programs available for carvers or art? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like further clarification on the member's question. Is it tools for the carvers or are you looking at display of carvings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For carvers' benefits, do you have any funding available that they can access? I was disappointed to hear about an individual who made a carving and it was destroyed. Is there any financial support available from your department for carvers? I hope that clarified it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand your question. For the program that he's

referring to, (interpretation ends) Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program, (interpretation) if the budget is approved for 2018-19, there's \$1,380,000 that's available. There are four programs. There is funding for initial start-up and training starting from \$1,000 up to \$35,000 that is available. I'll say the rest in English. (interpretation ends) Product development and marketing, minimum of \$5,000 and maximum of \$100,000; infrastructure improvements (interpretation) for housing and other infrastructure, (interpretation ends) a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$100,000. (interpretation) All applicants must provide in-kind contributions. (interpretation ends) All applicants must contribute in-kind cash to the projects. (interpretation) I hope I was understandable. I'll say the first project this time in English. (interpretation ends) Getting started, curation, and training, minimum of \$1,000 and maximum of \$35,000. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for elaborating on that. This is my last one and it's just a comment. I'm looking for some of the programs that are available. We don't know that some of the programs that are available from the Nunavut government. When we're looking at the communities, we have to put more monies into community programs. This is just a comment and not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name on the list... .

Thank you. Members, we will now take a break for lunch and report back at 1:30. I ask that all members remain at their desks for a special presentation. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for being here. As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, it is my great pleasure to preside over today's ceremony in honour of our recently retired Sergeant-at-Arms, Simanek Kilabuk.

Simanek is no stranger to the Members of the House. For over 15 years, Simanek provided loyal service to this institution as its Sergeant-at-Arms. Simanek's service spans four Assemblies, several Speakers, and dozens of members. He has truly heard and seen it all.

Simanek first carried the Mace into this Chamber on the occasion of the November 14, 2001 sitting of the House. Over 15 years and 575 sitting days later, he officially retired from service at the dissolution of the Fourth Legislative Assembly.

Outside of this place, Simanek is well known in the community as a well-respected elder, hunter, and former elected member of Iqaluit's city council.

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I will now invite Simanek to come forward to receive a commemorative gift in appreciation for his service.

I am particularly pleased to note that the gift incorporates a miniature rendition of our Assembly's Mace, which is made by one of my constituents, master artist

Josie Pitseolak of Pond Inlet.

Simanek, this Mace is a little lighter than the one that you carried on our behalf. I hope that it reminds you of our institution's gratitude.

>>Applause

Now, Simanek, I invite you to say a few words.

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. I have nothing to provide other than gratitude. We prayed for our Legislative Assembly in Nunavut and I pray for it. Nunavut MLAs have spoken the truth that they want to keep up Nunavut.

I used to love working in the Legislative Assembly and I listened to your words. I'm grateful to the staff of the Legislative Assembly, and John has a very good set-up of staff and also administers the elected members, so I say "thank you."

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Simanek, thank you very much. MLAs, thank you for being here and taking part in this celebration recognizing Mr. Kilabuk. I thank all members for joining us today. Have a good day. Thank you.

>>Applause

>>House recessed at 11:34 and Committee resumed at 13:30

Chairman: Thank you. Good afternoon and welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order, but before I do, I would like to recognize the good folks from the Kitikmeot that look after our own Inuit in the Kitikmeot and

want to make life easier for the Kitikmeot people. I would like to first recognize Paul Emingak, the executive director...

>>Applause

...and President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Mr. Stanley Anablak.

>>Applause

Welcome to the House.

We're on page K-4. Corporate Management. First I would like to say, use your 10 minutes wisely. If you don't use all of it, we're scratching your name off the list and it will stay off on that page. If you do say you're finished and that's your last question of that page, your name will be scratched off. Thank you. Next name on the list is Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Savikataaq, Ms. Hanson, and Mr. MacIsaac. Before I get into my questioning, I just want to let Mr. MacIsaac know that whenever my son sees you at the grocery store, he always smiles at you. I think he loves your moustache or something. I'm not sure, but I just thought I would point that out.

My first question is about the priorities in 2018-19 at the top of page 230, the first bullet states, "Collaborate with other GN departments and industry to develop strategies aimed at lowering the cost of air transportation in Nunavut." It's obvious that the high cost of transportation has effects on every aspect of life in the territory, and I think this should be a priority, but I was just

curious as to what sort of strategies would the department be looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What this alludes to is the study that the GN is doing with Lufthansa in terms of the duty travel and medical travel. Within that, we're looking at all travel within Nunavut and once this study is done and recommendations are made, it will talk about all the pros and cons of one system to another or different types of schedules and stuff.

I can't tell you exactly what's going to come out of it, but that's what that is alluding to, the Lufthansa study of government travel within Nunavut. We're all aware that the government is the biggest traveller in Nunavut both for duty travel and medical. We would like to work with the airlines because some routes in Nunavut are extremely expensive and work with them and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second bullet on the top of page 230 is "Develop operational plans" for the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet marine developments. Would the minister be kind enough to explain a little bit more about what that priority includes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project will start this

summer and it says here who will run the operational plans for marine development. I think that talks about actually who will run it once it's completed. Will it go to an RFP and maybe private running or will the city take it or will there be like a port board? That's looking at all the options of who will run it because somebody will have to run it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My next question will be on page 231 of the business plan, on the fourth bullet, "...development of a Nunavut position on the Oil and Gas moratorium..." Can the minister please provide a little bit more detail on that priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to let Ms. Hanson answer that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hanson.

Ms. Hanson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The department is involved in the consultations with the federal government with regard to the strategic environmental assessment. In reference to that specific bullet, our input through those consultations will help us have a unified Nunavut position on that study. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My next question is going to be regarding the statement in the chair of the standing committee's opening comments about the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The previous Assembly had requested increased transparency in how the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation loans out our public funds. The previous government also denied this request. I was wondering: what is the current government's position on increasing the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's transparency? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have instructed the NBCC that for their next annual report to be more transparent, names and amounts of people who get money from the NBCC be part of their report, and their report is tabled here on an annual basis. I can't say if it's going to be the next one because I may have been too late, but if it's not the one coming, it will be the one after, but they have been instructed to publicize that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. I would like to applaud you in moving the government towards increasing our transparency, so thank you very much for that.

My next line of questioning is going to be about the Inuit Employment Plan for the Department of Economic

Development and Transportation. I would just like to point out the fact that EDT is exceeding the government averages across every employment category, from paraprofessional up to executive positions. I would like to applaud the department in having a higher level of Inuit employment amongst the department.

My next question is going to be on page 251 of the business plan. The last bullet is "Review our use of the Summer Student Employment Program and how it feeds into full time positions. Explore partnership opportunities with Nunavut Arctic College and the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) program in identifying high potential Inuit students in relevant programs." Once again I would like to applaud the department in taking the initiative in this area. Thank you very much for that. I'm sure that Nunavut students will appreciate that very much.

My first question is: with regard to Economic Development and Transportation, what sort of relevant programs would they be targeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We target students that have any interest in any aspect of the economic development jobs. That would be targeting anyone. There are many different sectors that we have in economic development within the government and with entities outside, but it would be business, tourism, the hospitality trade, or any other jobs that we have within the department itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is going to be about, in several of the bullets in the Inuit Employment Plan, there was reference to a departmental training and development committee aiming at several initiatives. Under the status of each, it states that several key members have left this committee and prevented them from achieving their priorities. I was wondering: what sort of positions are in this committee? Yes, that's my question. What types of positions are included in this committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This committee has to be restarted and revitalized because it's non-functional right now. In terms of exactly who it was or is going to be on this committee, if I can get Ms. Udlu to answer that with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hanson.

Ms. Hanson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have an Inuit skills and development training officer in our department who has helped with obviously keeping these numbers at above average and we're striving, obviously, to increase those numbers. As the minister has stated, we have yet to re-strike that committee. The committee was struck before my time, but as I understand it, it was on a volunteer basis to see who is interested, and then also targeting certain divisions to ensure that there was inclusivity that the entire department regionally and territorially

was represented. We will be re-striking that committee.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My last question is regarding education leave. Education requirements and other qualifications is a major barrier facing many Inuit in the territory in achieving gainful employment and moving up the corporate ladder and whatnot.

In my written question, the Department of EDT, as of March 31, 2018, only had one employee taking part in education leave. Does the Department of Economic Development and Transportation encourage their employees to take education leave and further their career potential? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Short answer is yes, we encourage them to come up the ladder, so to speak there, and if they need the training or educational leave, we encourage them to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 227 of the business plan, priorities under 2017-18 on the fourth bullet it says, "Continue working with partners and stakeholders on the Strategic Environmental Assessment to address petroleum exploration and development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait." The status says, "The GN has been an active

member of the Nunavut Impact Review Board-led working group on the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Departmental staff attended two tours in the ten identified communities affected by the Assessment - the first in the spring and the second in the fall of 2017. The final scope of activities has been released.” Mr. Chairman, I would like to know which communities they are. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have the list of the communities right now, but they’re the 10 communities within the North Baffin area up and down to the south end coast there. I don’t have the list. I can try to name them all, but it would just be a guess. I don’t have the list in front of me, but it would be like Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and probably Pangnirtung. It would be 10 communities that are affected by that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we talking about Lancaster Sound? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we’re talking about a different one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I did not understand. What is he talking about? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two alluded to it this morning in regard to Lancaster Sound. It will become a marine protected area. This one is talking about oil and mineral exploration outside of Lancaster Sound in (interpretation ends) Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. (interpretation) It is exploration and development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, not in Lancaster Sound. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is: will there be any mineral or oil exploration in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there will be no drilling because the federal government about a year ago said there is a moratorium and any oil and gas exploration in arctic waters, but this is just to see what is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Okay, I understand now. Thank you. I want to ask about Lancaster Sound, Mr. Chairman. This is a rather large area that was handed over to the federal government. Apparently there is a lot of oil in the area where seismic tests were conducted. As a government, we could have benefitted greatly from that in the way of housing and that hamlets are always short of money and we have to

keep asking for funding from the government. We would have benefited greatly from the exploration of Lancaster Sound. What's the government's position on that? Did they request that moratorium be lifted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Lancaster Sound marine conservation area was approved and our government was one of the parties to approve it. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association is currently working on developing an Inuit impact and benefits agreement. Through that set of negotiations, the funding for the management, employment opportunities, and perhaps even for major marine infrastructure may be acquired.

However, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, as we were told not to use (interpretation ends) acronyms, (interpretation) is the body that is a party to the talks with the federal government on what will accrue to the communities when the marine conservation area is formally created, as presently an oil moratorium exists there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understood that response from the minister. Now, we could have received quite a bit of royalties from petroleum development from the waters off Lancaster Sound, but it was placed under a moratorium to block oil development.

Will the Government of Nunavut receive

any type of royalties from this? It appears we lost a huge chunk of potential for petroleum development with the identification of this marine area for a moratorium. If they had kept the possibility of opening it up in the future, we may have had future opportunities to develop our territory, perhaps several generations down the road.

With respect to devolution negotiations which appear to be ongoing and the places that hold the potential in Nunavut, part of the reason why Nunavut was created was to have the opportunity to develop petroleum and mineral development to benefit us, which are constantly being frozen.

This government depends on handouts from the federal government. Has any type of royalty accrued from this area that is under this moratorium in Lancaster Sound? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we didn't receive any royalties from the marine area under the moratorium. As well, when the moratorium on petroleum development was announced, we as a government were not informed beforehand, only that the federal government had announced a freeze, so we had to accept that. Related to that process, the Government of Nunavut will not get ownership within that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. That is rather unfortunate. Let me now ask the minister this question. Our colleague, Ms. Towtongie, kind of touched up on it in her question related to the (interpretation ends) water protection area. What groups receive money from ED&T for water protection, if any? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't quite understand the question, but I can try to. If it's to do with the Oceans Protection Plan, then we will be receiving money. There was an announcement made. It's \$93 million over five years for Nunavut, \$93.4 million or \$93.3 million over five years...sorry, for the three territories. We will be looking at projects that the communities want. We're doing consultations with the communities and with the shippers to see what is needed so that offloading of ships and docks and facilities like that can be safer and made more efficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here on page 234 of the business plan in Inuktitut on the third bullet, selling of country food. The funding that was set aside was to be used for selling country food. Is that for present retailers or can it be used for start-up for those who want to sell food? Is it for existing retailers? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is slated for Inuit country food and some of it can be utilized for community freezers. Sometimes it's used for when they purchase caribou meat from other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Obviously our hunters require additional assistance, which everyone is aware of, particularly communities that can't access wildlife adjacent to their community. Some hunters have to travel long distances to harvest some species, and the cost to purchase supplies is ever increasing.

Fuel, ammunition, and equipment used by our hunters are increasing in price constantly, and here our hunters are faced with no form of assistance. I wonder if this type of assistance has been considered. I do know that in order to sell any wildlife commercially, it has to first be inspected and after inspection, they can be sold commercially.

Nonetheless, in comparison to what some of us have experienced, across the bay in Greenland, it is very enviable to see the hunters who arrive into the dock and begin selling their harvests immediately. Once their harvest has been bought out, they leave again to commence hunting. They are being supported by their government to benefit economically from wildlife harvested that they can sell commercially.

It seems rather obvious, since many Inuit are hunters, not every Inuk will be

satisfied by having employment and not all the youth growing up will also have job opportunities. Many Inuit still depend entirely on the byproducts of their harvested animals, which they use to support their activities, and we are leaving them in the cold. This is true when talking about our Inuit full-time hunters especially.

Has any consideration been given to this in our future, to kind of emulate the Greenland government approach in supporting our hunters? It would be incumbent on us to provide assistance here in Nunavut to our full-time hunters. Is this anywhere in the plans currently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Environment provides assistance to harvesters. We as the Department of Economic Development and Transportation don't provide that assistance, but if the hunters want to sell their meat, caribou, seal, and *maktaaq*, they can. If they want to sell from their boats, it's possible already. As long as the hunter's harvest isn't exported outside of Nunavut, they can sell their country food to anyone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the response from the minister as it was a complete response which is very clear. Now, in looking at the budget line items within your appropriation request, are there any funds that could be earmarked towards this purpose or is it completely

impossible to repurpose some of the funds here to have them available through proposals, for example, if a hunter wanted to sell their harvests or country food? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand the member's question. Perhaps I will answer wrongly due to this lack of understanding, but if I do, he is welcome to ask again.

As of now, the fund in the budget for this purpose for 2018-19 is \$1,576,000 and it is to be used for community hunts or for ordering caribou meat from another community. However, to repurpose the fund to meet the member's suggestion of allowing hunters to sell their harvests upon arrival can't work, as this fund isn't for these types of harvests. The funds are specifically for ordering caribou meat by the majority of communities and quite a few orders are made by them.

However, any hunter has the ability to create a commercial harvesting business if they wish and they can approach the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (interpretation) to submit a business plan on the business they wish to establish and which country foods they wish to sell commercially. They can submit a funding request to the corporation for this purpose, but the funds would have to be repaid. The (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (interpretation) has their own funding budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, ministers and my fellow Nunavummiut.

I'll go back to transportation. In your business plan you increased the Community Transportation Initiatives Program only once. Underneath it, it says that "The contribution agreements were issued for the full \$4 million allotment." Last year, in economic development, the funds were proposal-driven. With the \$4 million, how many proposals were there that you have approved this year? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I answered this question this morning as it seems exactly the same. Last year it was increased to \$4 million, but it was a one-time increase. Right now it's back to \$1.5 million if the appropriations for 2018-19 are approved.

Further, as I stated this morning, there are 18 communities that received \$4,000 each. Each community had a different proposal, some for access roads, some for ports, and some for dust suppression. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. My apologies to the committee. I already recognized Mr. Kaernerk this morning, so therefore I will go to my next name on the list. Mr. Qirngnuq.

An Hon. Member: Fair enough.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, welcome along with your officials.

The first question I want to ask relates to your opening comments, specifically on page 3. This relates to the development of Nunavut's mineral sector or mineral exploration. This is in relation to the increase in mineral exploration projects and approvals. It can increase direct benefits to communities from the mineral exploration companies within Nunavut and it can lead to "A territory that's more attractive for mining."

Can the minister clarify what is meant in those statements and how these positions were reached by his department, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That funding is for mineral exploration (interpretation ends) and junior companies. (interpretation) They would receive funding to go to communities to do a report on what they want to do, what they are doing, and to find out whether the community can support their projects.

We're thinking that once this program starts up, mineral and oil and gas explorers will benefit from this. Once the communities are more informed about what's happening and what those companies are looking for, the community can benefit from it as well because they will have more knowledge of what possible jobs can be created in the community. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. Generally, as Inuit, we're not very knowledgeable about geology and rocks presently. Will there be training money included with this to train Inuit or will the money just be for mining and exploration companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This fund for which we are seeking approval is primarily for the companies engaged in mineral exploration, as they will be presenting reports to the impacted communities to report on their exploration plans and their proposed work. The communities will better be able to understand the plans and know what the plans of these exploration companies are.

The other issue the member referenced, for local Inuit prospecting training and whether it will be offered, this program is called (interpretation ends) Nunavut prospectors grant (interpretation) and many Inuit have been trained about prospecting. Since the inception of this program, although I can't quote an exact number, numbers over 1,000 Inuit who have received this training for prospecting to become what we call in English (interpretation ends) a prospector. (interpretation) This allows Inuit to continue their tradition of walking on the tundra, but with an eye for discovering mineral samples, to take samples and to also get it assayed. That

is roughly how it works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this program still continuing today? Have Inuit prospectors been active in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to my colleague's question, this started in 1999 and is still being offered. It has a budget of \$150,000 per year and Inuit can apply for up to \$8,000 in grants for prospecting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that program in the amount \$150,000 per year, are there any plans to increase that amount in the future or is it going to remain at the same level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Right now the \$150,000 seems enough to meet our needs, so we have no plans to increase that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on to something else. In your business plan on page 225, at the top, under Transportation Policy and Planning, it

mentions about expanding markets overseas and to work to expand that. What does this refer to specifically? Can you explain it so I can understand it clearly? Hopefully I am understandable here, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my associate deputy minister, Mr. MacIsaac, to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding is for the implementation of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy, so that's looking at long-term and short-term strategies related to the transportation system here in Nunavut. It relates to air travel, sea travel, road infrastructure, that type of thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sea travel part of it, I'll read it in English so you can understand me correctly, (interpretation ends) "...infrastructure, and overseas implementation..." (interpretation) Is it for picking up things from overseas? I want to understand this better and that's why I'm asking about it. I hope I was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In English, the (interpretation ends) transportation strategy, (interpretation) it's how we can

work transportation better. Right now we rarely get ships coming from overseas, but cruise ships are increasing in number all the time. We want to include the cruise ships from overseas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you. I will have questions on this matter at the appropriate time later.

