



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 46

Monday, March 11, 2019

Pages 3109 – 3248

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Gjoa Haven)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 11, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. 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, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 10:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Premier and my colleagues. Good morning, Nunavummiut from everywhere. Thank you, Mr. Quassa.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 200 – 5(2):
Summer Student Employment
Equity Program**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut. Let's have a great day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is now accepting applications from Nunavut students for summer work experience with our government departments and public bodies.

Through the Summer Student Employment Equity Program, secondary and post-secondary Nunavummiut students can gain meaningful work experience and get on-the-job training in the public service.

Mr. Speaker, this program promotes youth development, encourages continuous learning, and creates a pool of qualified employees for our government.

Last year the Government of Nunavut hired a record 298 students, of which 241 were Nunavut Inuit students, in 23 communities across our territory. Nunavut Inuit students represented 81 percent of summer hires.

There are currently 266 indeterminate government employees who started their careers as summer students, of which 231, or 87 percent, are Nunavut Inuit. They are in various positions, such as teachers, career development officers, income assistance workers, government liaison officers, deputy sheriffs, and management positions, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to share this information with students in their own communities so we can make the 2019 program even more successful than last year's.

Program information is available on the Government of Nunavut website or contact your regional summer student

coordinator at the following emails:

- Kivalliq
KivalliqSummerStudents@gov.nu.ca
- Kitikmeot
KitikmeotSummerStudents@gov.nu.ca
- Qikiqtaaluk
QikiqtaalukSummerStudents@gov.nu.ca
- Iqaluit
IqaluitSummerStudents@gov.nu.ca

I encourage all the students that qualify to apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 201 – 5(2):
Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Conference**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker, members, and Nunavummiut. The people of Cape Dorset are in my thoughts today.

Mr. Speaker, I will have the honour to host the second edition of the Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Conference from March 26 to 29, 2019 here in Iqaluit. The Department of Culture and Heritage, Nunavut Tunngavik, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, and the Office of the Languages Commissioner jointly organized the conference.

Mr. Speaker, we are now into the 10th year of passing and implementing our

language legislation. A decade ago we made the decision to elevate the status of Inuktitut in law while being respectful and inclusive to all official language communities in our territory. As a Canadian jurisdiction, we have set an example that has yet to be reciprocated elsewhere, including at the national level.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that strengthening the use of Inuktitut is a shared responsibility, which includes all of us as individuals but also our families, communities, schools, businesses, and workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are also committed to building partnerships that advance the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut, including collaborating with the three regional Inuit organizations and Nunavut Tunngavik, to ensure a collaborative, mutually supportive relationship on language issues.

Mr. Speaker, the second edition of the Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Conference will be an opportunity to review recent best practices that support the protection, revitalization, and promotion of our language. I am also very glad that it will bring Inuit organizations and government to work together in setting goals and finding ways to stabilize and increase the number of Nunavummiut who learn and speak Inuktitut daily over the next two decades. (interpretation) Let's speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's have a great day.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of

Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 202 – 5(2):
Arctic Frontiers Emerging
Leaders Program**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat. I hope you have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share information with my fellow members about the Arctic Frontiers Emerging Leaders 2019 program.

Arctic Frontiers is an annual program held in Tromsø, Norway that brings together approximately 30 young professionals and Ph.D. students from around the world. This year the program ran from January 16 to 22.

Mr. Speaker, for the fifth year in a row, the Government of Nunavut has partnered with Global Affairs Canada to provide an opportunity for one participant from Nunavut to attend this program. This year Enoooyaq Sudlovenick was selected to attend as Nunavut's representative. She is currently attending the University of Prince Edward Island to complete her Masters of Science degree in veterinary medicine with a focus on pathology and health of marine mammals in the Arctic, specifically ringed seals in the Frobisher Bay region of Nunavut.

The Arctic Frontiers 2019 theme was “Smart Arctic.” Areas of discussion included The Power of Knowledge, Smart and Resilient Arctic Societies, Ocean Health – Blue Growth through Green Thinking, Arctic Seafood and

Food Security, Offshore Energy and Mineral Resource Prospects, and Arctic Seaways.

The program mixes technical, social and cultural events with mentors from academia, business, and the public sector to create an inspiring and educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is proud to facilitate opportunities such as this, and we are proud that Enoooyaq represented Nunavut so well.

We encourage partnership and collaboration with our arctic and circumpolar neighbours. Sharing knowledge and best practices and finding common solutions to our challenges and opportunities helps Nunavut at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 203 – 5(2):
Tobacco Reduction Programming
in Communities**

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health continues to be committed to promoting tobacco-free lifestyles and protecting Nunavummiut from second-hand smoke. Our Tobacco Reduction Program focuses on preventing Nunavummiut from starting to use tobacco, protecting them from second-hand smoke, and influencing attitudes around smoking so it is not considered the norm in our society.