I'll move on to something else right now that touches on what Mr. Kaerner was asking about. I'll say the second item in English for clarity, (interpretation ends) Community Transportation Initiatives. (interpretation) In the plan it also states that it "supports communities to develop local transportation facilities and infrastructure to connect communities to each other..." Can the minister please explain that further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I was understandable.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That talks about communities, like the hamlets generally build roads, and if two communities are quite close to each other and they want to get connected to each other, each community can build their end of the road and eventually get connected. It's not a whole lot of money for that kind of project, but communities generally build their own roads and some build access roads to hunting areas or to rivers. If two communities are very close to each other and they wanted to get joined by a road in between, then they can apply for the \$1.5 million that is available for all of Nunavut. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not much money and so many communities have to use it. If they wanted to do that every year, if they want to connect two communities on an annual basis, will this money be available every year from now on or is it just a one-time proposal basis right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood correctly, the member is asking about the communities making proposals every year. The communities that make those proposals can only access the funds once a year, but they can apply every year if they choose to do so. They usually access the funds and build the access roads in the summer and gradually make it farther and farther. Just a few communities usually make those access roads, but so far there are hardly any roads that are connecting communities to another. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My next question is on the same page and it's on the third bullet, the NNI Policy, and I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) "The *NNI Regulations* are mandated by Article 24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*..." (interpretation) Could the minister elaborate further on exactly what that

means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy minister if you would allow me, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hanson.

Ms. Hanson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a small secretariat within the division, within Economic Development and Transportation to oversee the government's role in ensuring that Article 24 of the *Nunavut Agreement* is implemented. The role that our small secretariat plays is providing advice as to how much contracts should have for Inuit employment and Inuit contracting. Most recently we helped with the renewal of the policy. It is in its second phase of its implementation with this renewal of the policy. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When are we going to see a renewal of the NNI Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been renewed. I think it was revised about a year ago or a little over a year ago, but the vision is still there and it's going to stay like that for quite some time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize. My minutes are going fast, Mr. Chairman. Is the NNI Policy fully applied and does it apply to all the companies that are working up here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, from what I know, it is well applied. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut government work together on the NNI Policy. The NNI Policy applies to the businesses and NTI has a list of businesses that are Inuit-owned and there are different categories of businesses.

In English, (interpretation ends) 51 percent Inuit-owned, 75 percent Inuit-owned, and 100 percent Inuit-owned are the categories that are there. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is the one that puts these businesses on the list, and then we at the GN get the list and we work with whatever category that business is in, and that is what is applied on the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Economic Development and Transportation. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$18,665,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question will be on

page 229 of your business plan under Priorities 2018-19, under the tenth bullet. It identifies that your department will "Collaborate with the private sector and other stakeholders to find ways to increase employment and training opportunities in Nunavut." What trades are you guys focusing on under this particular bullet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two areas that we're focusing a lot on is in mine training because the mining industry is growing and, like I have stated many times, there are many good well-paying jobs in the mining industry. The other one is tourism. Those are the two main focuses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which leads right into my next question. A copy of the development partnership agreement between the Government of Nunavut in relation to the Meadowbank mine, north of my community, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2008.

Your department's Development Partnership Agreement Policy expired on March 31, 2016. Your department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Build on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Agnico-Eagle Mines and pursue similar MOUs with other active mining companies." With which mining company is your department currently in

negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current mine we're speaking with right now on a memorandum of understanding is Baffinland Iron Mines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any other mines that you guys are also going to be negotiating with that are currently operating in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be talking with any mine that is coming up. I imagine the next one might be TMAC and then Sabina, but we will strive to get an MOU with any mine that comes in operation within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you sort of led into my next question. TMAC and Sabina, has TMAC not been operating for a while now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, correct, it has been operating for about a year, but we will just go one mine at a time and we will go from there. Right now, we're talking

with Baffinland and it's quite the big operation. We will deal with that one first; it's just one at a time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are expected to be the main elements of the new memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and participating mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one of the questions that I answered earlier this morning when we talked about the MOUs on what are the three top priorities, one of the other MLAs asked, and it's still the same. It is employment, training, and education. Those are the top three priorities that we would like to include in the MOU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Moving on to your business plan page 231, priorities 2020-21, the very first bullet indicates that "Monitor changes in federal infrastructure programs and determine applicable projects for infrastructure priorities." When I look at that and when I did a glance on your business plans, that is only referencing 2020-21. In the next few years, do you have that also in consideration for infrastructure projects within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That section is in there so we can qualify for any federal infrastructure programs that come out. For example, the NTCF is out there and we did put some projects forward. Some were rejected and one has so far passed the first hurdle. There are other programs that come out, like we talked about the Oceans Protection Plan, that's another one. We're out there to see whatever infrastructure programs the federal government is offering, and there are always guidelines on what you can qualify for on that program. We have our stuff that we want to get done and we try to fit them into one of their programs so we can access their funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister used an acronym and, if I'm correct, the National Trade Corridors Fund. When I look at that and the minister and the officials will be very much aware, I have never lobbied for a port whatsoever. I leave that to the other MLAs, but for my community being the only inland community and the minister is very much aware, under the National Trade Corridors Fund, I know the Iqaluit International Airport is taking a bulk of the money here. My question here is: when we look at that, have there been any submissions for the expansion of the Baker Lake runway, considering that it's in the centre of Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clear up a little bit of facts here, the Iqaluit International Airport did not go through the National Trade Corridors Fund. It was a 3P project, so that's a different source of funding. In terms of if Baker Lake has any proposals that have been put through since it's in the middle of Nunavut to extend their runway, no, not so far, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: I guess the next set of questions will be related to tourism, which I sort of alluded to in my last question here. When we look at tourism, a lot of it revolves around airlines, float planes; some come in on commercial flights and whatnot. Has your department ever discussed with the airlines that are associated within our territory to start looking at particular flights? For example, my colleague from Uqsuqtuuq is north of Baker Lake, but he has to fly all the way through Yellowknife and then to Gjoa Haven whereas from Baker Lake, part of the tourism strategy could be from Baker Lake straight north to Gjoa Haven or Repulse Bay in promoting tourism within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I alluded to earlier about the Lufthansa study that's being done for the medical and duty travel, that's part of the big picture to look at all that to see what routes are economical because the airlines will only do a route if it's economical. They have done some flights between certain areas and they

have tried it. If they don't make money, then they don't do it anymore. An example I can come up with is one of the airlines quite a few years ago used to have a flight between Kugaaruk and Nauyasat. That went for a while and then it was not profitable, so they stopped it. If the business is there, the airlines will pick up the slack and make the route. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your business plan page 234, bullet No. 5 from the top, "Update the *Outfitter Regulations* and *Tourist Establishment Regulations* under the *Tourism Act*." I know there have been some outfitters in the past in Baker Lake. If that were to grow again within the community of Baker Lake and if the outfitters wanted to restart their outfitter businesses, how would this particular *Tourism Act* impact them and what changes would they have to see or would they be facing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That section is in regard to tourism outfitters. There are also big game outfitters which are under the Department of Environment's mandate. This deals only with tourism outfitters. I'm not sure what regulations they will be updating, but if they want to start up a tourism business or restart one in Baker Lake, then they can go visit their economic development officers and they can be led on the regulations or on ways that they can start their business, plus they can work with Nunavut Tourism in terms of the insurance part of it or where

they might be able to get clientele and contact points. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm hearing the minister correctly, for tourism, what I have seen before being elected as MLA are canoeists, either coming from United States or from Europe. Would the tourist established outfitter within my community be privileged to that information as to how they can contact them or connect with them so that these people from United States or from Europe can actually know the tourist outfitters within my community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the member is describing, I think, is if someone in Baker Lake wants to be a tourist outfitter, an example I guess is, like you said, a canoeist. A canoeist tourist outfitter would probably rent canoes or have a place to stay for when the canoeists come in. My suggestion would be that they get in contact with a booking agent that does stuff like this. Nunavut Tourism would probably be the ideal mode to get contacts. In terms of these canoeists, a lot of them don't go through outfitters either. They just hire an airplane to drop them and their canoe off and then paddle to wherever they want. In your instance it's to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. The reason why I asked that is you sort of answered the question. We have seen canoeists being dropped off maybe at the very end of the Thelon River at the very top end and when they're coming down or from the Kazan River, but sometimes they start falling short of their days and require a pick up as part of their tourism. Does that fall under this particular regulation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this does not address what you're referring to. There would probably be no regulations to address that. If someone is not getting to where they are going in time and they ask for a pickup, it's usually just a business arrangement between the canoeist and whoever is going to pick them up. There is no regulation addressing that. It's just between the canoeist and the person who is going to do a service for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last 14 seconds; I'll make sure it counts. Page 234 again, under your priorities 2019-2020, I believe I have two Heritage Rivers under 2019-2020 priorities. Third bullet, your department indicates, "Implement Article 4 of the IIBA for territorial parks." Does that make any changes to the Thelon River and Kazan River being Heritage Rivers? What changes would be coming forth for Baker Lake people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this is just to do with territorial parks. If there is going to be an Inuit impact and benefit agreement with a Heritage River, then that would be worked on separately, as Heritage Rivers and territorial parks are different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions here, I believe.

Mr. Chairman, on September 22, 2016 the Government of Nunavut announced that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division would be assuming "responsibility for tourism development, marketing and research, visitor experience and visitor centre operations." And that Nunavut Tourism would "continue as a membership-based association that will focus on supporting its members."

Mr. Chairman, the question I have there is: how has that transition worked out? I know there were a number of responsibilities that were previously overlapped between Nunavut Tourism and the department. A little over a year and a half in to this arrangement, I'm just wondering: how is everything flowing out now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. MacIsaac to answer that as he has been part of that process from the beginning to today, so

he would have more knowledge on that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had our ups and downs, but I think for the most part the relationship has worked well. There is a clear distinction between what are the functions of Nunavut Tourism and what are the functions of our department.

One of the highlights within our department relates to the promotion of tourism promotion within and exterior to Nunavut with the creation of Destination Nunavut. There is a lot of interest in the territory and we're able to provide that service across the territory with no allegiance, if you would like, to particular members as what Nunavut Tourism is. It's a membership organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember seeing that branding campaign and it was pretty good.

At the same time the number of positions in the department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division increased from 9 PYs in 2016-17 to 19 PYs during the 2017-18 fiscal year. As of today, how many of these positions are filled with indeterminate employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you just give us a minute, we will see if we can come up with the numbers.

Mr. Chairman, we have a list, but it's a list of the whole department, so we would have to go through it. We could give it to you, but it would take a long time. For expediency's sake, we can give you that list later if that's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. I would like to go to page 233 in the business plan and the second and fourth bullets specifically from the 2017-18 priorities to "Undertake targeted initiatives to market and leverage all art sectors including music, film, video performance, as well as the visual arts, across Canada and internationally," and the fourth bullet, to "Monitor the delivery of new economic development initiatives that build on and add value to the arts and tourism, to create local employment opportunities in Nunavut."

Mr. Chairman, I have been made aware of some communication with departmental officials from the Qaggiavuut Society requesting consideration of a cultural infrastructure steering committee being created. As I'm sure all members are aware, there are different initiatives from the cultural arts and artefacts proponents out there and some seem to be conflicting, yet others seem to me that they can kind of mesh together in some ways.

I would like to echo the request of having a cultural infrastructure steering committee created and I would encourage the minister to follow up with the idea with the Qaggiavuut Society at their earliest convenience. Hopefully all parties can be brought together to a

steering committee and, with government involvement, decide what infrastructure would best suit the needs of its mandate and the population to recognize the arts, crafts, and all arts across the territory, Mr. Chairman. I'll just leave that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Before I go on to tourism, I would just like to comment on page 229 regarding the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. The third bullet there says, "Update the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy based on prior community consultations and the *Turaaqtavut* mandate." I don't really want to ask for a response on it. If you look at the term of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, it is four years. The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy is a ten-year strategy.

In my mind, an economic development strategy should be as much as possible separated from the politics of the day and it should be based on the actual consultations. My understanding is that there has been tons of work put into this economic development strategy already in terms of consultations. It just jumped out at me as being a bit odd and I would question any efforts to really ram that four-year, politically oriented strategy into what should be a strategic, longer term kind of document. That's just a comment.

When it comes to your business plan under tourism on page 233, the fourth bullet in terms of the priorities that went

on last year, the status says, "...Community Tourism and Cultural Industries program injected \$1.3 million in tourism and cultural industries..." But then I look on the opposing page on page 232 and the budget for the year was \$933,000. I wonder if the minister could explain: was there a top-up that was put into this program or does that refer to a different \$1.3 million? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that is we moved the two programs into one. If you look on that page, 232, just on the bottom of the Community Tourism and Cultural Industries, \$933,000, the Arts Development Program is \$395,000. If you combine the two, that's where you get your \$1,328,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for clarifying that. I obviously haven't been reading this that closely. I'm very supportive of your fifth priority for this year in terms of streamlining the territory's tourism permitting process. I would encourage the department to further streamline its own internal processes in terms of tourism operators who want to secure government funding.

There are two key issues that I have seen and that I have heard from operators. The number one thing that I think needs to be recognized is that tourism jobs tend to be seasonal. When you have application processes that are asking for

how many full-time jobs will be created and you can only say, “Well, it’s only going to create a job for three months out of the year,” I think that can be a stumbling block. I’m interested to hear if the minister has encountered that.

The second thing I think that could be looked at is if you had the ability to waive the requirement for a business plan for an existing business because there are tourism operators out there that my colleague from Baker Lake mentioned. There are operators out there who have been operating for years and they don’t have a business plan. They may come to you looking for \$15,000 for a small boat to get tourists out to their big boat. They’re looking for a little assistance and then they’re told, “You need to put together a business plan.” Well, a business plan can cost about \$15,000 if you do a real complicated one. What’s the business owner going to do there?

If you have the ability to waive that business plan requirement, I think it might streamline things. It’s your decision, but in terms of seasonality of tourism, the minister would like to comment on that and whether his department recognizes that most tourism jobs in Nunavut are seasonal for the purpose of getting funding from the government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member, yes, most jobs are seasonal, but they can just put in their application that these are full-time seasonal jobs. In my mind, that would be perfectly acceptable because if

someone has a boat tourism business, he’s not going to have any jobs or employment in the winter. Everyone should know that. In there they can say they are going to create X number of full-time jobs for the duration that he’s in operation, and I would think that would be acceptable.

As for the business plan, I fully understand and I have heard that where if... . We do give money to do a business plan for a business, but it doesn’t make sense, like you said, if a guy is applying for \$20,000 and then it costs \$15,000 to do a business plan. It makes sense if he’s applying for multi hundred thousand and you do a \$15,000 business plan. We just have to look at that and use a bit of common sense and put that into our strategies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could commit to making sure that recognition of the seasonal nature of tourism jobs, if he could commit to making sure that that’s the understanding at the program delivery level within the department, or maybe that’s something that’s already in place. I really don’t know. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can commit to make sure that is done because if tourism is seasonal in the summer, then obviously there are only going to be jobs while he’s operating. That just makes common

sense to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I would just like to put in a good word for the folks at Nunavut Tourism because I think that they have done a lot in terms of developing tourism in Nunavut over the years. It's the kind of thing you don't see immediate results, but you have to keep developing that base of services and businesses that will benefit us in the long term.

Moving along to minerals and petroleum resources, first of all mention that there is a small office in Arviat, my community. I was actually an employee there for a short time, about a year. I would like to recognize the excellent work that they are doing there. Part of their work involves prospectors.

I noticed that the Nunavut Prospectors Program is \$150,000 and it has been like that for a long time. If you figure in inflation over time, it's actually shrinking in real terms because the cost of everything is going up. Are there any plans to revamp this program or maybe increase the amount that the prospectors can apply for? I think it is \$8,000. I myself have received funding from it in the past. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$150,000 budget currently seems adequate, even though it has been the same budget. It's never been oversubscribed, but the amount that

the prospector's grant has gone up. It's up to \$8,000 now. In special circumstances, if they can justify it, we can tack on another \$8,000 onto the first \$8,000. A total of \$16,000 could be had under special circumstances if it's justified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a suggestion or a comment, there are some prospectors out there that are locked out of the program because they have received money from it in the past and did not complete their reports. If there was consideration given to maybe forgiving some of those existing folks, you might have greater uptake because some of them are great with rocks, not great with numbers. Go figure, right? It's just a comment.

I'm interested in the devolution on page 237, "Support formal negotiations on a devolution agreement with Canada." What is the department's involvement in this priority? What does it mean? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now our department, with that, is minimal right now. I'll put it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I note that for this current fiscal year, supporting EIA with devolution is not on there. Does that mean that the

department's work in this area is done? Why is it on there? It says status on page 237, "The division continues to work with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in supporting devolution." Then you look into the priorities for this year and it's not there. Will this still be going on? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The devolution talks are EIA's mandate and they do it. If Economic Development and Transportation is asked to assist or asked for information, then we would be engaged. As of now, we have not been asked to partake in anything right now, so that's why it's the way it is. If we're asked to, then things would change. Currently right now devolution is with EIA and they're driving the ship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Skipping ahead to page 241, I would like to thank the department for their support for construction of a community freezer in Whale Cove. The old freezer is not much to look at, so it was badly needed; much appreciated.

In terms of that first bullet there, "Review community economic development plans to ensure they reflect objectives contained in the new Nunavut Economic Development Strategy," my understanding of community economic development plans is that they belong to the community, so those are the communities' goals and what they want

to do for economic development. This seems to suggest that there will be a top-down application of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy to the communities.

I note that it has been carried over to this fiscal year, so it's now worded, "Work with partners to develop a strategy to ensure that community economic development plans align with the *Turaaqtavut* mandate." Are we now taking our mandate and enforcing it on to the communities? This is my last question anyway. I would like a sense of how those community economic development plans are going to be enabled by the department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the communities to see what the communities want in terms of their development plan because it only makes sense. They know the communities. They know what they want. We take that and then we have the Nunavut strategy that we're working on and make sure they mix together.