By hosting activities and developing resources that specifically target youth, young adults, and pregnant women, this program actively encourages and helps Nunavummiut who want to quit or reduce their tobacco use. Health continues to conduct community outreach events to raise awareness on the harms of tobacco use and to offer information on available supports. Training sessions support and empower health staff with actionable knowledge, capacity, and confidence to deliver tobacco control initiatives.

Mr. Speaker and members, Health also provides tobacco control training and capacity building opportunities for health care providers, paraprofessionals, and the general public via interactive telehealth and in-person presentations. Since April of 2018 Health has provided approximately 40 training sessions to upwards of 400 people.

Health recently partnered with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to train wellness workers to facilitate the “It’s Time - Inuit Smoking Cessation Toolkit.” Thirteen participants from eight communities attended the two-day training here in Iqaluit with plans to facilitate the ‘quit smoking’ program in their communities. Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Resolute Bay, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay are in the final stages of their program planning process. Meanwhile, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, and Arctic Bay have successfully held two to three sessions each.

Mr. Speaker and members, the success of our program is showcased by the various community-led tobacco control initiatives taking place. Six communities that receive funding include:

- Arviat’s “Connecting Youth Through Threads: Sew Don’t Smoke Program”;
- Baker Lake’s “Outdoor Basketball Stars” program;
- Coral Harbour’s “Women’s Sewing Group”;
- Whale Cove’s “Raising Healthy Babies in the Hood - Amauti Making Program”;
- Cambridge Bay’s “Traditional Tool Making/Sewing Group/Amauti Making Program”; and
- Arctic Bay’s “Square Dancing” initiative.

Mr. Speaker and members, we must all continue supporting our communities with initiatives like these as we progress towards a tobacco-free society in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister’s Statement 204 – 5(2):
Development in Nunavut’s Mining
Industry**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. for pouring the first gold bar from its Meliadine mine near Rankin Inlet. The pour took place ahead of schedule on February 21.

This is Nunavut's third active gold mine in the territory. The other two are Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank mine and TMAC Resources' Hope Bay mine. Meliadine's start of operations continues to demonstrate that responsible companies can explore in our territory, discover resources and bring them into production in a manner that benefits Nunavummiut.

This exciting development added momentum to my attendance at the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference in Toronto earlier this week. At that conference I was able to meet with many companies that are involved in our mining and exploration industry, along with my colleague Paul Quassa, MLA for Aggu. I was proud to attend this important conference shortly after learning that the Fraser Institute improved Nunavut's worldwide ranking for investor confidence from 26th to 15th.

>> *Applause*

These companies are putting in the important work needed to find the next Hope Bay or Meliadine. I stressed to these companies that Nunavut is open for exploration and that the Government of Nunavut will help to bring forward projects that benefit Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to diversifying and improving economic opportunities to encourage community self-reliance. Mining and mineral exploration provides significant employment benefits in Nunavut and creates a positive impact on our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 305 – 5(2): Problems Associated with Nunavut's High Birth Rate

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet. We have you in our hearts, people of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we are producing a lot of babies in Nunavut. Over 1,100 babies a year are born, and since we have been sitting here for a month, there have been 33 new births.

I would also like to say that having babies is good, but we're not keeping up with services in Nunavut. What are they going to do? We're lacking housing, we're lacking jobs, and if you look at the next 15 years, our young people today are having babies too young, and they don't know how to be a parent and how to be a wife or husband.

All leaders in health and education have to be worried and concerned about this. We want to take good care of our young people. We are able to take good care of our young people, but when girls are having babies at a very young age, it's dangerous for their bodies.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we have to face reality. With the high birth rate, what are all of these newborns going to do within 15 to 20 years? As leaders we have to consider housing

shortages, we have to consider unemployment, economics. It will affect Nunavut as a territory, and I believe as leaders, you are conscious enough to start dealing with this reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 306 – 5(2):
Igloolik Participants at Terence
Tootoo Memorial Hockey
Tournament**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow community members and Nunavummiut.

This morning I spoke about the major hockey tournament in Rankin Inlet, the Terence Tootoo Memorial Cup, which is finishing today and teams are probably going back home. I would just like to express my pride that for the very first time there was a team from the Baffin region from my community competing. I would like to say their names, and I'm very proud of our hockey players in our community. They are:

Sam Ijjangiaq, Jerome Nutarakittuq, Jayko Ijjangiaq, Leonard Okkumaluk, Jamey Kadluk, Brandon Kripanik, Brandon Kripanik, John Mark Ijjangiaq, Travis Kunnuk, Mathew Alorut, Andrew Aqqiaruq, Adrian Arnauyumayuq, Solomon Qattalik, Thomas Attagutalukutuk, and their coach, who also works for me, Edward (Ted) Attagutaluk.