I guess where the *Turaaqtavut* mandate comes in is the *Turaaqtavut* mandate is where the government's priorities are and where the government's priorities of spending will be. That's why the *Turaaqtavut* is in there because in the mandate, they say, "This is what we want to get done," and that's the priority that the government has come up with. If you have a program and it fits in within that priority, the chance of you getting

funding is greater than if what you want to do does not fit in with the priority. I think that's the simplest way I can explain it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the 2018-2021 plans, it speaks to the RCMP transferral of the driver testing to others. The classes listed are class 7 and class 5 driver's licences. However, the Government of Nunavut has announced that testing will apply for all driving classes in Nunavut.

However, prior to this eventuality, Arviat will receive a pilot project to determine a driver's ability to drive in the community. What I would like to know is: what are the results of the pilot project, if any, and what is the status of the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pilot project in Arviat that occurred there is partially completed with some areas needing completion as we require more funding to complete it. The pilot project in Arviat ran into weather-related barriers, as blizzards kept coming and the instructors who were to conduct this driver's testing ended up clearing snow within the community. There were weather-related problems that caused a delay, so the pilot project in Arviat isn't completed yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for the very clear response. Now, if Arviat is too blizzardy, then Chesterfield Inlet may be a good place to move the pilot project to. I would be grateful if it was just moved to Chesterfield Inlet.

It also states here that they will look for other ways of how Inuit can get driver's licences and ID cards. Where is your department in that regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still working on driver training and examinations. We think that if we can hire people to work in the communities or work with a business in the communities, it can help us with that, but we're not quite sure how we're going to run it yet. We're still reviewing it. We haven't decided as to where we're going to move about that for driver's licences, but we know that more and more people need driver's licences, especially today when the RCMP is no longer doing examinations. There is a waiting list of people for examinations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page K-5. I think your questions are on page K-6. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just noticed that, but looking at page 235 of the business plan, fifth bullet, "Implement the Cultural Industry Strategy," and also develop a plan to "increase Nunavut artists' sales," my concern is a lot of unilingual artists don't

know how to use the Internet and they also need support to market their sales on the Internet, such as the Iqaluit Auction Sales. What does the department mean when they're saying, "Implement the Cultural Industry Strategy"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like Mr. MacIsaac to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. One of the priorities for this fiscal year is to actually develop the cultural industry strategy, so that priority is this year, and then the priority for 2019-2020 is to actually implement that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 234 of the business plan, the priorities under 2019-2020 include "Develop and deploy a marketing campaign for the 20th Anniversary of Nunavut." First I would like to ask: what sort of plans does the department have to mark this 20-year anniversary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we're working and speaking with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, but I'll have Mr. MacIsaac

elaborate a bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. MacIsaac.

Mr. MacIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the recent 150th anniversary of Canada and the various celebrations that were related to that, we developed a pretty significant and effective network for these types of celebrations. I don't want to presuppose because it will be developed this year, but I suspect it will be something very similar to the stakeholder group, if you like, that formed with the Canada 150 celebrations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to confirm that the development of these plans will occur in the 2019-2020 fiscal year as it would be a little bit difficult to plan and host the anniversary celebrations simultaneously. I think that priority would have been much more suitable in the 2018-19 fiscal year, but I'm glad that it's on the horizon.

My next question is: what is the department's stance on municipal accommodation tax? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a stance on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that our hotels are

fairly expensive, but these hotel taxes are a great revenue generation stream and are generally intended to boost destination marketing and would be a great avenue for exploration. Has the department looked into the issue at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have looked into it, but as I said, we don't have a stance on it. We're also aware that the GN is one of the biggest users of hotels too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm correct, I believe that most municipalities across the country do have some sort of hotel tax in place as is now, so the GN is paying these taxes in other jurisdictions. I think it would only be appropriate if the municipalities wanted to incorporate the tax in their jurisdictions that the government would support them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the municipalities put in a proposal, then it would be looked at. Economic Development and Transportation is not a municipal tax authority. I guess Community and Government Services would be more inclined to work with the municipalities on that level, same with the Department of Finance. I wouldn't say we're an innocent bystander, but we're more on the sideline in terms of municipal tax than those other two departments. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our communities, especially in Coral Harbour, we have a number of people who take sport hunters out polar bear hunting. What kinds of programs does the Department of Economic Development and Transportation have available for sport hunting outfitters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would have to request money from the (interpretation ends) Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program (interpretation) for sport hunting outfitters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you repeat that? There are people who attend (interpretation ends) international sportsmen's shows (interpretation) and outfitters go attend these shows. That's where they get their big clients. Can the outfitters get support from your office to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they can get assistance to attend (interpretation ends) sportsmen shows. (interpretation) They can request funding from the (interpretation ends) Community

Tourism and Cultural Industries Program. (interpretation) They can request money from that for travel purposes to those kinds of shows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. (interpretation) The next question I would like to ask, in our communities we have economic development officers. Are the community economic development officers under contract to the hamlets? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the community economic development officers work for the hamlets, but they get paid by the Department of (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation (interpretation) for their travel and training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have a contract with the hamlets in terms of delivering the economic development portion to each community. I wonder if this contract will be expiring soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a contract *per se*. It doesn't have an end date. We just have an agreement with the hamlets. It is part of our policy that has to be updated

again, but we give each community \$190,000 to hire a community development officer and to run the programs that they have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does this policy expire and when are they coming up with a new one? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're kind of in an overhaul situation. It expired back in 2011 and we're working on it right now. It should be renewed and completed by the end of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the information. Now, for territorial parks, is the department responsible for establishing territorial parks in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we are not. The Department of Environment is responsible for territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shall remain on this subject, I believe. This is just a preamble commentary based on what I

heard during my colleague from Arviat and towards (interpretation ends) Chesterfield Inlet (interpretation) when he commented on the mine training program you fund. I take joy from this and am happy to hear that since it is good news for Nunavummiut as it can provide real benefits in my opinion. Part of why I take joy from that statement is due to Hall Beach being a smaller community, which you are aware of. When mining development occurs in Nunavut, it provides economic opportunities.

With respect to programs, there should be more effort to disseminate the information due to the reason that when a training program is completed, the participants can apply for up to \$8,000 from ED&T. Potentially, if this is expanded in the future with residents taking this prospector's course, then it can have exponential benefits as residents look to develop their community as well. I believe that the community would benefit if a deposit was found.

Now, in the business plans, what are the ways of how communities can try to develop their own initiatives? In thinking of ways, I believe we can expand our thinking. With your role as economic developers, I believe that real benefits can accrue to communities. To use myself as an example, let's say I took the prospector's course. Now, perhaps if my application was approved by the government, I could have this claim owned. If I owned the land, this would provide an opportunity to work on developing it. The people who take these courses, I believe, have this in mind to expand their opportunities.

I personally stated that I will search for ways. Smaller communities should be the focus, as I spoke to that long ago. I will look for ways and if barriers exist, then yes, I will sidestep the barriers and look for alternatives. The barriers we run into shouldn't force us to abandon the work, so I will recommit myself to this end. This is what I said I would do. I also believe that you don't always have to depend solely on the government when you are a smaller community. We can stand on our own.

The mines which are being developed in Nunavut are also looking to provide some benefits for Inuit. Our agreement speaks to Inuit ownership of lands. If mining occurs on Inuit lands, yes, it can benefit some communities. We have Inuit organizations as well. If an agreement were to appear for impacts on Inuit such as the agreements for a mine, then I believe that as Inuit we can gain self-sufficiency as the purpose was to provide such an opening for opportunities.

Those who request training programs such as the prospector's course, of course I am proud of them. I thank you for that as you, as economic developers, try to provide economic opportunities through this avenue. As I speak to these issues, especially in looking at ways to increase opportunities to become more self-independent, we have to deliberate on these issues. When you try to brainstorm, as Inuit or even as residents of Nunavut, the programs offered can open up more opportunities.

In your business plan, you speak about the mining sector. When speaking about economic opportunities, we have to make plans when talking about

prospectors who are Inuit. There should be a development plan for the prospectors, especially in identifying further courses they can take, particularly how to claim a mineral stake on your own, all by yourselves, not singular. The reason why I say it isn't singular is because the entire community can benefit.

This too can actually perhaps impact the social assistance program, as it can lessen the welfare recipients possibly. It would elevate tourism and open up further opportunities in the prospecting sector. This is the reason why we want to clarify our rights. We can run into barriers when accessing programming. Even with that challenge, if the department could offer more courses by telling people, "Yes, if you take the course, you may use your right to prospect." However, this too isn't without barriers, as Nunavummiut, due to the fact if I go anywhere, I will run into various types of ownership. If I go to either level of government, I may receive approval.

When Inuit who don't have formal education backgrounds pass these prospector's courses, obviously we are proud of their accomplishment. Now, I want this completely considered for people who take the prospector's course. Whose land is their claim on? Although the territory is entirely Nunavut, I believe there are three types of ownership. Inuit owned lands and federal Crown lands amongst others.

With plans being prepared in the future, I want to see the funding equal the amount, in my mind, or in other words, larger. It can lead to further opportunities, not just to the training

program funding. We should also look at other benefits that can assist them to become more economically self-sufficient. I believe it needs more components in this program. As the Nunavut government, this should be carefully monitored that yes, we are doing that. We too, as regular Inuit, are searching for opportunities by planning development around our communities. When you have a low-level education, it is very difficult to figure out to whom we should be requesting assistance. As I stated before, to whom shall we turn?

I think there needs to be more components added to our programs that are subjected to applications or proposals from local Inuit. "If you complete this program, then you can take this next course." Maybe in this manner you as the economic developers can provide more program elements within the prospector's course materials. There are many Inuit who take the course who never progress past it since they don't know which department or person to turn to, so they abandon their work. This is where it is unfortunate. Perhaps you can add more elements to the course, including identifying the work that "Yes, there are more programs I can apply for at ED&T."

This is what I wanted to make a small comment on, as many of these programs were queried about by my colleagues. I am shaking now. Yes, this is true. We are living it. As residents of the smaller communities, we too are looking for potential opportunities. This will have actual benefits in the future, not just for one community but for all of Nunavut. That is what I wanted to rant about, so thank you for listening. That is all.

Chairman: Thank you for the comment. We're on Branch Summary. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we go on to the next page, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:26 and resumed at 15:46

Chairman: Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to trade a witness.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let a different witness go to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please let the new official in.

Thank you. For the record, please introduce your official, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the new witness, Mr. John Hawkins. He's the ADM for Transportation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're now on page K-6. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several of my questions were asked when Ms. Towtongie was asking, but I just want to ask some more questions on motor vehicles. One of your priorities on page 243 says, "Complete the Motor Vehicles Information System project to ensure increased community capacity." What is the status of this line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still working on it. I remember when I was sitting not too far from where you were sitting and I was asking those questions. We have gone a little bit further from then, but we're still working on it; there are way more issues than was anticipated. Just to give you exactly where we are in that, I can have Mr. Hawkins answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program is being built. It will be completed by the end of this year. We anticipate that now. It's in acceptance testing right now. All of the modules are coming together on it and we expect it to be completed by the end of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last ten years I have been bringing up the issues with the issuing of driver's licence and ID cards in our communities and the slow process that it takes to get it from the time it starts to the time it's back to our

constituents. It seems that this system is no better today than it was eight to ten years ago.

I just had an email last week where somebody in February had lost their wallet and has no ID and it was put in for a replacement, but that was in February and as of a week ago, still has no ID. She even had to cancel a trip out of the community because she didn't have photo ID.

With this new Motor Vehicles Information System, how do you anticipate that this is going to improve the processes in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we have the system itself up and running and the cameras are all in place, that part of it will be quicker.

The part that's not going to change is the driver's licence will still be issued out of territory. They still will be mailed. That's due to security issues. In this day and age that we live in, security is a big concern for all the travellers and this is the photo ID that can be used on air carriers. That is why it still has to be mailed. It has to be for security reasons and all the security features that are built into the driver's licence.

In term of the communities, we anticipate that once everyone is trained and once the equipment is fully operational, that part of the process will be quicker and more streamlined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using the mail system is one of the biggest issues that we have with the driver's licence other than the picture-taking, but you're still going to rely on the mail system. How is this going to make it quicker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess one of the ways where it will make it better is because the photographs should be of good enough quality that you don't have to back and forth if the photo is no good.

Another thing that I'm looking at is I would like to get the driver's licence so that we have a ten-year expiry. That means that we only have to renew half the licence half the time. As I said, renew every five years; renew every ten years so that takes the burden off.

Even when the system is up and running, we anticipate that it will still be slow because there is going to be a backlog of licences and general IDs that need to be issued. Once the entire backlog is clear and this is running good, we're hoping and we do believe that the system will work better and quicker when it's fully operational. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that one of the improvements is better photo quality. Currently we are mailing these photos on USBs back and forth to Iqaluit. Will this new system have the

ability to email these photos? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's due to Internet capacity right now. We are anticipating in the future that once we have better broadband service, which is supposed to be in 2019, that we won't have to do that anymore. It's just too much data in the photograph because we need good quality photographs. Therefore there are a lot of megapixels in there.

On a side note here, we're not the only jurisdiction that has to mail out our driver's licence and get it printed elsewhere. Other jurisdictions do that too. Like I just said, once we have better, faster Internet, then that should be one of the steps where there's no more mailing of a USB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To change the subject, on page 248 of your business plan it states one of your priorities is to "Refurbish the (yellow) Iqaluit Air Terminal Building." My question is: if we have a brand-new airport here in Iqaluit that cost us \$300 million, why are we spending money to refurbish the old one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a government asset and there are still offices in there that are going to stay in there. It's going to be refurbished for different purposes; it's not going to be refurbished as an airport

or standby airport. We see it as either more office space or more space that can be rented out to the community. As it is right now, it's not a very nice place to work. It's very rundown. We want to improve it for the people who are working there right now, plus also use the unused space because we're paying to heat that place anyway and we're paying all the costs and everything. NAV CANADA is in there and they're not going to move out. They need to be able to be where they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the refurbishing of the old air terminal building, is there any kind of dollar value attached to those renovations? I know I'm talking about capital, but because it's in the business plan, I can ask such a question. Do we have any idea of how much this refurbishing is going to cost us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a bit over \$4 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask more on what my colleague was asking about. I do recall in Committee of the Whole there was a commitment that Baker Lake would also be taken into consideration for the pilot project regarding class 5 driver's licence and general ID cards. My first question is: where does that stand today? Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Oh. Minister Savikataaq.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it has been a long day.

I can inform the member that we're talking with the SAO and it's still on our radar to do it. Like I told him when a question was asked in question period, we want to make sure we work out all the kinks. When you have a pilot project, if something doesn't work to well on one, then you figure out how to make it better the next time you do it because you don't want to repeat the same process. We had a few hiccups. It's still in the plans to do it in Baker Lake, but I can't tell the member exactly when it will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at delivery options for driver's licence and general identification cards, I do know that they are made in Rankin Inlet, which is a 40-minute flight away. My constituents have been very frustrated when the cards are made and they're sitting there in the office, some of them end up waiting three to six months when it's just a 40-minute flight away. My question here is: when they're completed, could they not be sent in bulk, counter to counter from Rankin Inlet to Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to correct the member,

they're not printed in Rankin Inlet. They're processed in Rankin Inlet, but there is no driver's licence or general IDs printed in Rankin Inlet. To the best of my knowledge, they're all done out of Ottawa, the driver's licence for sure and I think even all the general identification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are processed, made in Ottawa, they get to Rankin Inlet, then why are they sitting in Rankin Inlet so long when it's just a 40-minute flight from Rankin Inlet to Baker Lake? What's the holdup?

An Hon. Member: Weather in Baker Lake.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at all of those processes, but there should be no reason why they hold them once they're there and be there ready to be shipped to the rightful owners. We're looking at that. They shouldn't sit anywhere, whether it be Rankin Inlet or Ottawa or Iqaluit. They shouldn't be sitting there just waiting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at the pilot project, when do you anticipate the new equipment to be arriving to Baker Lake regarding that pilot project? Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify for the member, the pilot project and issuance of identification and driver's licence are two different issues. The pilot project is just to do driver's licence examinations and testing both written and driven. As for the driver's licence and photo ID, that's not a pilot project. That's being rolled out in all the communities and we hope the system will be up and running in every community. There's no pilot project to do with the issuing or the making of a driver's licence or photo ID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I'll move on. Your department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Complete Quality Assurance Audits of airport facilities and operations at airports in Pond Inlet, Resolute, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Whale Cove." What is the scope of these audits and what criteria were used to prioritize the order in which airports will be audited? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a mouthful and a lot of communities, so I would like Mr. Hawkins to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulations require on a three-year cycle that every airport is audited for their compliance with the standards and with the operational requirements of the regulations. The airports that were named there are scheduled for this year to be audited, so they will be measured, audited against all the standards as far as the lighting systems, as far as their compliance, all the slopes that are around them, and that will all be documented and then any things that are out of standard will be corrected through a series of corrective action plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can attest it was during the Fourth Assembly I think I have done every possible angle regarding the Baker Lake Airport, every possible way. When I look at Baker Lake and you do the scope and audit, what are you targeting at? What work are you really targeting? Extension of the runway? Widening? The slope? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When these audits are done, they're to make sure they conform to the regulations. It has nothing to do with extending the runway, longer, wider, or changing the slope. It's just Transport Canada has certain regulations that if your airstrip is this long, you might have to have a slope of this, it has to be so far from here, the lighting has to be so much, they all have to work. It's just an audit to make sure that the airport

conforms to the regulations to make sure it's safe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can rule me out of order on this particular next question if you want.

Back in the Third Assembly, a complete audit and assessment was completed by a private consultant in Baker Lake who was flown to Baker Lake to do a complete assessment and audit of the Baker Lake runway and airport expansion, which was submitted to the federal government, which was also obtained by the Hamlet of Baker Lake. It was actually approved by the federal government but did not get GN support. Would the department be able to elaborate as to why the GN did not support the Building Canada Fund at that particular time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can just clarify if the federal government approved it, like they approved the funding or they approved the design. If he can just explain a bit better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to say this a little bit slower.

During the Third Assembly, I was deputy mayor of the Hamlet of Baker Lake. A complete assessment and audit

by a private contractor was conducted at the Baker Lake Airport, which was submitted to the federal government, territorial government, and the Hamlet of Baker Lake at the time did obtain a copy of the consultant's entire report of how it could be expanded and the necessary work. The federal government at the time was in support of the proposal, but I just wanted to know why the GN Department of Economic Development and Transportation was not supporting the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I realize you can't answer for the Third Assembly, but Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look into it, but as I stated earlier, I asked the member when the federal government supported it, does he mean the federal government said, "Yes, we will pay for it"? Was that the kind of support or is it support in terms of "Yes, we think it's a good idea," but never threw in any money? We can look into it, but the Third Assembly is quite a while ago. I don't think we're going to get anywhere talking back and forth, but if the member could clearly state, "Yes, the federal government was going to fund the project." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the federal was going to fund the program, but the Government of Nunavut did not approve the Building Canada Fund. I'm not trying to go back to the Third Assembly, but I do believe documents are obtained and archived in the government system. That's why I'm asking that question. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: That was no question. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Okay, I'll rephrase my question. The Government of Nunavut does archive documents and when they are archived, they are archived for five to ten years. I'm just asking if they have obtained a copy of that complete assessment and audit of the Baker Lake expansion runway/airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. This forum is not prepared to answer that kind of question, way back; if you can ask in a certain way that this forum can do that. Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, I'll rephrase my question. When you look at this audit, my question here is: when the audit is complete, will the Department of Economic Development and Transportation do submissions to the federal government for funds so that these airports that are identified could get the necessary work done to meet the safety codes of the airport facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this audit is to make sure that these airports conform to the regulations. If they don't conform to the regulations, then we will fix it so that they do conform to the regulations. If it's minor, then we would use our own funds. If it's a major expense, then we would apply to the federal government

under ACAP, let me get the abbreviation, Airport Capital Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that work is still going to be done. Do you guys also take into consideration the volume of traffic at these airports in prioritizing the scope of work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not in these audits. These audits just look to make sure that the airport safety standards conform to the regulations. We're not looking at passenger numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to the driver's licensing topic. I know right now we have our driver's licences on a five-year renewal. Speaking from experience, that can be a long time and you forget when your renewal date is. I'm just wondering: how complicated would it be with the new motor vehicles system to have renewal notices sent out as driver's licences expire? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's doable. We can look into doing that because I agree that sometimes we forget and if you forget

too long and it's expired more than six months, then it's not as simple as just walking in and getting it renewed. Like I said, I'm also looking at extending the length of a driver's licence to 10 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It also makes it difficult to get on a plane. Sometimes you're outside of the territory when your driver's licence gets noticed that it's expired. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Next name, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue on the theme of licences. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide us a little information on the current procedures in place with regard to licence suspensions for short-term, 24-hour suspensions all the way up to long-term, 90-day suspensions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're actually drafting up the regulations for us to be able to do that. It's coming and it's in conjunction with the cannabis bill that is coming forward. We are drafting up regulations in order to do a 24-hour suspension. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the current regulations is there anything stated about long-term

suspensions? As of today, if someone gets their licence taken away for a period of over 90 days, are there regulations currently in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is not right now. The only long-term licence suspension or taking away right now is through the courts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to my next question. I would like to bring up a topic that I raised a while back and it was about the hazardous conditions in the Iqaluit airport parking lot. I was wondering if the minister might be able to provide us an update on that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the fella. We've got two trucks that are parked parallel, but there is not a whole lot of room. What we're going to do this summer is to redraw the line so that there's angle parking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I'm glad to hear that action is being taken.

My next question is about airport operations. Now, I have seen flights land at our airport throughout any time of day, including during the night. I was

wondering if the airport maintains a 24-hour operation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is talking about the Iqaluit airport, yes, it's 24 hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to keep the lights on in a facility of that size, it must take a considerable amount of energy. I was wondering if the department has been working with the Climate Change Secretariat or Community and Government Services to try to take advantage of the Canadian government initiatives and programs in reducing diesel dependence in remote communities to try to reduce those operational costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The airport here in Iqaluit has actually won an award for being energy efficient and well designed. I'll get Mr. Hawkins to elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the building here is a very efficient building. The new building takes not that much more electricity than the old building did. It does it through the combined power and electricity plant.

As the minister said, it's a LEED Silver building. There are also incentives in the operation of that building so that there is a pain-share/gain-share program going on. If there are further improvements to it, the government gets some of the benefit but also the operator gets some of the benefit. It encourages them to implement any benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that. Thank you for that response. I will move on to my next question. At the top of page 246 of the business plan, the first bullet states that the department is going to "Conduct a comprehensive review of commercial land and building space lease rates in...Nunavut airports."

It's my understanding that in pretty much all airports in the developed world, they have airport tariffs and fees, such as general terminal charges, landing fees, and airport improvement fees, to help offset some of the operational costs. I was wondering if we have anything similar in our airport operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at it and studying it, but I just told the member and he's aware that we have one of the highest airfare rates anywhere. If there are any landing fees or tariffs or anything that's added on, the airlines will be passing that onto the customers. They're more than likely not going to suck it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely, completely agree with you there. We do have exceptionally high transportation costs and no one would like to see that increase, but looking at the airport fees at an airport such as Toronto where there are fees and tariffs for planes such as the 737s that land here, it would equate to cents or dollars per seat. The increase really wouldn't be significant, but it would significantly reduce the cost of the airport operations. I definitely hope that the department will take that into consideration when they're conducting the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the 2018-2021 business plan under Transportation, the Iqaluit International Airport was \$10,634,000 in 2017-18 and it's going to be increased to \$24,479,000 in 2018-19, which is an increase of \$13,845,000. The question I have is: what is the reason for this increase? Is it because of the operators, Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners? They're operating the airport through an agreement with the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase is because we have to start making payments for the infrastructure that was built. In the past we were paying for the construction. For the (interpretation

ends) Iqaluit International Airport, (interpretation) we're going to start paying the \$24 million for the next 30 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clear response, minister. (interpretation ends) Your department's recent capital estimate substantiation sheets for the Iqaluit International Airport indicated that the airport is now being operated by Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners under the IIAP project agreement for a 30-year term ending in 2047.

My question is: what's the estimated total amount that will be paid to Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners in annual operations payments over the 30-year life of the agreement? I would want to be part of the Arctic Infrastructure... I would like to know: what's the estimated total amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total amount will be the \$24.3 million a year for 30 years. That's the total amount. \$24.3 million times 30, that's the total amount. Within that amount, the lifecycles is part of it. That's \$1.1 million for lifecycles. The O&M to run the actual airport is \$10.4 million. The capital repayment plan that I talked about is \$12.8 million. The government's expense will be \$24.3 million a year for 30 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name

on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll continue on my colleague's line of questioning. This was a P3 project. Unfortunately I didn't have an opportunity to debate the merits of it when it was decided that this should go ahead. There are pros and cons to P3 projects. One of the cons in my mind is it shows up in the estimates here, so we're spending close to \$25 million on airport and then for every other airport in the territory, \$16.7 million. There you go, that's what the catch is. If somebody asks you, "Oh, it's a P3, it's a great deal. We get some federal funding, but what's the catch?" The catch is that you are locked in and we're going to pay for this for decades, but it is what it is.

Regarding your business plan here on page 245, it says your priority there, "Engage Nunavut based companies to improve the reliability of airport infrastructure, including mobile equipment..." I believe that is a type of privatization and contracting out, which is fine. How many Nunavut-based companies are able to provide this type of service? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't tell the member exactly how many companies are capable to, but we have five or six airports where they are contracted out and there are two different contracts. One is for CARS, the operations of the radios, and that's NAV CANADA's responsibility, and we do the maintenance. In most of the

communities we still have agreements with the hamlets, but there are some where the hamlets did not want to be the contractor anymore and they have gone out to private businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of this priority, which is "Engage Nunavut based companies..." will there be a series of RFPs that come out or is this some other process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No there wouldn't be. It's not that we're trying to move towards private industry doing that, but we have to be ready if a hamlet decides that they don't want to be the contractor anymore. We can't go without a contract in the community. We have to be able to get someone to take over in the short term if the contract is abruptly ended and, in the long term, if they want to keep providing that service for a fee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister. I understand more now. I would like to note that one of the communities that I represent and, to my knowledge, other communities have been having issues with... I guess they're being left holding the bag because they're not getting enough money from airports in terms of the actual costs of maintaining their airports

and doing all the snow clearing.

I would just encourage the minister to make sure that the hamlets don't have to pay for this service because I believe it is something that should be covered. It's right in the division's statement here. "Nunavut Airports is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 24...Airports outside of Iqaluit."

The hamlets are the contractor, yes, but I would just like to highlight the fact that they're being put under financial pressure to handle the shortfall. Is there anything that's being done to address this? I believe it's not just the Hamlet of Whale Cove; it's other hamlets that have faced this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have no intention of trying to downsize or get the hamlet to subsidize our responsibilities for running an airport. That's not the intent.

If there are any shortfalls and as long as it's documented, then the hamlets will be reimbursed. When the agreement is up, we can look at it to make sure that the expenses that they incur are covered as long as they're within reason and it seems like it's an operational requirement.

The hamlet should not have to go into debt to run the airport because it is our responsibility to make sure that the airports are maintained in a safe manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I trust that the minister will look into these hamlets that have encountered overages and try to make sure that they are made whole or taken care of.

With regard to the yellow air terminal building, I'm a bit puzzled as to why it's only now that the department is looking at alternative uses for that air terminal building because you knew for a number of years that you were going to have a new airport opening. Why didn't this process to look for people who are interested and plan for repurposing it happen earlier? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that they weren't planning and didn't know. NAV CANADA offices are there and they're going to stay there, so we have to keep the building and it has to be maintained. Part of the reason it wasn't done right away is because it costs money and you have to get into the capital planning process. It's just the system. It probably would have not looked that good if you ask for funds to fix up the old airport while you're building a new airport. That's partly what I'm guessing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main

Mr. Main: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would just like to comment that you come from one community to the next and it's like coming from a developing world to a first world, for example, travelling from Whale Cove to here or

from Arviat to here.

My colleague talked about commercial space within the airports. Well, in my home community of Arviat things are getting worse in terms of commercial available. We used to have a vending machine, pretty basic for an airport, but too many break-ins, so the operator pulled that out. We used to have an ATM, again not enough security at the airport, there was a break-in and the ATM, I think, might have been torn out of the building and it was shut down. I agree that it's important to make room for private businesses within airports. There is a good example. If we had better security, if we had a better facility, security cameras, etcetera, maybe those things wouldn't be an issue. That's just a comment. I wanted to highlight that.

My last question is on the driver's licences and your priority here on page 244 says, "Examine alternative service delivery options for driver's licences and General Identification Cards..." Is that looking at a privatized model where you would contract out this service to somebody to operate it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one of the options available. Our first ideal situation would be to work with the hamlets and the GLOs because they're there. If that doesn't work out, then we are looking at options of having private industry do some other work in terms of the driver's examination, the written test, and all that. We have so much work to do because the RCMP does not administer the driver's test anymore. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$44,917,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page K-3. Department Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$86,582,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, do you have closing comments? Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all the members for asking their questions and being engaged, and also at times to be understanding. Some of the questions that were being asked, I asked them myself in the Third Assembly too. Bear with us, with the driver's licence and photo IDs. We're doing our best and we want to make sure we get to where we can issue them in a timely manner.

I would like to thank my staff that are here for the hard work they do and for all the staff that are not here to prepare the binder and all the answers for us to give to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses. We will now take a five-minute break.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:37 and resumed at 16:45*

Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Hello. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasié: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

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

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

To my right is the President of Arctic College, Sheila Kolola, (interpretation ends) and on my left is the Vice-president of Arctic College, Karsten Henriksen.

Itsivautaaq, I am pleased to present to the members today Nunavut Arctic College's 2018-2021 main estimates and business plan. Nunavut Arctic College maintains the operations laid out in the business plan with a budget made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding contracts, and revenue from fee sources such as tuition. To that end, Nunavut Arctic College's total main estimates for the 2018-19 fiscal year is \$38,134,000.

Nunavut Arctic College has been given four strategic priorities by its board of governors, which include improving programs and services to the communities; building a culturally responsive college; achieving academic excellence; and strengthening college systems and operations. These guiding objectives govern operations and ensure that the college is addressing the needs of adult Inuit and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College also has a key role in working with the Government of Nunavut in carrying out and supporting several priorities in the new *Turaaqtavut* mandate. As the Government of Nunavut strives to increase the Inuit employment rates across the territory, the college will play an important role in identifying key labour market gaps not currently supported by educational operations and work to address those challenges. To that end, the college has completed a draft taxonomy that will ensure consistent standards and high quality

across all program areas and will include sector advisory councils to ensure programs are in alignment with labour market needs. A key component of this taxonomy is the introduction of ICE-STEM to all programs, which will start in the upcoming academic year and will be piloted with the Fur Production Program.

Mr. Chairman, ICE-STEM stands for Inuktitut, Culture, Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This is the college's strategy to prepare learners for Nunavut's future economy.

I would like to reaffirm the college's commitment to delivering programs at the community level. As an example of this, I would like to note that this past fiscal year, the college elected to use its accumulated surplus of \$513,500 to start an environmental technology program in Pond Inlet, which is set to begin this academic year.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that the college now has the ability to deliver heavy equipment operator programs today as a response to the needs of the resource industry. This program was delivered in Pangnirtung recently in conjunction with the municipality. This means that Nunavut Arctic College can deliver heavy equipment operator programs in communities across the territory.

One thing we have routinely heard is that it can be difficult for potential learners to plan their lives around when a program may or may not be coming to their community. The college's administration will be drafting a five-year academic plan that will focus on

local skills and trades training and expanding academic programming at the community level.

For this new five-year academic plan, we will also introduce more quantitative reviews of potential numbers of learners in determining program deliveries. For example, the college intends to work closely with the Department of Education and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs around planning community offerings of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. This approach supports maximizing our scarce resources with the goal of increasing the number of bilingual Inuit into teaching roles as needed by Nunavut's education system and the government's Inuit employment plans. This academic plan will be made freely available to the public so that potential learners, whichever community they are in, are aware of what programs the college will be offering and where the college will be offering those programs.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in regard to programs, I am aware that in the past the college has at times cancelled programs if it was determined that too few students had enrolled. Please know that I have directed an end to this practice. If a learner has been admitted to a college program and has made a commitment to study at the college, then it is the responsibility of the college to provide that learner with the opportunity that they have worked so hard to achieve. It is the hope of the college that each and every learner will be successful in their chosen field.

During this upcoming fiscal year Nunavut Arctic College will continue to

improve the supports of our learners in post-secondary programs by standardizing learner services across all three campuses and in each community learning centre. The model of learner services that the college is striving to achieve is heavily based on the Inuit world view and upon Inuit culture. Already here at the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit, Nunavut Arctic College has successfully concluded a pilot elder-in-residence program. This has proved to be an invaluable experience to our learners and is a service that will be expanding to the other two regional campuses.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the standardization of learner services falls within a broader effort to ensure consistency of programs and services across the territory. The college's administration, in conjunction with the college's board of governors, will be drafting a comprehensive 10-year strategy to set the long-term direction of the college.

A large component of that strategy will, by necessity, be the college-university partnership. I am pleased to say that the joint team from Nunavut Arctic College, the Department of Education, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, through both consensus scoring and an interview process, has narrowed the selection down to two. The selection committee, headed by the college president, will soon embark on discussions with the remaining two institutions to enter into a college-university partnership. We expect to be negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the most appropriate candidate for the college-university partnership by the end of this fiscal year.

Finally, at this time I am also pleased to announce that cabinet approved a realignment of the college organizational structure. The purpose of this realignment was to streamline college operations and to ensure that the college is a meaningful, responsive institution. One of the most significant components of this realignment is the addition of dean of communities and learning based in Arviat. This dean will be the steward and champion for community learning centres to ensure that they are routinely providing a suite of academic programs at the community level.

Additionally, Arviat will be home to the college's centre for teaching and learning which will, under the leadership of the dean, communities and learning, and our chair of academic excellence, who will be beginning work in early August, will be central to the development of teaching excellence and academic quality. I would note that in addition to these two positions in Arviat, the college will be recruiting for curriculum specialists to further complement staff in Arviat.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, since our last appearance at this committee, the college staff have been working diligently with its partners to tender and select a designer for the Cambridge Bay Campus project, with design work scheduled to begin this fall.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from my fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2018-19 budget of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources such as tuition fees. The GN's proposed contribution to Nunavut Arctic College for 2018-19 is approximately \$38.1 million. The standing committee notes that the college's overall budget for 2018-19 is projected to be just over \$56.5 million. The standing committee supports the minister and college administration in their ongoing efforts to acquire additional third party funding for 2018-19.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the college will be undertaking a number of initiatives with respect to long-term planning to support Nunavummiut in reaching their educational and employment goals. This includes a five-year academic plan, the upcoming implementation of the ICE-STEM program, and a ten-year strategy for the long-term direction of the college. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review the draft 2018-19 budget and business plan of Nunavut Arctic College, members were given to understand that the college will be entering into a college-university partnership by the end of the college's 2018-19 fiscal year.

Members look forward to learning which Canadian university will be partnering

with the college once the successful candidate has been determined. Members anticipate that once the memorandum of understanding is in place, more information will be forthcoming on what new options for degree-granting courses will be available to Nunavummiut, in addition to the education, nursing and law degree programs currently being offered in partnership with different degree-granting institutions.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College has an important role to play in preparing, training, and educating Nunavummiut to enter the labour force. The standing committee appreciates the college's focus on working to match course delivery options with industry and labour market needs. Members further encourage the college to work closely with communities to assess local needs and requests for program delivery at the community learning centres. Members were pleased to note that the college's Heavy Equipment Operator Program can now be delivered at the community level across Nunavut. Trades training and local skill development options at the local level are key to promoting Inuit employment in our communities.

With respect to academic course programming, the standing committee has expressed the concern that not enough support is being provided to ensure that candidates for post-secondary programs have the necessary academic foundation to succeed. Standing committee members encourage the college in its commitment to expand academic programming at the community level and were pleased to note that the college will no longer be

cancelling courses based on low registration numbers.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encourages the college in its focus on early childhood education, health careers, and language programs in 2018-19. Early childhood education plays an important role in preparing children for a life of learning and can help to determine an individual's quality of health and well-being in the future. Current and future needs for elders' care, mental health services, and wellness programming will provide opportunities for Nunavummiut to fill much-needed roles in the health care sector once they are able to access the relevant training and certification.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the college's intent to standardize its student services across the territory and to support a student experience based on an Inuit world view and Inuit culture, the standing committee looks forward to updates on the college's student services initiatives, such as the elder-in-residence program which provides counselling to students, as well as cultural activities and language revitalization programs.

Members have expressed some concern that the college's funding for language programs and in particular for interpreter/translator training does not appear to be increasing despite the government's enhanced commitment to promote the use of the Inuit language across departments and other agencies. The standing committee encourages the college to work with its partners to find opportunities for such options as on-the-job training and mentoring for individuals interested in entering this field. A renewed focus on Inuit language

programs in general could further provide an important resource for initiatives in such areas as teacher education.