I would like my colleagues to join me in expressing our pride to all these players. It is rare to see a Baffin team playing there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 307 – 5(2):
Nunavut's Poor School Attendance
Rates**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak about poor school attendance. This report was recently presented by the Department of Education. Looking at it, it's really regretful to see these numbers. In all of Nunavut, the school attendance rate is 70 percent. For example, if there are ten students in a class, three students are absent every day.

It is really unfortunate that students don't even go into the classroom, and here we are paying over \$200 million a year to set up schools, to have a welcoming environment, to have elders involved, using Inuktitut, we feed them, and we provide them with recreation and sports activities, but no, there are students who don't go to school. They don't benefit from the \$200 million that we pay, which is really worrisome.

As the people of Arviat, we have lost out on a school because of absenteeism. They have cut back on our teachers because of absenteeism, but these children are the most affected by this.

They could have learned something and they don't learn anything. They could have been hanging out and playing with their friends, but they don't do that.

We are already losing people who could potentially work in the future. Parents are a part of it, but we have to look at the community as a whole. As community members and as MLAs, I think we have to voice this further. We are paying money for it, and if the people of Nunavut are going to have a good future, we're going to have to keep talking about this.

I will have questions to the Minister of Education at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik. I made a mistake. I apologize. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Member's Statement 308 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven High School Graduates

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. I say "good morning" to my constituents in Gjoa Haven. To my family who are watching the proceedings and my children and grandchildren, I love you.

I rise this morning to speak on behalf of our youth. The government makes statements that it supports students going to school.

On May 30 there will be nine students that will be graduating from grade 12. Anybody from the government is welcome to come to Gjoa Haven and to

show their pride. All too often nobody goes to Gjoa Haven. It doesn't seem to be in their thoughts. I always ask them if they can go to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 309 – 5(2): Encouraging Young People Not to Give Up

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, especially the people of Amittuq, and particularly my wife.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our young people to keep trying. I was elected here so I can represent young people.

We go through different things in our lives and even though challenges seem to come up more than others, our learning will never stop, learning in schools and learning in life. Whenever we make a mistake in our lives, it sometimes seems impossible to get through, but don't give up. It is just something that you can learn from. I always remember things that we encounter, things that we go through, and the mistakes that we make, if we learn from them, they can help our lives.

We have been told by our elders and the government that young people are our future. In the future someone will sit in the Amittuq seat that is much more able than I am. I rise on behalf of the young people. Learning will never end. Keep

trying. Sometimes it seems impossible to rise up again on your own and you have nothing to do and it gets boring. Even though your mind is at work, try to do something. Visit our elders. They are the ones who can give you something to do. They will help you settle.

On behalf of young people, I will have questions to the Minister of Arctic College at the appropriate time regarding Nunavut Sivuniksavut students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 310 – 5(2):
Encouraging Supports for Youth**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I make my statement, I say "good morning" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as to everyone watching the proceedings, and to my colleagues here.

I rise today to express my gratitude to everyone here because we are away from our families for a very long time and everyone helps me with patience. When you are on a board or a committee, it's like we become family when we are away from our homes for so long.

>> *Applause*

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): It is great to do this with people who seem to be our family members are colleagues,

no matter who they are. I'm really thankful for that because we have been gone from home for a long time. As colleagues, we distract each other from worrying, and work together to resolve issues.

In particular at home, I express my deepest appreciation and thankfulness to my wife, as she has kept our home running and supervising our children on my long trip away. She also keeps me informed about our house and that it is safe and not worrisome. I will be going home to my wife, so I wish to voice my thanks to her.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention our youth as we need to be more conscientious of their emerging needs, and I personally know this as I have lived as an orphan. There are orphans amongst us who are homeless and no parental guidance as they have no father or mother. They have no one to turn to. At least they are not aware as to whom they can turn to, so this means we should be always keep them in consideration.

When youth orphans are in this situation, they are the ones we should love the most. There are many orphans with no place to go, with no relatives to talk to or ask for advice, as they lost their fathers and mothers when they were too young. When they live in that scenario, too many residents compound their problems by automatically categorizing them as criminals while it is the traumatization they have suffered that makes them be perceived as such.

Therefore as leaders let's ensure we always keep them in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 311 – 5(2):
Acknowledging Diane Moebis**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank Ms. Diane Moebis, who retired last week after 17 years with the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, during her time with us, Diane helped move forward many important finance and HR initiatives. She spent seven years in expenditure management and another ten years as the lead of the GN's collective bargaining with both the NEU and the NTA.

Mr. Speaker, most recently Diane worked within the Department of Finance to modernize and digitize our exit surveys, which has led to an exponential increase in the amount of people providing the GN with important feedback.

Mr. Speaker, she was the lead in conducting the employee engagement survey, which solicited feedback from almost 2,000 employees. Diane was also instrumental in the revitalization of the long-term service award ceremonies in our communities and here in Iqaluit to recognize the contribution of GN employees.

Mr. Speaker, Diane is a great example of the professional, knowledgeable and dedicated employees that make up the GN. I know there are many more like

her that work very hard every day across our departments and communities to serve Nunavummiut and advance the work in this Assembly.

With that, I would like to thank Diane for her many years of service to the Government of Nunavut, and I wish her and Cal all the best in their new adventure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. On behalf of this House and on behalf of Nunavummiut, we applaud you for the service you have given to Nunavut and Nunavummiut, and may you and your family be blessed in whatever you do. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 312 – 5(2):
Acknowledging Isaac Shooyook of
Arctic Bay**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the fine residents of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. I am ecstatic that once the session is over, I will be able to see my constituents in the High Arctic once an opportunity to do so arrives.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday I was unable to attend the apology (interpretation ends) Prime Minister Trudeau (interpretation) announced to all Nunavummiut. He started off with the TB epidemic, but he also mentioned the other cumulative colonial practices such as the dog

slaughters and sovereignty practices of relocating Inuit within his apology. Due to these additional practices also being the focus of the apology, I was very happy to hear those included as I happened to watch a televised repeat of the apology.

I also want to acknowledge a predecessor in this House, Isaac Shooyook, as he was affected by all three of the aforementioned colonial events in Canada, which were labelled as a dark stage in Canadian history. He suffered the loss of his dogs, was sent south for TB treatment, and he was also relocated elsewhere. Because of his experience, I want to publicly pay tribute to him as he was also able to get elected into this House, and he was very dedicated in voicing what Inuit really wanted.

He is still one of the biggest advocates of Inuit, as he is working on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* values by always talking about them, speaking publicly on the local radio in Arctic Bay via telephone conversations or citizens band radio. He is generally on the local radio daily, speaking on issues. Many Nunavummiut would benefit from hearing his sage advice and experiences in how Inuit traditionally practised social cohesion, social rules, and in living and working together.

I wanted to voice my immense pride in him, as he is also my mother-in-law's brother and I want to honour his undying passion and encourage him to continue his contributions as he is the embodiment of a resilient Inuk who went through tremendous hardships which he used towards a better style of living. With that being said, I want to voice my

immense pride in Isaac Shooyook.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 313 – 5(2): 2019
Terence Tootoo Memorial Hockey
Tournament**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, Rankin Inlet was very busy this weekend. Rankin Inlet is probably the most obsessed Nunavut community when it comes to hockey. They are very passionate about it.

This weekend they held the Terence Tootoo Memorial Cup. It was great. Every community in the Kivalliq was represented and Igloolik residents were also there. I would have loved to have been there to hear the discussions about how it went and how Igloolik came and played very well. It was good to see that they enjoyed their time.

Anytime we see a gathering of people, there are always people behind the scenes who aren't paid to volunteer and support the work they do to make these tournaments and events happen in communities.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the Rankin Inlet Canucks came in second yesterday and the winners were the Rankin Inlet Miners. Congratulations to them. Come again next year for the tournament in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 314 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Grandson**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to my colleagues. Good morning to Cambridge Bay and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to congratulate a young man who has made a difference in my life since the day he was born.

Mr. Speaker, this individual will be completing his first year in the Environmental Tech Program, my grandson Calvin. I'm proud of you.

I would also like to congratulate all of the students who are graduating this spring from high school and those who are completing their post-secondary education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 315 – 5(2): The
Grizzlies Movie**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my pride in the success of the movie *The*

Grizzlies, which is based on a true story from Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, the movie finally aired for the first time in Kugluktuk last Thursday and was a huge hit. The audience felt every emotion and let me tell you there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I am pleased that the cast and crew could be present for the big screening in Kugluktuk. They got a standing ovation when the movie was over.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, was part of the Grizzly movement and a proud member of the athletics association. A large part of who I am today is because of the Grizzlies. Mr. Speaker, many of us can say that being part of the Grizzlies had an enormous positive impact on our lives. We learned so much and I feel it has made us realize who and where we want to be in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the teachers and coaches of the day were so dedicated to our well-being and keeping us in school that they have become part of the community of Kugluktuk. We always welcome them home when they visit and will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would especially like to welcome home Russ Shepherd, who was one of the key founders of the Grizzlies. I know Russ is full of emotions, but I would like to say to him, "I know you will enjoy every minute of being back home in Kugluktuk. I can honestly say that 'thank you' will never be enough, but I do thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done and continue to do."