Mr. Chairman, on June 8, 2017 ministerial letters of expectation for 2017-18 to all Crown agencies and territorial corporations, including Nunavut Arctic College, were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The response from the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College to the letter of expectation was tabled in the House on September 18, 2017 and indicated that "the Board expects that governance of the College will be more appropriate at the Board level." Members would appreciate some clarification on the current status of the formal relationship between the Government of Nunavut and the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College as we move forward.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, we are now dealing with Nunavut Arctic College page M-3, but note that the details for the college are on pages N-I-2 to N-I-4. We will do the exercise same as today. Choose your time wisely. Once I scratch your name off the list on that page, you are done for that page.

Go to N-I-2. Nunavut Arctic College. Headquarters. Questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is: when we look at community courses at the local

Arctic College, who decides on those particular courses? When I look at Arctic College in Baker Lake, it's got multiple classrooms and it could run multiple courses. Is there community input into that also? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) Yes, the community is involved through the assessment process that happens periodically. We try to garner interest on different programs that might be made available. At the same time I can say that in order to have a program in place, we also need to have the instructors in order as well, if necessary, staff housing available. There are other factors that play into where we can deliver certain programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Welcome to the officials. My apologies there.

My follow-up question to that would be Baker Lake did lose some very qualified interpreters who had passed on. I know there was an interpreter course for a brief period. I know that course is, I believe, in Iqaluit. Would a prerequisite course be taken into consideration for interpreter courses? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what he means

by prerequisite courses. Maybe if he can elaborate on that, but right now we're planning for the Interpreter/Translator Program to be delivered here in Iqaluit and then Rankin Inlet starting in September 2018. Maybe if he can elaborate on prerequisites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I mean by a prerequisite course is to test a number of people who might want to get into the legal or interpreter field of work, like a test course to determine if you are eligible, you actually show strength in interpreting, and you should further pursue interpreter courses at an advanced level before you get to the advanced level here in Iqaluit. I guess that's what I'm trying to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a level of assessment that is done by learners prior to entering, but we can look into that in further detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only speak for the community that I represent. We have an elders facility and I know the staff did take some safety courses and whatnot through Nunavut Arctic College. I believe it's very essential that they take advanced courses.

When I look at health and wellness careers that would be applicable to the

Martha Talirug Centre once it opens up again, can that be taken into consideration, like first aid and other health and wellness careers as mobile courses, I guess I would say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his question. In this past academic year 2017-18 we did a home and continuing care program, and for Baker Lake, there was a course delivered specifically on personal care skills. That had 10 students enrolled and we look forward to having these types of programs in the coming years. We will take his comments about first aid and the likes, and these types of training initiatives into account. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. To elaborate on my first question, when I look at the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, we want people to become more fluent in Inuktitut and whatnot in the government workforce. That was my approach on the Inuit language and culture when we look at the *Turaaqtavut* mandate. Maybe that could be taken into consideration with all the local arctic colleges when they're providing courses. That's just a comment.

The next question I have is, as the minister is aware, Baker Lake and the surrounding communities are benefitting from Meadowbank and Agnico Eagle Mines. When we look at trades and technology, which are very evident in the industry workforce, is Nunavut

Arctic College taking that into consideration where communities have industry right at their back door? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his question. Yes, we are looking at the territory as a whole and what types of mineral activity is going on in the territory. With that, we're working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. We want to create a mine training sector advisory council that would help us determine what the mine training needs are of the territory and what best course of action would go towards providing training using our available resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. My question now is regarding the Nunavut Arctic College campuses or learning centres in our community. If you're going to be entering, what is the age requirement and what is the limit on the age? For example, 19 or 20 years, or is it open to all adults for programs that are delivered at the learning centres in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your question. We are open to anyone who wants to take courses, but we have to keep in mind, as long as they

have to be in high school, they should gear more toward the high school. However, there are no age limits. A 100-year-old person can take courses at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister...Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. I almost got a promotion.

My last question here is: when we look at all these community Nunavut Arctic Colleges, do they all have an adult educator? I believe, in my community, one of the employees was retiring. If that's the case, if the employee is retiring, is that position put out for advertisement as soon as possible so that a smooth transition can occur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, every community has a learning centre and we strive to have the position of adult educator filled. Where there's a vacancy, we try to fill it as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My last one will be just a comment from me. The courses that are offered in Baker Lake, I would like to ask what programs will be delivered in writing as soon as possible. It's not a question and that's it from me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if it's here. I would like to ask: the students that receive funding from FANS, is that program here or not? I'll ask at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: FANS (interpretation) is under (interpretation ends) Family Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. I know it's in the Department of Family Services, but that's the thing I wanted to raise with the minister.

(interpretation) The students who are in Arctic College receive funding from FANS. Sometimes they don't get paid and have no money to buy food and are away from home, so they don't know what else to do. They try calling FANS, but they don't get responses.

Maybe if FANS was under Arctic College, it would be run better and the students would have fewer concerns and would want to complete their courses. Can the minister consider that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. I think that would have to be approved by the cabinet if we

were to do that. I can say that the president of Arctic College and the Deputy Minister of Family Services have plans to meet this month on how this can be improved upon so that the students at Arctic College can receive better service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be good for you to consider. You were put in that position so that you can consider improvements to those types of issues. I encourage you to bring it up with the cabinet. That's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go to the letter of expectation from 2017-18. I'm sure that we will be getting 2018-19 one coming out soon. From the last one on the second page of it on the letter to the board, it states that they will "need to work closely with the Department of Family Services to ensure the current labour market needs drive the prioritization of programs as well as to ensure that the development and administration of those programs is aligned with student financial assistance programs and capacity." It's similar to what my colleague raised.

I would like to go a little step further and question why Finance wouldn't be involved in some of that where they would know where some of the priorities of the GN public service have the most need. I can think of a couple just off the

top of my head from financial services to policy development. I think those are very two burgeoning careers within the public service that could use a lot more Nunavummiut in those roles.

I'm just wondering: do you meet with Finance to determine those objectives in your prioritization or is it just with Family Services to make sure that the programs meet FANS conditions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I will have the vice-president, Mr. Henriksen, respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Henriksen.

Mr. Henriksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Arctic College strives to communicate with all of our stakeholders both within government with our government partners but as well with our industry partners. The new institutional taxonomy that we're in the processes of hopefully finalizing will include the establishment of sector advisory councils and different program clusters will have sector advisory councils to help us inform our programming. We certainly want to hear from all of our stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the bottom it goes to ongoing reporting responsibilities, including tabling the following in the Legislative Assembly, and the last bullet states, "Formal responses to letters of

expectation, letters of instruction and Ministerial directives at the first session of the Legislative Assembly subsequent to the NAC receiving such correspondence.”

I don't recall seeing any ministerial directives ever tabled in the legislature. I could be wrong. I have only been around for about four and a half years, but I don't recall seeing any. I'm just wondering: how often do ministerial directives and under what circumstances would they be issued to Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) I haven't heard of any or I haven't come across any ministerial directives of any sort. I would have to get back to you on what certain conditions or situations where that would come into play. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just have a conversation with the minister at a later date if he comes across any information.

I would like to go back to the last page of our chairman's opening comments in the last paragraph. It had a question or a statement from the response to the board to the minister. It draws a question/concern. I'm going to quote from it. "As previously communicated to you, the Board expects that governance of the College will be more appropriate at the Board level."

That leads to suggest that there is some type of a relationship issue between the board of governors at Nunavut Arctic College and the Government of Nunavut. I'm wondering if the minister can explain the current relationship between his office and the board of governors on what I perceive as a potential communication issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to point out, this letter of expectation was from the previous government. I have to point out that I have yet to meet with the board of governors as of yet face to face or through teleconference. They are planning to meet in the near future and I would like to have a chance to meet with them directly and have a conversation about both what the standing committee raised in their opening comments as well as how to move forward beyond this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure myself or one of my colleagues will be following up with that.

I would like to just go into a line of questioning on the early childhood educator programs. As I had mentioned during the committee meeting, I was curious as to the current status of the Applied Early Education Program, as I wasn't able to find any of those programs on the website at the time. I'll be honest with the minister, I didn't look today, but when we had our committee meeting, I wasn't able to find anything

on that program. I was just wondering what the current status of it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the vice-president respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Henriksen. Ms. Kolola. Sorry.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this year five completed their second year and four were in year one of the program in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure we can all agree the early childhood program is very instrumental in getting our children off to a good, healthy, educational experience.

I just have a question regarding the Nursing Program. One of the conditions of their employability is, from what I understand, there's a one-year mentorship as a requirement of their licensing here. I have a question. If there was a nursing grad in Dalhousie who was directly from the university, do they have the same requirement after writing their national exam of a one-year mentorship? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the vice-president to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Henriksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nursing is of course a regulated profession, so we have to work in collaboration with the regulatory body for nurses, but as to the program review with our new taxonomy, we will be looking at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. It has been a long day, so I'll keep this as short as possible.

Before I begin with my questions about O&M, I would like to ask for an update on the series of questions I posed during question period in this current sitting.

A number of residents from a number of different communities have communicated their frustration to several different members in the House that they have been given severe restriction in their role and ability to communicate with community leaders. Would the minister like to give us an update on that situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the president would be best to respond to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. My apologies for mispronouncing your last name, Kolola. Thank you.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): No, that's fine.

Thank you for asking the question about that. We have never stated that here as Arctic College senior managers. We welcome all MLAs here at the Legislative Assembly or the hamlet councils and mayors to all community learning centres. We have no choice but to work together as Nunavut Arctic College staff, community members, and elected officials. The elected officials know more about the community and what the community wants to bring out. All I wanted to say is that as senior managers of Nunavut Arctic College, we have never made that direction. We try to follow what concerns the MLAs have. We ask them to go to the president or the minister if they have concerns.

(interpretation ends) The Community Programs is a very important and a key branch in Nunavut Arctic College. We're encouraging our chair and regional coordinators to work collaboratively with our communities, the MLAs, and mayors for identifying any training needs that are happening in the communities and certainly as guest speakers for our learners in any program that we deliver. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question will be regarding financial constraints being placed on community learning centres. Have there been any signing authorities revoked in community learning centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like

President Kolola to respond to that if that's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I want to respond to this properly, so I'll respond in English.

(interpretation ends) The signing authority in Nunavut Arctic College, I have not revoked any signing authority, but I have suspended some temporarily.

The institution recently went through a reorganization to realign and build capacity for academic and operational success. As president, I was responsible for authorizing 90 percent of the college's executive and employees' travel and leave. We are implementing the realignment that was approved through cabinet. With 25 percent of our positions vacant, we have concerns over financial controls and leave and attendance oversight.

I did think really hard and it was not an easy decision for me to make to suspend signing authority temporarily, but it was for positions under senior management. It was not only limited to community programs. Having said that, we want to improve corporate efficiency and accountability, so we're putting together a training plan for August, before the new student calendar year, along with processes and procedures led by our finance team.

The Office of the Auditor General did an internal audit that oversees our budgets and spending. He is aware of this and have offered to work with us in coming up with recommendations on what they

might have seen.

When the training is done and there is a full understanding of responsibility under the signing authority, the supervisor of the branch will make a recommendation to me to reassign the signing authority. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'll move on to my next line of questioning and it's regarding the board of governors. The annual report identifies the role of the board of governors. It states that "Nunavut Arctic College is responsible through the Board of Governors to the Minister" responsible of the college. "The Board recommends priorities to the Minister for courses and programs that may be established by the Minister, ensures that for each fiscal year an estimate of revenues and expenditures of the College are prepared and presents budgets to the Minister."

With that being said, the minister has been in his role for a number of months now, over six months, and has indicated that he has not yet had the opportunity to meet with the board of governors. I was wondering how the board is able to present these items and fulfil their role without having met with the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to remind the member to slow down; we have translators. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

you for the question. (interpretation ends) During the board of governors' meetings, the timing hasn't been right with respect to my responsibilities and they are not just solely focused on the colleges. Like I said, they are having an upcoming meeting and I do want to have time to meet with them to go over the letters of expectation amongst other things. I think, moving forward, I can say that during their upcoming meeting, I'll try to make every effort to join it, whether it's through teleconference or otherwise. I need to have a formal working relationship with them, so we've got to start somewhere, and yes, time is going by very rapidly and I noticed that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of curiosity, do the board of governors meet in person or do any of them meet through teleconference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The board meets three times face to face per year, as well as teleconferences every other month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering that the board does meet regularly through teleconference, I highly recommend that the minister take part if he's unable to do so in person.

My next question regarding the board of

governors is they do play a crucial role in oversight of the college. I was wondering if any formal governance training is being provided to these individuals, whether it be finance or human resources or administrative, similar to what's being provided to DEA members and other such government statutory bodies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have President Kolola respond to that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The board of governors meets by teleconference. Also, this past spring we met in Kugluktuk and at that time they explained to me what kind of education courses they want delivered. Next week we're having a teleconference to see when the board would be available and consider new board members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question will be from the minister's opening comments. On page 2 the minister identified that the college had used accumulated surplus to fund some programming. I was wondering: what is the current position of accumulated surplus with Arctic College and how often does the college use these accumulated surplus funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to the vice-president, Mr. Henriksen, if you would allow him. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Henriksen.

Mr. Henriksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Both I and Sheila are relatively new into our role, and we have worked actively to start reviewing the college's budgets as well as our surpluses over the years.

Part of the reason we have accumulated surpluses in the past is because we've had a higher vacancy rate. We have implemented new strategies to increase our vacancy rate. Moving forward, I don't foresee that being the case. Generally speaking, the college does run a modest surplus, but those resources are invested back into the institution where appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is going to be from the business plan. On page NAC-8 of the business plan the top priority in 2018-19 is "The College will launch a Nunavut Arctic College foundation to award scholarships and bursaries..." Would the minister be able to provide us a little bit more information on how the college will go about creating and awarding the scholarship foundation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. If you can have the vice-

president, Mr. Henriksen, respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Henriksen.

Mr. Henriksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the course of this summer we will be meeting with representatives of the board of governors to establish a scope for the Nunavut Arctic College foundation. The Nunavut Arctic College foundation will work certainly to build a pool of scholarships and bursaries that can be awarded and leave a legacy of scholarships and bursaries for our learners, but they will also work to seek corporate contributions from industry to help diversify institutional revenue moving forward. That work is forthcoming and we hope to have much more news in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please be reminded for our translators that you slow down. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, he had mentioned conducting labour market research to identify any labour gaps. I was wondering what this labour research has identified in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand we haven't gotten into community-specific details, but we are looking at what already exists in terms of labour market research in Nunavut, what data is already out there that we don't really need to re-create. Using some of that,

that's some of the areas we want to get further down into the nitty-gritty details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome and good afternoon, minister and your officials.

In regard to your opening comments on page 4, you have some new projects that are going to Arviat, which I'm happy about and I thank you for that. The office there appears to have been upgraded, and I think, this would be very beneficial if it is of use to Arctic College. There are 17.9 new PYs. I would like to know where they are going to be based, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): If you can allow President Kolola to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. The number of positions increased for the upcoming business plan, we have several outside of Iqaluit. Some examples are staffing and HR consultant in Cambridge Bay, two curriculum specialists in Arviat, a senior instructor of culinary arts in Cambridge Bay, security officers at the Kivalliq Hall in Rankin Inlet, environmental technology program instructor in Pond Inlet, and janitorial positions in all our CLCs. The ones in Iqaluit will be a senior policy analyst, a junior policy

analyst, a divisional secretary, and half of a PY of an adult educator to an existing PY. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are two PYs that are going to be based in Arviat. Are those new positions? (interpretation ends) It's a decentralized office. Are these positions that have just been kind of lost and are being brought back or is it a real increase to the number of staff within that office? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are new positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): That's very good. Thank you for that clarification. (interpretation ends) Also in your opening comments here on the fourth page, it says, "The purpose of this realignment was to streamline college operations..." When I think "streamline," I think an easier or maybe even cheaper way to do the work. How are you going to track whether things are being streamlined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): I believe President Kolola can respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The realignment was approved. (interpretation ends) We have realigned the college so that academic responsibility would fall under the vice-president; corporate and strategic planning would fall under the president, working collaboratively, of course. Streamlining and efficiency will come when we're looking at each branch budget, realigning those to fit the reorganization and centralizing some of our budget within the college. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I realize we're short on time, so I can't really go too deep.

When you mention centralizing the budget, does that mean taking spending authority away from community learning centres? What does that refer to in terms of centralizing from where? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. President Kolola can respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) Centralizing is putting the same spending under one. An example would

be that instead of buying IT equipment and software individually as campuses, we would do a needs assessment and order in bulk so that we can have savings. The same goes with Xerox machines and cellphones, if needed, because there are educational discounts that we can access in companies if we centralize some of these budgets and negotiate a better contract.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a comment on page 11 of your business plan, it mentions your ten-year strategy to set the direction of the college. My comment is along the same line of a comment I had for the Department of Economic Development. It mentions making sure that the ten-year strategy fits with the mandate of the Government of Nunavut. The mandate is only good for four years, three and a half years now.

Anyway I would hope that the ten-year strategy would be based on kind of labour force and those types of needs as opposed to the politicians of the day because what do we know, really? You guys are the experts when it comes to education and labour market needs, right? It's just a comment.

Also, I am very happy to see that there is a needs assessment for community learning centres in there. I look forward to that rolling out. It is very important and has been neglected for a certain period.

I have one last question when it comes to

adult educators on page 14. I am likely jumping ahead a bit. It says here, "The Community Learning Centres are all staffed with an Adult Educator." Each community has one adult educator. Has the college given any thought to maybe two adult educators in communities that may have a higher workload? An adult educator in a town of 1,000 people; an adult educator in a town of 2,500 people, the needs and pressures on that community learning centre are different. That's my final question, *Ikhivautaaq*. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. (interpretation ends) Yes, we do add where there's additional programming that's taking place in certain communities. We do add extra supports in place for those depending on the pressures, as the member mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll try to stick with the business plan. When it comes to facing challenges in the colleges in identifying qualified Inuit for instructional and management positions, what success have you had to date in identifying candidates for those types of roles within the college? That's my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but if he can rephrase his question, as I don't quite understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to facing challenges in the colleges in identifying qualified Inuit for instructional and management positions, what success have you had to date in identifying candidates for those types of roles within the college, for example, qualified Inuit for instructional and management positions? Perhaps that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): President Kolola can probably explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. Let me know if I misunderstood your question, but if I understood that, identifying qualified Inuit for instructional positions, we do have instructors and we follow the training programs that are requested by the community, but we do have Inuit managers and directors within Arctic College. We provide support with EIA's leadership program and we also use that at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your explanation. I believe my first question is related to this. (interpretation ends) This is my channel 2. There was a midwifery program that was launched in Cambridge Bay. Do you know what happened to that program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can allow the vice-president, Mr. Henriksen, to respond, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Henriksen.