Mr. Speaker, the movie *The Grizzlies* will be airing here in Iqaluit tonight at

the Astro Theatre, and I encourage everyone to go see it. The movie has been nominated for a number of awards, winning the Best Narrative Feature at the Palm Springs International Film Festival and the Director's Guild of Canada award for Best Direction in a Feature Film. *The Grizzlies* has recently been nominated for Best Feature Film by the Writers Guild of Canada. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 313 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On February 21, 2019 a question was asked by Mr. Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay, Question 313 – 5(2). The question was:

“...by law the minister is required under the *Labour Standards Act* to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the minimum wage in Nunavut. However, a report has not been tabled since March of 2017 during the previous Assembly. Why is this requirement not currently being met?”

Mr. Speaker, the 2017-18 annual report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the 2019 spring sitting. The delay in tabling these reports is due to an ongoing analysis in preparation of possible increases in the minimum wage.

The department is planning on consulting with Nunavummiut and businesses in the territory on what the minimum wage should be via a survey in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Return to Oral Question 392 – 5(2): Alternate and Renewable Energy Projects

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On March 5, 2019 a question was asked by Mr. Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay, Question 392 – 5(2).

Question:

Can the minister confirm when the tender for the project was issued?

Response:

The tender has not been issued. The project has been approved for fiscal year 2019-2020 with an expected duration of two years. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's engineering department has started working on the tender process and it will be issued once finalized.

Question:

Can the minister indicate what the minimum local labour content requirements will be for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's district heating project in Sanikiluaq? Can she indicate if the project will provide opportunities for local residents to gain specialized

training during the construction phase?

Response:

The direct heating system project in Sanikiluaq will follow the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti, which is the NNI Policy, and the bid evaluation will follow policy requirements. There are no plans for any additional specialized training.

Question:

Can the minister clarify how many buildings in Sanikiluaq will benefit from this project?

Response:

The Qulliq Energy Corporation plans to connect Nuiyak School and Paatsaali High School to the corporation's direct heating system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Return to Oral Question 393 – 5(2):
Alternative and Renewable Energy
Projects**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On March 5, 2019 a question was asked by Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, MLA for Netsilik, No. 393 – 5(2).

Question:

Can the minister indicate when the tender for the Taloyoak project will be issued?

My response:

The project has been approved for fiscal year 2019-2020 with expected duration of two years. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's engineering department has started working on the tender process and it will be issued once finalized.

Question:

Can the minister indicate what the minimum local labour content requirement will be for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's district heating project in Taloyoak and can she indicate if the project will also provide opportunities for local residents to gain training and apprenticeship hours during the construction phase?

Response:

The district heating system project in Taloyoak will follow the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti, which is the NNI Policy, and the bid evaluation will follow NNI Policy requirements. There are no plans for any additional specialized training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Return to Oral Question 394 – 5(2):
Vacant Positions in Baker Lake**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On March 5, 2019, asked by Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA for Baker Lake, Question 394 – 5(2).

Question:

How many employment opportunities are currently vacant at the Baker Lake headquarters?

Response:

There are nine positions vacant at the Baker Lake Qulliq Energy Corporation's headquarters: supply chain manager, enterprise systems specialist, revenue manager, Inuit Employment Plan coordinator, junior information technology generalist, project accountant (assets and inventory), senior enterprise systems specialist, manager of Inuit Employment Plan, and manager of information technology.

Mr. Speaker, some of the vacant positions are already being utilized as internship opportunities. The Qulliq Energy Corporation currently has two Inuit acting in these positions through [developmental] internal transfer assignments.

Developmental internal transfer assignments provide individuals with the opportunity to gain the necessary experience and training they need to enter the position indeterminately.

Currently there are [developmental] internal transfer assignments in place for the manager of Inuit Employment Plan and the manager of information technology. In addition, the position of Inuit Employment Plan coordinator is being held for an individual who completes the Sivuliqtiksat internship program, which is currently being advertised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement earlier, I acknowledged the 17 years of service that Diane Moebis has contributed to the development of the Territory of Nunavut. I would also like to take this time to thank her husband, Cal Clark. Both of them obviously are constituents of mine here in Iqaluit and are leaving shortly, or from what I understand, on a well-deserved retirement trip.

I would also like to take this time to thank Cal specifically. I had the pleasure of working with him for a couple of years before my term of office here started. I would have to say he was instrumental just through different dialogues and different political discussions on raising my awareness on how I felt I could contribute here in this House, and he was a champion of mine. I would like to think that he very much helped me decide when I was going to run. I had the inkling, but he helped push me over the edge.

I would like to take this time to thank both of them and welcome Cal Clark and Diane Moebis to this House. I would like to take this time to also acknowledge that their children are here working, contributing through Iqaluit to Nunavut and I would like to thank them as well for their service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my dear older sister, Manitok Thompson. She has been a role model. She has been a minister in the House of both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

You must know that Manitok is not afraid of anybody nor is she scared. She was telling me what to do when I got elected and I was thinking of her as Saddam Hussein...

>> *Laughter*

...who was menacing.

However, I'm also very thankful. She is an excellent seamstress and I'm wearing what she has made. Her grandchild, Leanne Vicky Thompson, and her husband, Tom Thompson, I recognize them all and I am very glad that they're here for a little while on their way to Clyde River tomorrow.

You must know that my older sister is a minister. I have three older sisters who are ministers, and Manitok teaches at the Larga Baffin in Ottawa. Thank you, my sister, Manitok Thompson.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, everyone. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although she was already recognized, I would like to recognize Manitok Thompson. She is a role model. She has been a very good representative. When she lived in Ottawa, she was the voice of the Inuit in Ottawa and Nunavut. I am very proud of her and I also welcome her husband, Tom, and her grandchild. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they were already recognized, I am always very proud of Manitok. Even though she is living down south, she is still the voice of Nunavut. She sews road kill. How skilful!

>> *Laughter*

As well, her husband, Tom, (interpretation ends) welcome. (interpretation) He was a very good boss when I worked for a little bit with the newly formed Nunavut government. He taught me well. Thank you and welcome, Tom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Although they were already recognized, I would also like to welcome these individuals.

My older brother-in-law, Tom Thompson, it seems like yesterday that he retired, but it has been 12 years already and this is his first trip back to Nunavut after his retirement. I want to welcome my older brother-in-law and his wife, Manitoq, with whom I speak with frequently.

Also, her granddaughter had leukemia while still a child, but her grandmother spent every day with her in Winnipeg and she would pray for her. Today it is obvious that her granddaughter overcame her sickness and is now healthy and here with us today.

When Manitoq goes anywhere, she offers advice about resiliency and to not give up, to pray for guidance as prayer has a role and she tends to offer that advice continually. When people continue to hear encouragement, hope and belief can arrive.

I am truly proud of my sister-in-law Manitoq, as she breathes life into what she does. She works with people who are sick, and it is obvious that she is blessing the lives of the people and her blessings will continue to grow.

I would like to welcome the whole family here, and once you go to Clyde River, please send my regards to David Iqaqrialu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list.

If you will allow me, I want to tell Manitoq on behalf of Baffin residents that I and the MLAs representing the Baffin region wish to offer our thanks to you as you provide a tremendous service to the patients from the Baffin region. We note your dedication and wish to thank you for providing that for our residents. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

All visitors in the gallery, welcome to your Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and always feel welcome.

Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions
Question 422 – 5(2): Uses for the Old Health Centre in Taloyoak

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as all of my colleagues here in the House.

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister may recall that in 2017 and again in 2018 I asked questions regarding the future use of the old health centre building in Taloyoak. Can the minister confirm whether or not this building has been released by the Department of Health as a surplus building and, if so, what is the current status of the building? (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. When a government building is no longer in use, such as the old health centre he is referring to, it has to be released by the Department of Health. When the release form is completed, then we query other departments to see if they would be able to use the building. Once it has gone through that, I will inform my colleague when the building would be released by the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I will understand this situation later, but in order to ensure I am completely understood by speakers of other dialects, I will ask this question again in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Taloyoak has indicated on a number of occasions that it is interested in using the building. One suggestion was to use it as a space for elders and youth to meet and hold activities. A more recent suggestion is to use it as an emergency shelter.

Can the minister confirm whether there have been any discussions with the Hamlet of Taloyoak for them to be able to take over the use of the building?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the old health centre my colleague is referring to, it requires a release from the government. Once the release is official, the hamlet will have the right of first refusal of the facility if they want to acquire it. They will be informed of the status of the old health centre to determine whether they wish to acquire it and they will have first dibs on the chance to get the facility by either stating their wish to approve it or not, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the benefit of the listening audience, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it seems that the process to surplus the old health centre in Taloyoak is taking some time.