Mr. Henriksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was actually an enquiry I had myself in speaking to our dean of health and wellness. From what I have come to understand, learners in that program are required to participate in a significant number of live births to ensure that they could manage risks as they went out on their own. In order to do so, learners were sent down south to Edmonton, from what I understand. That resulted in a lot of challenges not only from the perspective of learners and managing their life but also in terms of learner retention. That is just a little bit of background information with regard to midwifery in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and for your response. Is there any discussion in relaunching that program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health has not requested that Arctic College have a midwifery program. If there was interest, I believe it would come to us through that department according to my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as Arctic College, I believe that should be your responsibility other than the Department of Health. If you're going to come up with that program, in your business plan it (interpretation ends) states here, "...Inuktitut, Culture, Entrepreneurship-Science, Technology, Engineering..." I do believe that it would fall under Inuktitut culture when it comes to your business plan in saying that there will be another pilot project with regard to elders-in-residency. I do believe that that program would fall under Inuktitut culture.

I would want to recommend that this program be relaunched, let's say, in Piqqusilirivvik since it is our cultural institution in the Baffin region. Is there any possibility of discussion the Piqqusilirivvik program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the suggestion. (interpretation ends) Similar to nurses, midwives are also regulated in their field. We would

have to take those into consideration about what the requirements are, but we will take his comments under advisement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for taking my suggestion. I know that this is already in your program, but at Piqqusilirivvik there is a satellite training program agreement with Arctic College that this program will be offered in Igloolik. Is that still in the works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been working on satellite campuses in Baker Lake and Igloolik. Those programs have been running to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that explanation. Moving on to a different topic, what about students who are coming from Nunavut communities to Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay? Have you made an agreement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation for when those students don't want to go back to their community and they want to remain in the community where they took their training? If they wanted to move to that community, have you spoken with the housing corporation to make sure that these students that had completed their courses are provided housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say no. Currently we haven't considered that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I gave you a suggestion in regard to the Midwifery Program. For those students who no longer want to go back to their home community after taking their course in a different community, perhaps you need to reconsider it to make sure that if the graduates wanted to work in the community where they took their training and you provide housing for students who are attending Arctic College. They are able to bring some of their family members. If you can look into that once the student graduates from their program, maybe you can provide housing to the student while they're waiting to move to housing corporation units. This is just a suggestion. I'll leave it at that and I'm finished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're done with that page. Next page, N-I-3. Nunavut Research Institute. Any questions? Thank you. Next page, N-I-4. Nunavut Arctic College. Regional Campuses. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier today when the Minister of Economic Development was appearing before the committee, I was asking questions in regard to the mine training program. Looking at the mine training program, Arctic College is responsible in taking the lead in those

programs. How many staff do you have that work with that program? (interpretation ends) How many PYs are on that specific mine training topic, I guess, across the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe President Kolola can respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking about that. For the mine training program, it depends where the training program will be located. (interpretation ends) We have one mine training coordinator at the moment that works with the dean, trades and technology.

The specifics around mine training, we're talking with the Department of ED&T and if the discussions go to what types of training as a whole in the whole territory determine additional PYs would be needed, that would be the time we would look into it.

Right now it's the dean, trades and technology, the mine training coordinator in the Rankin Inlet office. Not specific to mines, but we have trades instructors like the carpentry instructors and the plumber instructors that have occupations in mines. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Kolola. I think you're expecting the programs that you will be working with a university, and we will know soon which university. I would like funding requirements to be considered carefully.

Yes, we need to provide training within Nunavut, but the law program costs over \$7 million over four years. How many students are there? This will cost a lot of money. They should be going to southern universities. I think we should first be dealing with people who can't afford to pay for transportation or those who are unemployed. I'm aware of programs like NTEP. We need to support them and they are provided funding.

(interpretation ends) What I'm trying to say is that the cost of delivery should be a major factor when you are considering delivering university-level courses. I would just strongly encourage the college to take a cost-benefit analysis into mind when it comes to future programs of this sort. If we have to put a million dollars in to train, say, one helicopter pilot in Nunavut, maybe we should not spend that money and send them to a helicopter pilot school somewhere else. It's just an example; just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your first paragraph under regional campuses there is one sentence there that I would just like to get further clarification and at the same time would like to know if it's provided. I know it's provided, but "academic readiness

programs in preparation for College entry or work." Is that centrally located in one particular regional campus and where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. President Kolola is better able to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The workplace readiness and the pre-program for entering into some of our college programs, we deliver the College Foundation Program in the community learning centres, in particular those that have identified wanting to have degree programs in their community, for instance.

We recently did a college foundation in Gjoa Haven this past year. Now there were enough that completed the college foundation and ready to take the NTEP program. We will start the NTEP program in September. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the reply. When I look at the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, and it was duly noted by the Auditor General of Canada that we seriously need bilingual educators within our territory, is that being offered in various communities or is it on a rotation basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) NTEP is currently delivered...the details are on page 18 under Teacher Education. It's listed there and then there's a third party; there's another set of communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're done. Go back to page M-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$38,134,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for asking questions.

I also thank my officials from Nunavut Arctic College, president and vice-president. I would like to thank two other staff members from Arctic College who are in the gallery and they are Jesse Jacobs, policy director, and our chief financial officer, Marcelo Parungao. I also thank our Arctic College staff. I would also like to thank the adult educators in all the communities.

Please let us welcome each other. As well, MLAs, please feel welcome when

you want to visit your community learning centre. We just want to be open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. We will now take a five-minute, short break before reviewing the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

>>Committee recessed at 18:23 and resumed at 18:34

Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would now like to ask Minister Quassa: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Yes, I would like my officials here.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Quassa, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I am

here with Kathy Okpik, Deputy Minister and Virginia Mearns, (interpretation ends) Associate Deputy Minister.

(interpretation) Thank you. This afternoon I welcome the opportunity to present the 2018-19 main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the 2018-2021 business plan.

As a central department that provides support to cabinet, EIA takes the lead on interdepartmental coordination of the government's new mandate, *Tuttarviit*, for departments and agencies and the overall work of the public service. In addition to interdepartmental coordination, EIA continue to move the Government of Nunavut's policy discussions to ensure these interests are represented at the national and international levels.

There are six lines of core business within EIA. They are:

- Directorate
- Strategic Planning
- Sivumuaqatigiit
- Public Service Training
- Intergovernmental Affairs, and lastly Devolution Secretariat

2017-18 was a transitional year. With a new government came a new mandate. EIA is moving forward in supporting *Turaaqtavut* and its five key priority areas.

I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Before getting into the divisional details, I am pleased to report the department's main estimates for the 2018-19 fiscal year totals

\$27,886,000. I am also pleased to present the department's business plan at this time, Mr. Chairman.

The main estimates amount is made up of approximately \$7.96 million allocated towards salaries and benefits, \$365,000 for grants and contributions, and \$9.6 million for the remaining operations and maintenance.

The Directorate, as you know, provides overall management and coordination of activities for the Executive Branch of the government. As secretariat to the cabinet, the deputy minister provides support to the cabinet. The division also provides advisory services regarding access to information and privacy protection issues. The division also provides overall government communications and administrative support to both the department and the Utility Rates Review Council.

The Strategic Planning Division continues to provide advice to cabinet on business plans, strategies, policies, and legislation, as well as support on collecting vital statistical information. The division continues to develop and support initiatives tied to the implementation of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Through the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, the government has been involved in the collection of data that will help the Government of Canada compile information needed for the Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis.

(interpretation) Sivumuaqatigiit continues to be responsible for providing human resources planning and direction on initiatives aimed at increasing and maintaining Inuit employment in the

Government of Nunavut. The division continues to provide assistance and support to departments and agencies in the training and development of their Inuit staff through programs such as the Sivuliqtiksat Internship program. The division remains the central point of contact with regard to the development and implementation of the Government of Nunavut's detailed departmental Inuit employment plans. The division oversees the development and delivery of new training programs and initiatives specifically designed for Inuit employees.

(interpretation ends) The Public Service Training Division is responsible for providing assistance and support to departments in the training and development of their staff.

The Intergovernmental Affairs Division provides leadership and coordination for the management and development of strategies, policies, and initiatives relevant to international, federal, provincial and territorial organizations. The division coordinates matters related Nunavut's seniors, as well as establishing support throughout Nunavut with a network of government liaison officers in each of our communities.

In the 2018-19 fiscal year the Government of Nunavut continues to provide contribution funding to the Nunavut Seniors' Society in the amount of \$150,000. The department remains committed to the advocacy for seniors by ensuring effective delivery of programs and services available to Nunavut's seniors.

The transfer of authority over Crown land and non-renewable resources in

Nunavut is a priority of this government and essential for the territory's long-term political and economic development. The Devolution Secretariat leads the Government of Nunavut's preparation for and participation in negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated towards the conclusion of a devolution agreement. Negotiations are ongoing and the Secretariat continues to work towards an agreement in principle.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present EIA's departmental main estimates and business plan. I welcome comments from the members and look forward to answering your questions. (interpretation) Thank you. I hope that was clear. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2018-19 Main Estimates and 2018-2021 Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2018-19 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,886,000 is the same as was introduced in its 2017-18 and 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has also remained unchanged over the past three fiscal years. Members applaud this example of budgetary restraint.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns. In 2015 the previous government awarded a contract for its "operational audit" initiative. The government's 2015-16 annual report on procurement activities indicates that the value of the contract awarded to the consulting company that was engaged to perform this work was \$340,000. On March 16, 2016 the Summary Report on Phase 1 of the Operational Audit was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, although the standing committee urges the current government to ensure that the final report from the operational audit is tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity, it also cautions against undertaking another government-wide program review exercise of this nature during the life of the current Assembly given the high expense and apparent lack of measurable impact that previous exercises of this nature have actually had on departmental budgets, staffing levels, priorities, and operations.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed budget for the Government Liaison Officer Program for the 2018-19 fiscal year is \$4,024,000. The department's 2016-19 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year was to "Conduct a 360' evaluation of the Government Liaison Officer program with the intent of improving service level expectations." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised a number of concerns and questions regarding the effectiveness of the Government Liaison Officer Program, including the extent to which

GLOs' actual attendance and performance is monitored and evaluated. Mr. Chairman, although members recognize the importance of having such positions continue to be located in small, non-decentralized communities, the need for them to be located in decentralized communities and regional centres has become increasingly questionable.

On March 13, 2017 the government's *Strategic Framework: Addressing the Needs of Seniors* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its roles is to "Coordinate activities pertaining to programs and services delivered by the Government of Nunavut for seniors." Mr. Chairman, it also indicates that it "provides funding to the Nunavut Seniors Society, which has enabled the Society to hire staff and carry out core work functions including partnerships and development of a strategic workplan." The department's proposed 2018-19 main estimates include \$150,000 in proposed contribution funding for the Nunavut Seniors' Society. Given the funding provided to the society by the government, members encourage the minister to table the society's annual reports in the Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has assumed a number of functions and responsibilities that were previously exercised by the Department of Human Resources, which was dissolved on April 1, 2013. Other functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has responsibility for the government's overall Inuit employment

targets. It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made to date in increasing Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Information that is contained in the government's quarterly employment reports indicates that a total of 989 Nunavut Inuit were employed by the government in March of 2003. By March of 2018 that number had increased to 1,794. Mr. Chairman, this represented an increase of approximately 80 percent over the 15-year period. On average the government has added approximately 54 new Nunavut Inuit employees to its workforce each year.

It is important for the government to develop realistic and achievable timetables for achieving full representativeness across all occupational categories in the government. Mr. Chairman, this is a significant challenge. To illustrate, the government's 2017-2020 business plan included a target of having 1,950 Nunavut Inuit employed in the government's ten primary departments by March 31, 2018. However, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicated that as of March 31, 2018, only 1,563 Nunavut Inuit were employed in the government's ten primary departments, which represents a shortfall of 387 employees. Mr. Chairman, the government's proposed 2018-2021 business plan includes a target of having 1,943 Nunavut Inuit employed in the government's ten primary departments by March 31, 2019. In order to achieve this target, the government will have to hire an average of seven new Nunavut Inuit employees per week over the next year.

The magnitude of the long-term challenge cannot be underestimated. Mr. Chairman, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicated that as of March 31, 2018, the Government of Nunavut had a total of 4,885 positions, of which 1,794 were filled by Nunavut Inuit. 1,769 positions were filled by non-Nunavut Inuit. 1,320 positions were vacant. Mr. Chairman, if all of the government's positions were filled and if it had an 85 percent Nunavut Inuit workforce, only 732 non-Nunavut Inuit would be employed by the government. In order to achieve an 85 percent Inuit workforce for a fully staffed organization, the government needs to hire approximately 2,357 new Nunavut Inuit employees and not lose a single one of its current Nunavut Inuit employees.

Mr. Chairman, on September 18, 2017 the Government of Nunavut's new Inuit Language Incentive Policy was announced. Under the policy, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs "will provide Inuit Language training that supports employees to develop and increase their Inuit Language capacity." The 2016-17 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that 160 employees received some form of Inuit language training during the 2016-17 fiscal year. However, neither the duration nor the outcomes of the training are described in the report.

The department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Enable the Inuit language as the working language of the public service through training and performance incentives." Although the standing committee supports the goal of

enhancing the use of the Inuit language in government, especially with respect to frontline positions that directly serve the public, the extent to which the government's limited financial resources can and should be allocated to providing full-time second language training to employees in technical positions whose work does not involve significant interaction with the public is questionable.

The department's proposed 2018-19 main estimates indicate that the Devolution Secretariat has a budget of \$2,228,000 and 10.0 positions. Although the department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that "Tri-partite negotiations of an agreement-in-principle are active and ongoing" and that one of its goals for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Continue and conclude agreement-in-principle negotiations," the department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan also indicates that three positions in the Devolution Secretariat were "temporarily transferred to the Sivumuaqatigiit Division to re-profile to assist with the Inuit Employment and policy development for Article 23" during the 2017-18 fiscal year. It is the standing committee's understanding that these positions remain in the Sivumuaqatigiit Division, which suggests that the Devolution Secretariat may be over-resourced for its actual workload. The standing committee urges the government to publicly clarify the number of federal positions that are envisioned to be transferred to the territorial public service as part of the devolution process. Mr. Chairman, it is also important to be mindful that the transfer of significant numbers of federal positions and personnel may not necessarily have a positive impact on the

territorial government's efforts to achieve a fully representative workforce.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2018-19 Main Estimates and 2018-2021 Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Before going to B-4, we will take a 15-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:57 and resumed at 19:16

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for more information, when I made my opening comments, just for clarity in English, (interpretation ends) the last paragraph when I'm talking about the main estimates amount, it's made up of approximately, I believe I said "7," which I should have said \$17.96 million allocated towards salaries and benefits. (interpretation) I just wanted to make that correction, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,647,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-5. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Any

questions? Thank you. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,028,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-6. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Nunavut Cabinet. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,445,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-7. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$305,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs. Any questions? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, I would like to know which communities do not have a government liaison officer in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Cape Dorset is the only community that doesn't have a government liaison officer, but we're currently recruiting an officer. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The 2018-2021 business plan indicates that "The 360° evaluation was completed in April 2017. Using this feedback, the (interpretation ends) Government Liaison Officer (interpretation) program..." I'm not sure how you say it in Inuktitut. "...continues to expand and increase its network to assist Nunavummiut access programs that are needed." What specific new services will the (interpretation ends) government liaison officers (interpretation) provide to residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the reference to the 360-degree evaluation, it was completed by the previous government. (interpretation ends) I'll just say that overall indicators of the program. It's working well in most of the communities. Communities are receptive to the GLO officers (interpretation) because they provide a lot of service to the communities. (interpretation ends) Certainly what was suggested in areas of improvement were performance management, providing extra support to larger centres, and your question in what the GLOs would do.

First of all, they're mandated to deliver government programs at the community level. Delivery of programs could include such as issuance of driver's licence or general identification cards. In some cases, although there were some delays in issuance of driver's licence or general identification cards, (interpretation) they also have other responsibilities, which I outlined

previously. Some have taken courses in doing income tax returns and they are there to provide that service. The GLOs have different responsibilities that they provide in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Premier and your staff.

I have one question. Your department's draft 2018-19 main estimates include \$150,000 in proposed contribution funding for the Nunavut Seniors' Society. Your department's 2018-2021 business plan indicates, "Continue working relationship with the Nunavut Seniors Society on areas of joint interest pertaining to Seniors in Nunavut." What specific initiatives will the Nunavut Seniors' Society and your department be working on during the 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. We will be giving them \$150,000 for their operational needs and for the society's salaries, office expenses, and there's money set aside if they have to travel anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-9. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Sivumuaqatigiit. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,046,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Public Service Training. Any questions? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Enable the Inuit language as the working language of the public service through training and performance incentives." To what extent is it realistic to remove the use of English in the workplace in such fields as medicine, information technology, engineering, law, and accounting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. I'll first say that in 1999 that was one of our goals and it's one of the reasons why we have our own land claim. Inuktitut has to be the working language in the public service, as it should be. It's a long-term goal and it is ongoing where we provide training and performance incentives.