Will the minister commit to directing his officials to looking into the status of the old health centre in Taloyoak and informing the municipality whether or not they can have the building?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When wanting a facility, one wants to see this process expedited in declaring facilities surplus and with buildings being abandoned. Yes, I will ask my officials in charge of this process to see if there is any way to expedite this process to get the surplus

declaration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 423 – 5(2): Income Taxes

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and they concern a great topic for a Monday morning sitting of the House: income taxes.

>> *Laughter*

As the minister will be aware, information published by the Canada Revenue Agency indicates that for the most recent tax year available, there were a total of 21,620 income tax returns filed by Nunavut residents, of which approximately 2,320 returns were filed by elders aged 60 or older.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Canada Revenue Agency announced its plan to open permanent offices in each of the three territorial capitals and expand the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Canada Revenue Agency to identify volunteers in Nunavut communities, including Baker Lake, to assist elders, especially unilingual elders, with filing their income tax returns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When these types of

announcements come forward from the federal government, there is often dialogue with Department of Finance officials on how to work with community members, GLOs, and economic development officers of that sort.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know the level of operational detail on exactly how those communications transpire or what suggestions are actually made. That's pretty operational level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister had a brief glance on my first supplementary here.

Can the minister indicate how the Department of Finance is working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to provide information and training to government liaison officers to allow them to provide income tax-related assistance to elders, especially unilingual elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing up the role of the GLO. It's a very important role in all of our communities. When you're looking at providing government services and information to our residents, it's a great point of contact. I appreciate the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on how they

work with the coordination from all our departments.

Again, at an operational level of how often or what exactly that training contains, I just don't have that level of detail. I do know that there are training opportunities for the GLOs through the Department of EIA on a number of different government programs, not just in regard to CRA assistance, but I do know that there is training provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Netsilik reminded us recently, it bears repeating that Nunavut Inuit are tax-paying Canadians. As with the rest of the country, the deadline here for filing income tax returns is at the end of April, so it is important that employers issue T4s in timely manner. Can the minister confirm that the Government of Nunavut has now issued the 2018 T4s for all of its employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my knowledge, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 424 – 5(2): Support for Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. I also say “good morning” to the people of Pangnirtung.

This morning I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, last week as we reviewed the 2019-2020 budget for the Department of Family Services, (interpretation ends) I was disturbed to note that even greater income assistance benefits are being provided to young single people over the age of 18 who are not working while at the same time funding allocated for career development initiatives to get more Nunavummiut working has been decreased and in the case of funding for Nunavut Sivuniksavut, completely eliminated.

Can the minister clarify why her department puts greater emphasis on supporting individuals who are not working instead of supporting individuals who are learning the skills they need to be able to work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) The Income Assistance Program was increased last year and we're just following through on the income support increase that's for any adults over the age of 18. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She didn't respond to part of my question. As we are aware, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program educates and prepares Inuit youth for careers in Nunavut. We need more Inuit graduates. Our public service has just over 50 percent Inuit representation, far from the 85 percent it should be. Many Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates currently work in the civil service, both territorial and federal governments, as well as in private business. This program is helping our government achieve its Inuit employment goals.

My question for the minister is: (interpretation ends) can the minister clarify what consideration has been given to providing funding to Nunavut Sivuniksavut and what specific reasons led to the decision not to renew its funding for 2019-2020? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for that question. The (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) would like to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier, can you respond to that question? Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about the

funding for NS and the reason is because a letter was written to the Premier on not so much why the funding was stopped but that they're requesting more funding. The previous government had committed to funding NS for three years at \$175,000 a year. The commitment was for three years and that was it. The decision was made at the cabinet level that the funding criteria we had did not fit the funding request that was made. We have to abide by the *Financial Administration Manual* and this did not fit.

As the members know, last year Family Services had a deficit of, I think it was, \$1.2 million. This year they're having another deficit again of \$1.1 million or \$1.2 million, and that's where the funding was coming from, the funding source for NS. Family Services has to concentrate their efforts on Nunavummiut who really, truly need the help in order to get them more employable.

As one of the members stated last week there, NS graduates generally are employable and they get good jobs here in the government or with industry or with the federal government. Mr. Speaker, we have people here in Nunavut who truly need that help. They can't go to NS. They need help in order to get them employable at the bottom level. We have lots of Nunavummiut who need to be helped that may be employable and we only have so much money and resources.

Mr. Speaker, we do fund NS indirectly. From FANS they get over a million dollars a year for tuition, for their books, and also now for their residence because NS owns a residence now and therefore

when the students get funding to help them for their rent, then it comes off there too.