As you indicated and to make an addition, in 2018-19 we have increased the amount budgeted for language training. There is \$400,000 available for that purpose. I hope I responded to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Public Service Training. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,852,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-11. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Devolution Secretariat. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that "Tri-partite negotiations of an agreement-in-principle are active and ongoing" and that one of its goals for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Continue and conclude agreement-in-principle negotiations..." How many formal negotiation sessions have taken place over the past six months and how many are scheduled to take place over the next six months? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you for that great question. Just recently we had negotiations and from December 2016, there were 12 formal negotiation sessions. As I indicated earlier, we just finished a negotiation session and starting in July onward, we will have additional negotiations to conclude the agreement in principle. We're looking at the fall. That's where we are at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. Again, your department's draft 2018-19 main estimates include funding for 10 PYs in the Devolution Secretariat. As of today, how many of these positions are filled with indeterminate employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): To date there are five positions filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: how many of these positions were filled with indeterminate employees? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): I indicated that there were five; (interpretation ends) five, including a summer student for the summer. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately how many federal positions does the GN want to see transferred to the territorial government as part of the devolution process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) During the negotiations, these are still confidential. Again, they're at the table discussing

these things. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been talk around the precinct yesterday and today that you may have appointed a new chief negotiator for Nunavut. Could you please confirm whether that is true or not and, if so, who has been chosen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm happy to say that we have chosen a new chief negotiator. The chief negotiator started on Monday, or yesterday. Was it Monday? That will be formally announced on Friday, which is Paul Okalik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Devolution Secretariat. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,228,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page B-3. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,886,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my staff who do a lot of work because of course they're working for the people of Nunavut. That's the goal of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I would like to thank all who were here and those working behind the scenes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

>> *Committee recessed at 19:33 and resumed at 19:34*

Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials and proceed with your

opening comments. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the DM, Pauloosie Suvega, and to my left is Niki Nweze, Director of Corporate Management. I'll go on to my opening comments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present my department's business plan and main estimates for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2018-19 is \$27,742,000. There has been no increase from 2017-18. However, the department will receive one term PY for water strategy (project manager of water strategy) with the term end date of March 31, 2021. This PY will be funded internally.

Climate change is an increasingly important issue in Nunavut, and in the coming year the department will continue to work with the Government of Canada to begin implementing the new *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

By partnering with other organizations whenever possible, the Department of Environment continues to be successful in maximizing the impact of our funds. In the 2017-18 fiscal year we were able to leverage over \$5.7 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in the 2018-19 year.

Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq, or environmental stewardship, continues to be a key element of our department's focus, as does our commitment to

recruiting a representative workforce. In the coming year we will be implementing a number of initiatives to work towards increasing the proportion of Inuit employees in the department.

This year my staff will work with stakeholders to develop a plan for a Nunavut water strategy and we will continue to provide input on development projects within the territory as well as work with our partners towards the achievement of the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

The department is responsible for the administration of the *Wildlife Act* and is responsible for fulfilling the government's responsibilities concerning wildlife management as mandated under federal legislation, national and international agreements and conventions, and the co-management of wildlife as required under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Mr. Chairman, last year I provided an update on the development of Nunavut's Polar Bear Management Plan, which was developed in cooperation with co-management partners, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, regional wildlife offices, and hunters and trappers organizations. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board public hearing process for the plan was delayed due to concerns from communities about funding more community participants to the hearings. The board informed us that they are committed to proceeding with the process this year. As soon as the plan has gone through the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* approval process, I will table the plan to the Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Environment's draft 2018-2021 business plan identifies the department's intent to develop and implement a number of wildlife management initiatives over the next three fiscal years, including a number of population estimates for various polar bear populations, such as the Davis Strait and Lancaster Sound polar bear populations. Caribou management also continues to be a high priority for the department and over the next three years will continue to focus resources on caribou management.

In 2018-19 the department will provide the results of last year's Qamanirjuaq caribou herd study to the co-management partners and, if needed, identify relevant management actions. We will also continue with the Baffin Island caribou monitoring initiatives. I am pleased to announce we were recently able to staff the Baffin Island regional biologist position who will be working with the Baffin Island communities to finalize the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan. Once this plan has been approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, I commit to also tabling the plan to the Legislative Assembly.

Wildlife harvesting plays a vital role in the economic, cultural and physical health of our communities. We will continue our program of developing education resources aimed at promoting safe and responsible hunting practices in the territory.

In the 2017-18 fiscal year our Territorial Parks and Special Places Division will be finalizing master plans and mineral assessment for the new proposed parks in Arviat and Sanikiluaq, and we will

complete a management plan for the existing park in Kugluktuk. In keeping with our obligations under the Territorial Parks Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement, we will also establish co-management committees in Arviat, Kimmirut, and Iqaluit.

Mr. Chairman, sustainable fisheries development in Nunavut is guided by our department's renewed 2016-2020 Nunavut Fisheries Strategy. Our fisheries have the potential to significantly increase the prosperity and food security of current and future generations through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, science, and community engagement. The department's research vessels, the Nuliajuk and the Papiuruq, the coastal resource inventories, aquatic monitoring programs, and various strategy developments and partnerships with stakeholders, universities, federal departments, and industry are all positive and ongoing contributions to sustainable fisheries development for Nunavut.

The department continues to deliver the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory project in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This project records and maps *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* of aquatic life to better inform resource management and sustainable development activities and may also be used to look at impacts of climate change and other environmental issues. Upon completion of the Baker Lake inventory, the department will have completed inventories for all Nunavut communities and will commence the distribution of the final report.

Mr. Chairman, the department, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans

Canada and the Canadian Northern Development Agency, has successfully continued our Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program. Six communities have received the program to date and a further two are planned for this fiscal year. We also follow up with communities that have completed the program to advance their fisheries. As a result of this program, Pond Inlet now has a successful inshore turbot fishery that we anticipate will develop into a significant economic activity for the community.

Mr. Chairman, the department's mandate includes the seal and fur sectors. These two traditional economies are seeing strong sustainable growth in Nunavut and are having positive impacts on small, resource-based communities. We focus our support on our vibrant local and national markets for seal and fur products, and also work to increase the international trade of Inuit-made products through our work with the Government of Canada's Seal Market Access Program. This program helps to minimize trade barriers in Inuit-made sealskin products. The department is now able to certify sealskins and seal products for sale anywhere in the European Union. Sales of products have already taken place in Sweden, France, Estonia, and Scotland, as well as Norway and Iceland.

We have seen the local demand for seal products remains high and we now have several businesses operating with seal products as their main attraction. The department provided harvesters with a 25 percent increase in the purchase price of sealskins into our Sealskin Purchasing Program and we hope to see more harvesters selling their sealskins into this

program to support this traditional economy. The department is working towards a Nunavut seal and fur strategy that will help guide this sector in the future.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's 2018-19 main estimates and business plan will bring real benefits to the people and wildlife who call Nunavut home. Thank you for this opportunity to share our plans with you. I will be pleased to take any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do and there seems to be a lot of them.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2018-19 Main Estimates and 2018-2021 Business Plan of the Department of Environment.

The department's proposed 2018-19 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,742,000 remains unchanged from the 2017-18 fiscal year. The number of positions in the department also remains unchanged at 139.5. The standing committee applauds the minister for this example of fiscal restraint.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The Department of Environment's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its ongoing priorities has been to "Work with the Government of Canada to establish the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*." It also indicates that "The Climate Change Secretariat is working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to ensure implementation and reporting of the Framework is occurring in a coordinated approach across the Government of Nunavut." This includes the stated goal of "Supporting the Department of Finance on carbon pricing." I note that the work of the Climate Change Secretariat was the subject of extensive discussion on the occasion of our recent televised hearing on the *2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on Climate Change in Nunavut*.

The department's proposed 2018-19 main estimates include \$2,078,000 in grants and contributions funding for a variety of programs to support harvesters, as well as the fishing and sealing industry. The department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that the department "conducted an evaluation of its funding programs and re-profiled funding to better align programming with the department's conservation and wildlife research and monitoring priorities."

The department's new *Support for Harvesters and Wildlife Co-Management Policy* was approved in May of 2017 and expires on March 31 of 2022. Its new *Seal and Fur Programs Policy* was approved in May of 2017 and expires on March 31 of 2022. The

standing committee strongly recommends that annual reports concerning the administration of these programs be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The current *Wildlife Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2003. Most provisions of the statute came into force on July 9, 2005. Section 176 of the statute requires the minister to prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive report every five years concerning wildlife management programs and related matters. The 2013 report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 19 of 2013. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of the 2018 report.

The Department of Environment's 2017-2020 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year was to "Finalize the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan." However, its proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that "Progress on the Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan has been slowed due to capacity issues. Development of the management plan will continue and is anticipated to be completed in 2019-2020." The standing committee also notes that the 2018 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada "proposes to amend the *Nunavut Act* to resolve the legal gap for the Government of Nunavut to manage wildlife pertaining to Indigenous harvesting for game food." A number of concerns have been expressed by Members of the Legislative Assembly about the impact that large-scale private sales of meat have had on the health of certain caribou populations. The standing committee recognizes that this is a complex issue and that the

engagement of all parties, including NTI, regional wildlife boards, and hunters and trappers organizations, will be required to address it.

The Minister of Environment is responsible for administering the territory's *Environmental Protection Act*, which includes provisions concerning the discharge of contaminants into the environment. The department's proposed 2018-19 main estimates include \$150,000 in funding for a new "Water Program," the stated purpose of which is to "support building capacity and knowledge prior to the devolution of marine resource-related responsibilities from the Government of Canada. It also supports negotiations on transboundary watershed agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions, as per Section 13.10.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*."

The proposed 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that it has "received and distributed for review among relevant regulators, stakeholders, and communities, its findings regarding the feasibility of evidence based options for appropriate water and wastewater regulations for Nunavut, and will continue to work with stakeholders to incorporate findings into the development of an overall water security strategy." The department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Initiate the development of a drinking water strategy framework." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area. It will be important for both departments to coordinate their work in this area.

Notes included in the Government of Nunavut's 2016-17 public accounts indicate that "The Government recognizes that there are costs related to the remediation of environmentally contaminated sites for which it is responsible. As of March 31, 2017, there were 7 sites...identified as requiring environmental remediation. For those sites where the Government of Nunavut expects to give up future economic benefits due to a legal order or plans to remediate contamination (e.g., due to the risk to human health), and is responsible or has accepted responsibility for remediation, and a reasonable estimate can be determined for remediation costs, a liability has been recorded in these consolidated financial statements. The Government [of Nunavut] has identified an additional 71 sites on Commissioner's land for which liabilities for contamination may exist for assessment, remediation and monitoring.

(...) The Government acquired ownership of sites and activities associated with airports, tank farms and power plants on creation of the Territory on April 1, 1999. The contamination of certain sites occurred when other parties were responsible for the use of and/or held tenure to the sites. The Government has estimated that remediation of contamination at 14 storage tank farm sites and 25 power plant sites would cost approximately [\$9.7 million] and [\$38.4 million]...In addition, the Government has estimated that remediation at the other sites could cost between [\$55.0 million] and [\$126.0 million], depending on the approach taken. No liability for remediation of these 71 sites has been recognized in these consolidated financial statements as the Government

does not expect to give up any future economic benefits (i.e. [there is] no legal requirement to remediate). Going forward, a liability for remediation of these or other identified sites will be recognized if future economic benefits will be given up (i.e. public health risk or legal requirement).

Most storage tank farms and power plants are monitored on a regular basis to ensure the containment of the identified contaminants. For the other Government of Nunavut's operations and/or sites, there is no ongoing monitoring program in place, but plans for one are to be developed in the near future.

In addition, the Government has identified 143 sites where garages, public works facilities, quarries, sewage disposal/treatment and solid waste sites and activities are generally located and conducted within municipal boundaries and governed by municipal legislation. Contamination at these sites and activities within municipal boundaries and jurisdiction are the responsibility of municipalities to monitor and remediate if necessary.”

The Department of Environment's 2017-2020 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year was to “Complete any outstanding work required to assign an accurate dollar figure to GN environmental liabilities, and explore options for moving forward.” The department's proposed 2018-2021 business plan indicates that “High-end estimates were completed – ongoing work will continue to narrow down high-end costs as well as updating the Contaminated Sites database.” The

standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2018-19 Main Estimates and 2018-2021 Business Plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. If there are any students watching, keep going to school. You will be reading like Mr. Rumbolt.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. We're on page I-4. Environment. Corporate Management. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. Recent research has indicated that even a few degrees in change in the temperature could have a drastic effect on marine wildlife. Does the department agree with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we would have to because from what we hear with climate change, where it is increasing there could be invasive species moving in or it could be better for one type of species and not as good for the other. Generally, yes, I guess we would have to say we agree. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further research has indicated that in areas where terrestrial biodiversity is as shallow as ours,

wildlife is substantially susceptible to any sort of fluctuations. Would the department also agree with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general we would have to agree because we see that species that were not seen before are seen more in different places where they weren't before. Yes, in general, we have to say we agree with that. Climate is always changing and animals come and go and move. His statement, I would say, would be correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*, or environmental stewardship. The world is at a tipping point and the marine wildlife and the land-based wildlife that we depend on are at threat and that's due to climate change. If environmental stewardship is such a major priority to us, I'm curious to find out why the Government of Nunavut has not done more to help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change and begin climate change adaptation strategies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Climate Change Secretariat is working toward that and we work with other departments to mitigate the effects of climate change as best as we can. For example, Community and Government Services,

with our department, has done permafrost mapping in communities where the ground is more stable and better to build and where it's less stable. We have done mitigating stuff like when we build any large structures, we have put thermosiphons in them to keep the permafrost frozen. We have programs, not just Environment but others like Housing would have programs where they can apply for renovation money to better insulate their houses, buy new windows, buy new doors, and maybe get energy-efficient appliances.

Just to put it in the big picture, I'm not saying we're not going to do anything, but if we as the territory of Nunavut quit using all fossil fuels, if we shut it off and there are no more fossil fuels being burnt, there would be 0.1 percent of the greenhouse gases that Canada produces not going up. This is how much greenhouse gases Nunavut produces: 0.1 percent of Canada's greenhouse gases. We do put out a lot per capita, but in the big picture, we don't put out much. That's not say we're not going to try to lessen that. We will tap into any federal programs that are there for us to lessen our greenhouse gases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister in that if we stopped producing greenhouse gases in Nunavut, it would have a minimal effect on the world. If every country, territory, province, and jurisdiction in the world thought that way, then no one would make the effort to make the necessary changes. I don't think it's very responsible to use that as an excuse.

I would like to move on to my next question. I would like to thank the Qulliq Energy Corporation for introducing the net metering program, and that's definitely a step in the right direction. There is currently a barrier preventing residents from accessing this net metering program and it's the lack of experience in certified solar technicians in our territory. Has the Department of Environment or the minister identified that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before answering his question, let's go back to... It's not an excuse that I present; it's just facts. It's a fact what I said that we produce 0.1 percent. I also stated that we are doing stuff to try to mitigate in terms of climate change and to lessen our greenhouse gas effect. It's not an excuse; these were facts that I presented.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of the expertise to install or put solar panels and wind generators and that kind of energy stuff, no, we have not identified that because we don't feel it's part of our mandate. Climate Change could look at that and we would work with other departments to try to get that. If the net metering takes off and we start getting more funds from the federal government because there are a lot of funds to access for climate change, then we could work with other departments and look at stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Across Canada and the world, there are many institutions that provide

training and allow participants to become certified in solar installation. Colleges offer diploma programs for alternative energy technicians.

You can even become a certified solar installer in as short as a five-day workshop. I was wondering if the minister would be willing to commit to working with one of our other departments or agencies to coordinate one of these workshops to come up to our communities and teach our interested residents in how to install these technologies.

I don't think it should be necessary for individuals to have to fly up technicians to do this installation when it's as easy as a five-day course. Would the minister commit to working with another department or agency to have these workshops in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would be willing to look at that and work with them. I can see that there are community learning centres in every community, so we can work with Nunavut Arctic College and try to come up with something if the desire and the need are there for such training programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I would also like to state that I have been contacted by many constituents and I can tell the minister that there is a desire, demand, and need for such training here in

Iqaluit. I would appreciate if the Department of Environment would work with Arctic College to take advantage of the empty classroom space this summer to provide these types of workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Is it just a comment? Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you, I thought it was a comment. If the member can restate it so I can hear the question and answer it properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The demand, the desire, and the need are here in Iqaluit. I would like to request the minister if he would be willing to commit to trying his best to facilitating one of these workshops as early as this summer and taking advantage of the empty classroom space at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can work with Arctic College and bring up the idea with them and see how receptive they are to it. If the demand is there, then I don't see a problem. It's probably not just as simple as booking a classroom and anyone can teach. I assume we've got to find a guy who can teach it who is certified to give out certificates, but yes, we can look at working with Arctic College to see if it's possible to put on something like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on

my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good evening, minister and welcome to staff.

(interpretation) On page 181 (interpretation ends) on carbon pricing and climate change, the fourth bullet says, "Work with the Government of Canada to establish the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*." The status says, "The Climate Change Secretariat is working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to ensure implementation and reporting of the Framework is occurring in a coordinated approach across the Government of Nunavut.

Ongoing Climate Change Secretariat implementation activities include:

- Supporting the Department of Finance on carbon pricing."

Now, the Minister of Finance mentioned earlier during this session that the carbon tax is going to cost the people of Nunavut an extra \$15 million, which will be anything from buying groceries, buying fuel for the homes, buying gasoline, fuel for the boats. (interpretation) Everything will increase in price and we will be paying an extra \$15 million in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) what does the Department of Environment know about the carbon tax? How much carbon emissions does Nunavut put out? (interpretation ends) How do you measure the carbon that is being put out into our atmosphere? (interpretation)

Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll do my best to explain it.

When any carbon fuels are burned, it gives off greenhouse gases; it gives out carbon dioxide. Gasoline, naphtha, propane, jet fuel, diesel, and all of that give off at a certain rate. They know how much fuel and gasoline comes into Nunavut and they know what the sales are, and then they convert that to gallons. I'll use gasoline for example. One lbs. of gasoline burned will produce six lbs. of greenhouse gas. I had a hard time figuring that out too. I even asked for a cartoon to be given out to people to better understand it, but what it is, when the gas is emitted from the exhaust from whatever is burning the carbon, it collects other gas on its way up and that's why it increases from one lb. to six lbs. That's the best I can explain it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. Is that why we're going to pay an extra \$15 million for the coming year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They know how much fuel we burn, so that is the estimate on how much extra it would cost. The federal government has imposed this tax on us people in Nunavut. We have argued that this tax will not get the desired effects for the people of Nunavut. We don't have any alternatives right now, so we're

still going to burn the same amount of fuel to produce the greenhouse gas. Yes, they calculate the weight from what we burn times \$10 a tonne. That's how they come up with that figure of \$15 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$15 million that the government is going to collect on the backs of Nunavummiut, is that supposed to reduce the carbon emissions that are produced in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just go a step back. If you were down south and you had... . What the federal government was hoping for is if you had an alternative, you would use less greenhouse gas burning fuel and go with something more environmentally friendly. We don't have a choice here. For the time being, we're still going to burn the same amount of fuel.

This carbon tax that is collected by the federal government, the federal government has said that they will return 100 percent of it back to the province where it is collected. We will get that money back and it can be used for programs that would lessen greenhouse gas. I'm not saying that is what it's going to be used for yet. It hasn't been decided yet on how this is going to work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$15 million that the federal

government is going to impose on the people of Nunavut, they're going to give it to you and you're supposed to produce "green" programs out of that \$15 million. What is the department doing in anticipation of receiving that \$15 million to programs that the minister just talked about? What are the programs that we're going to see? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money will come back to the Government of Nunavut, but it's not specifically going to the Department of Environment. We're not anticipating any use for it right now until the government figures out how this money that the federal government says they will return to us will be spent.

We have programs under the Climate Change Secretariat where we can access federal funding to do certain things that would lower our greenhouse gas emissions. There are a lot of federal programs that we can access for different projects to do stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The carbon tax is what we as Nunavummiut are going to pay the federal government and the money will eventually be just given back to the Nunavut government. Meanwhile all the prices of all things that we have to buy in stores will go up in price. Everything we buy has to come by air. Is everything going to be more expensive now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that looks like it. Everything is going to get more expensive because everything is bought from the south and sent up here by plane or ship. They use fuel and gas. Looking at what you were talking about, I imagine that everything is going to rise in price. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. (interpretation) I will move on to another subject. You were talking about caribou in the Baffin region and that you're going to monitor the caribou. We also have caribou in Coral Harbour. After the rain in the fall, there were quite a few deaths of caribou. As we were told, we have an island not far from Coral Harbour where we go caribou hunting in the summer. Does the government have any programs set for Coral Harbour caribou? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Coral Harbour caribou population, there was a two-year count of caribou. We don't have any plans to monitor the caribou in Coral Harbour, but we would see whether there's a decline or an increase in the population of the caribou. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For your information, the caribou in Coral Harbour were dying after the rain in the fall. I had a cache not

too far from my place. I went to go get my cache during Christmas. I saw four caribou that had recently died from starvation. We have quite a lot of hunters in our community and they also said they saw a large number of caribou that had died after that rain. That's for your information, minister. Thank you. That's it. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name on the list, Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to stick with the Climate Change Secretariat theme while we're on it. I noticed that there are seven PYs associated with the secretariat. Can the minister update on what the staffing levels currently are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Don't shoot the messenger, but right now we have two PYs filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As mentioned earlier by my colleague, there are a number of different activities that the Climate Change Secretariat implementation is in control of, and one of those is continuing to assess permafrost thaw in Nunavut communities through the development of hazard maps. How many communities have been completed and which ones? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just read off the list and make sure I have it. They have done seven communities in Nunavut and those seven communities are Arviat, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, and Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When is Iqaluit slated to get done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know right now, but on that, a lot of the construction here is done on bedrock, which I believe would not be vastly affected by permafrost, if it's going way far down bedrock, but I can't tell the member exactly when it's slated for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize a lot of infrastructure is built on bedrock, but there is also a lot of utilidor infrastructure throughout the community and in other communities across the territory.

One of the issues that I know I have been dealing with in my constituency, there have been some utilidor issues that, in my opinion and in some of the opinions of residents, some of these root issues are caused by permafrost shifting and moving solid utilidor systems and losing joints and things like that, where it's creating a challenge for the City of Iqaluit and likely for Rankin Inlet and

Resolute Bay as well. I'm not sure what other communities have utilidor systems.

To me, I think prioritizing communities with utilidor systems so that we can leverage that information to show justification to some of our funding partners on the speed and necessity of which projects need to be explored. Can I just get a commitment from the minister that he will take into consideration prioritizing communities with utilidor systems, starting with Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I was thinking about most of Nunavut where the permafrost is mainly for building houses on. Yes, I have heard about permafrost issues here in Iqaluit where permafrost is way more active now. There is a lot of breakage to pipes. Some may be due to age, but I'm pretty sure a lot of it has to do with the permafrost moving back and forth. We can look at it.

We have another thing here about northern infrastructure standardization initiatives. I'll just get the DM to elaborate on that a bit because that falls closely to what you're asking there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of northern infrastructure standardization, permafrost mapping, and also foundations, those are the sorts of things that we're working in partnership within this government, within the territory, also with other northern partners.

A lot of our work is we try to ensure that anything that's new that is being captured. We're also trying to report and share with our other colleagues as we try to share information across jurisdictions to see how we can better feed information to each other that can develop new and better standards that meet today's needs. One of those would be things like the northern adaptation website. A lot of the future reporting we hope to try to capture in the next little while. We will end up feeding those types of information publicly, so we can make it publicly available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that detailed information. I'm just going to go back to the minister's comment earlier where he agreed that permafrost shifting or deterioration is a likely culprit in some of our utilidor issues.

I would just like to ask the minister what type of communication he has with his federal counterpart on accessing some of these climate change infrastructure programs. How likely would they be to look at funding communities with utilidor issues without such a detailed permafrost analysis and mapping? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would need that to prove that the permafrost is more active than it was before. This mapping would be useful in terms of getting a baseline data for the future. "If the permafrost was this active before, then it's now this

active and the pipes are breaking more than that” would be very good evidence that is active permafrost-related damages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s my desire to have this program accelerated and really looked into. Those issues are ongoing today.

I would just like to move on to the issue of carbon pricing, as it was brought up in the first implementation activity where it says “Supporting the Department of Finance on carbon pricing.” Can the minister describe how the Climate Change Secretariat supported the Department of Finance with a carbon pricing calculation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as I stated earlier, our department does the calculation for Finance to figure out how much greenhouse gases that we as Nunavut would emit, and then we know it’s \$10 a tonne for greenhouse gases, and then we would pass that on to the Department of Finance as we have the expertise in our department to figure out, like I said, how to calculate it. Then the Department of Finance would figure out how much it would cost then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ministers of environment are the signatories on the carbon pricing, thus carbon taxing. I understand, when you’re

talking tax, it seems to naturally go to the Department of Finance, yet the signatories were the ministers of environment across the country. I’m sure there were a number of different options available to us.

I know my colleague did mention the concern with raising prices, and I have raised the concern in the House on us relinquishing control of how those price increases are going to impact Nunavummiut where we have now lost the opportunity to provide exemptions to certain demographics or certain practices like hunters or marine transportation or even air travel. I know some jurisdictions have that flexibility where we don’t anymore with this decision to go with just the federal imposed tax regime.

Are there going to be any further analysis and further work on examining the impacts as they arise and further discussions on actually having our own carbon tax created so that we can take some of that control back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don’t really have much control. The federal government has said, “You will be paying \$20 a tonne on greenhouse gas and it’s going to go up \$10 a tonne until it reaches the maximum in five years at \$50 a tonne.”

I guess we could have had control in terms of providing a subsidy, but in terms of the amount we’re going to pay, whether we did it or the federal government, the amount would have been the same. The amount of carbon tax

that is collected was not going to change. In fact we might have had less money to use then because we would have to do all of the administrative costs associated with collecting and then using the carbon tax for whatever purpose our government decides to use it on.

Other provinces may have exemptions and stuff. I'm not sure how they work, but we as a government did ask for exemptions to the federal government. First we asked for a total exemption because we said that we have no alternatives and that was not done. We asked for an exemption again not to tax fuel use for transportation, fuel use for generating power, and fuel use for heating. To date we have not received any word that we're any exemptions.

We have always been told that there were going to be special circumstances for us or treated differently for the northern territories, but as of today we don't have anything concrete other than we will be paying the tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

In the business plan I think you don't have very many staff. There is a 34 percent vacancy rate. Why is it that you're having a hard time filling those positions? What's the cause of those vacancies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is more than one reason, but the biggest one is having housing. Before we get staff housing, it's hard to fill the position when there's no housing available. I'll have my Deputy Minister, Mr. Suvega, respond, Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Trying to fill the positions is quite hard sometimes because we try to work with other entities and we lose out to other departments too when they open positions in Nunavut. Employees are not just interested in working for the government. They do want to work for other organizations or mining companies and some staff move out of the territory. That's one of the reasons why it's very difficult to fill the positions right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern in regard to the carbon tax that was mentioned. I know that it's going to increase the cost of living for Nunavummiut.

We have heard through the media (interpretation ends) the topic of heavy fuel oil use in terms of shipping. I was reading about it in the news and it's something that they're looking at trying to cut down because when the ships burn this heavy fuel oil, it releases a lot of soot. I guess it's bad, especially in the Arctic. Does the department have a position on the potential ban of the use of heavy fuel oil in shipping?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a position on it because the federal government will dictate whether they want to ban heavy fuel or not, but we are aware that if the ban goes ahead, the price of shipping goods will probably go up because the reason these ships use it is because it's cheaper. My understanding is they use it when they're in ports or getting close to ports, but...I mean, sorry, no. They use regular diesel when they're in ports and going close to communities so that there are less pollutants there, but in their transits is when they use it and most of the larger ships do use this heavy bunker fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the federal government starts implementing this or when it comes into effect, do you have a figure to increase the price or do you have any calculation as to how much of an increase it will have on Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we haven't calculated that, but we will do a review. I know that all Nunavummiut will be impacted. All the Nunavut communities receive shipments through cargo ships. At this time we don't know how much of an increase it will have, but the cargo ships would

know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm concerned about carbon tax because it will affect all Nunavummiut. Do you have any plans to provide support to the harvesters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time no, but the harvester support program is not going to change and they could possibly be provided support through that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Environment. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,880,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page I-5. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2018-19 main estimates include \$10,000 in funding for the Fur Pricing Program. The budget for this program was \$70,000 during the 2017-18 fiscal year. How was the amount of this decrease determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just went from one department to the other and the money is

still there. This is to do with accounting, so I'll let the accounting expert, Ms. Nweze, answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We decreased the budget for the Fur Pricing Program grant to \$10,000. This program was not being utilized very well in the past, so we decided to create a new program by taking \$60,000 out of the program and creating another program, the Seal and Fur Contribution Program, which has a \$150,000 budget. That's the reason we decreased the grant program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hunters saw the carbon pricing coming into effect in the near future. With that, is the department finding out that there are a fewer number of fur-bearing hunters within the territory in whole? This \$60,000 drop, I understand the official's response, but does the Department of Environment see a decline in fur-bearing hunters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if there's an actual decline, but when the fur prices are good, then there are generally more people, more trappers and hunters going after the fur. When the fur prices drop on certain animals, the number of people that are going after them, hunters and trappers, also drop. I wouldn't say that there is a drop, but from year to year certain species are more sought after

depending on the price of that species. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just move on to the next question I have, which is a whole different thing. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Harvesters Support Program was recently reviewed by that organization. NTI provides funding for equipment purchases and community hunts.

Your department's draft 2018-19 main estimates include funding for the government's Community Harvesters Assistance Program and the Community Organized Hunts Program has been eliminated. To what extent did your department coordinate its harvesters support program changes with those made by NTI to its Harvesters Support Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to make sure that we had no duplication of programs. Consultation with them was both for their program and our program. We worked with them and talked with them in the process of them developing theirs and us developing our program to make sure that they were complement of each other and not duplicating the benefits to the hunters and trappers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may be my last question.

I'm not sure if it was asked, but your department's draft 2018-2021 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to "Work with Health Canada to report the Air Quality Health Index for all communities with air quality monitoring stations." As of today, which Nunavut communities have air quality monitoring stations in operation? I hope Baker Lake has one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hope is eternal.

Right now Iqaluit has the only operating station and the next communities that will have operating air quality data will be Arviat, Pond Inlet, and Kugluktuk. The reason those three communities are next is because they are the regional centres of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do hope the next set of communities is with industry considering that industry can have an impact on the air quality. I hope to hear a commitment from the minister. My final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Mr. Chairman, we will get those three up and running and then from there we will look at other communities. We would like to get that running in all communities eventually so that we can have baseline data so we can see what the air quality is doing from

now.

For any project to work good, we need baseline data on whatever project we're working on so that we will know if there are any changes happening to whatever we are deciding to study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The 2018-19 draft estimates speak about hunters who lost equipment were receiving \$100,000 and this fund has been increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000. How can you justify this increase? When I think of this, our climate is changing and many hunters lose equipment such as skidoos when the sea ice is too thin.

Now, in contrast with the farmers down south, when rain doesn't arrive on time, they lose their entire crops and the federal government provides a subsidy totalling over many millions of dollars. They provide a fund to the farmers. Why isn't the Government of Nunavut providing this type of all-encompassing subsidy or haven't requested this type of assistance from the federal government much like the farmers' subsidy? Our hunters are similar here in Nunavut, and we have to have this type of assistance program.

This is related to our weather that is changing, or (interpretation ends) climate change, (interpretation) causing changes in our seasons. The federal government provides over \$20 billion to foreign countries due to climate change. Has the minister considered under the (interpretation ends) Disaster

Compensation Program (interpretation) if they can relay that message to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have not had any talks with the federal government on how to supplement or if we can ask for money for our disaster compensation. Just to explain a little bit about it, the reason this fund is not increased is because it was oversubscribed. We always had more people applying for it than the amount of money we had.

There are also criteria in order for you to qualify for this program. You have to be going hunting, hunting or coming back from hunting, you have to make 25 percent of your income off the land. It's got quite stringent guidelines for people to apply.

I'm not sure what kind of response we would get from the federal government in terms of equipment replacement due to natural causes that were beyond the control of the client. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment, an observation on my part. There's a huge subsidization for farmers in the south when their crops fail. Now, climate change is affecting Nunavut. The minister is telling me that in order to get into disaster compensation, we have stringent guidelines; 25 percent of our income has to be based on hunting. With the fur prices down, Greenpeace almost

eliminated the seal fur price. Those criteria have to be reviewed because the hunters are paying for skidoos that are at \$20,000, Hondas at \$30,000, on top of that, bullets and rifles. That's humongous. \$100,000 in funding for the Disaster Compensation Program does not even amount to one farmer's subsidization.

If the Government of Canada can subsidize farmers when their crops fail to the tune of millions and millions, then the minister should approach the Government of Canada to reconsider the Disaster Compensation Program. Those are just comments. I don't want an answer. I know I will get a beautiful answer and I will not be happy with it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The minister wants to respond. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to respond. This program is aimed at low-income hunters. That's why we have the guidelines that we have. If you have full-time employment, another option that is available to you is you can buy insurance for your snowmobile, for your ATV or whatever. That option is available for people who have full-time employment. This is to help hunters who don't have jobs and it's their only source of income as hunters.

If you're a full-time hunter and you don't have a job, it's very easy to make the 25 percent because you're getting 100 percent of your income from hunting. There's no threshold on the income. It's just a percentage of your income. If you're a full-time hunter and you've got no employment, you will fit

within the income guidelines. There are other guidelines that you have to follow, but in terms of if you're a full-time hunter and you do not have employment, then you will qualify financially. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. (interpretation ends) It has been a very long day, so just one question. Under the proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-management Plan, what is the status for Foxe Basin and Gulf of Boothia's plan? Just one question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Off the top of my head, I can't remember when the last population estimate was done, but we try to do every polar bear population in a 20-year cycle at the minimum if that. We only have so much staff to do the polar bear surveys and they use the same staff and they rotate it. I can't tell the member exactly what status it's at, but I don't think it's in the near future to do any population estimate studies because the next one on the radar are Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister said earlier that surveys have been done for the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. We have heard that the herd size is decreasing. When can we expect population

estimates from the survey? When will you make that available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qamanirjuaq caribou herd has been steadily decreasing every time we do a survey. The estimated number will be available before the end of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hard-point bullets are being used more and more. I'm not really a hunter, but I don't think they should be used on animals. I think they're cheaper to buy than soft-point bullets. I think they just wound the caribou. Has this ever been considered by the department that they weren't meant to be used for animals? Have they ever considered changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right that hard-point bullets are not allowed to be used for terrestrial animals like caribou, polar bears, and muskox. The conservation officers should be telling the harvesters that they are not allowed to be used. They are illegal to use and they wound the caribou if they don't hit the bone, but it doesn't die right away. They don't even slow down when you shoot an animal. We are aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Are you talking about the HTOs? Are there wildlife or conservation officers that should be informing the harvesters or is it the HTOs? I'm confused as to who he's talking about, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The conservation officers can get that information out, but the HTOs too can give the information out if they know. The more that people know the regulations because some may not know and we would like to get the information out and reasons why the regulations are there for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the costs associated, I am not saying I want people to use the more expensive equipment nor am I pushing to increase the fund, but it can go straight through, which is why I am mentioning it.

With respect to our fish species listed on page 191, which speaks to the fisheries...perhaps I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) "Complete final three Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventories..." (interpretation) It states that the work was undertaken in Resolute Bay, Arviat, and Whale Cove in 2017-18. Is this specific to arctic char population studies in these communities? Is this related to population estimates or is this an actual study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this item is specific to studying what fish species are in the lake, where the arctic char winter, along with population estimates based on these fishing studies. It identifies the current numbers and whether the population is trending up or down by having a baseline number.

The communities identified are conducting fish population studies under this item and it includes *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* components. It would allow someone to see this lake has arctic char or the lake which held fish populations has dwindled to where none are in the lake. This is a preliminary population study to determine what fish species are in the lake and where the lake's fishes may move to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuit elders are saying that rivers are having less and less water and getting shallower where char used to be situated. They say the number of char is decreasing. Is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans going to be studying arctic char near Whale Cove and Arviat? Is the minister aware of that or can he inform us on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently I'm not aware whether the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be doing a char study near Whale Cove and Arviat. You can notice that rivers are getting shallower. Rivers used to have a heavy

flow. Part of the reason for that is after the weight of the glaciers, we're getting less and less sea ice. That's part of the reason. We're aware that the rivers are getting shallower. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. This is my last question. Can the Department of Fisheries and Oceans inform us whether they can ask for a study on char? We want to keep the numbers up for the long term. I don't think they did studies for a while on our river. I'm aware that they used to do char studies near Cambridge Bay. We should be considered more by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. If they studied our rivers, I would be happy to see that. That's it from me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can work with them. Whenever the hunters want research done, they can write to the Department of Environment and ask for a particular river or a particular species to be studied, and then we can start to work on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,862,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page I-3.

Environment. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,742,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes!

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, it has been a long day and I thank everyone for their patience, for asking the questions, and this is my third time that I'm addressing you with opening comments. It will be just the same things.

I'll just thank my staff for the two that are here for coming and all the other staff that put all of this information together because it could not have been done without them.

I thank you for your time, your interest, and your good questions. We're here to work together for the betterment of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 4 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Hickes. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for June 13:

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 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Like Mr. Akoak says, if there are any students out there watching the Assembly channel, stay in school and one day you will be reading like Mr. Clerk.

>>*Applause*

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 13, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:13*