This was a decision that was made. It wasn't made lightly. There was a lot of debate on it, and I just want to speak to the fact that we feel that we have to help Nunavummiut that are here, that are a lower level in terms of their opportunity to get a job. We are concentrating our efforts on the Nunavummiut here at the lower end.

We haven't forgotten NS and it's a good program. It is a good program. It was in the news there last week, some of the stuff they do, and I agree it's a good program. It just did not fit on the funding formula for Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that a key component of the Department of Family Services is to provide support and assistance to Nunavut's most vulnerable.

(interpretation ends) I recognize that a key component of the Department of Family Services' mandate is to provide support and assistance to Nunavut's most vulnerable. However, providing support so that Nunavut residents can improve their ability to find employment is also the department's mandate. Supporting Nunavummiut to develop their ability to work and to be productive plays an important role in preventing them from being vulnerable.

I'm not sure who I should be asking this

to, but will the minister or the cabinet commit to reconsidering the decision regarding the funding of Nunavut Sivuniksavut and update this House on the results of the deliberations made in the spring sitting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. Obviously it has affected things. We get letters and if they had requested money from somewhere else, they could be considered as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 425 – 5(2): Support for Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Education.

In my previous member's statement I recognized the contributions that Nunavut Sivuniksavut has made to our territory and expressed concern over the government's decision to end its contributions.

As an alumni himself, I assume that the minister can appreciate the life-changing benefits that Nunavut Sivuniksavut provides to all that attend.

Mr. Speaker, it is due to the contributions from the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik

Incorporated, our regional Inuit organizations, and including the federal government that NS has been able to expand its programming to now accept over 40 first year students.

My question to the minister is: does the minister recognize the importance of these contributions to Nunavut Sivuniksavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for his question. As cabinet, we made the decision. Although we know that Nunavut Sivuniksavut is a good program and it has affected many people, right now the funding agreement through Family Services has ended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I just wanted to explain that I wasn't asking about the cabinet's decision; I was asking about the minister's stance on the contributions that NS receives.

I'll move on to my next question. Why is it that the minister finds it necessary to provide grants and contributions to programs and organizations outside of Nunavut, such as the University of PEI, Frontier College, National Arts Centre, Encounters with Canada, and TakingITGlobal and not Nunavut Sivuniksavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As far as I understand, the funding that was provided to Nunavut Sivuniksavut, when Family Services was created, that contribution moved from the Department of Education to Family Services. As the Premier had indicated, it was a three-year commitment at the time and that has ended.

We have those established partnerships with outside organizations that the member had indicated. Those are ongoing and through our department, they have specific, targeted groups. The University of Prince Edward Island help us offer the certificate in educational leadership for our principals and teachers in our schools, and Encounters Canada, these are important core programs for students in the schools too that are Nunavummiut, so we are ongoing with those contributions with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind the minister that the Department of Education's core business under advanced education includes adult learning, which is responsible for adult programs that support equality of opportunity and encourages adult literacy, numeracy, and essential employability skills, all of which Nunavut Sivuniksavut does.

I thank the minister for bringing up the

transfer to Family Services, as I was about to remind the minister of so that the original contribution to NS began in 2011 under the Department of Education. For some unknown reason, the contribution was transferred to the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, considering that the Department of Family Services has recently determined that the contribution to NS no longer meets the parameters of the targeted training initiatives, I believe that the transfer from the Department of Education to the Department of Family Services may have been a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: will the minister commit to create a program to fund adult learning initiatives that support quality of opportunity such as Nunavut Sivuniksavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be looking at our grants and contributions programs that we currently offer and see where there are opportunities for partnerships that we currently don't have through the department. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 426 – 5(2): Support for Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning my question is for the Premier regarding the subject

of discussion this morning, which is Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

Today the government is faced with tremendous challenges trying to implement (interpretation ends) Article 23 (interpretation) to fulfill their obligations. We often hear the government announcing they want to hire more Inuit employees, which is a legal obligation of this government.

As my colleague, Ms. Nakashuk, so clearly pointed out, our goal is to have 85 percent of the public service filled by Inuit as a representative level. With that as the target, does the (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) agree that the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program has produced graduates who have contributed towards this government coming closer to that target listed in Article 23?

We already have multiple workers who are graduates of this program called Nunavut Sivuniksavut, and we have had several (interpretation ends) deputy ministers (interpretation) and even a minister who is a graduate, several ADMs, as well as (interpretation ends) policy analysts, (interpretation) and this comprises many examples of exactly what this government needs.

Does the Premier support the fact that Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates have contributed greatly towards this legal obligation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, or NS, graduates have

been hired by the government, private businesses, and the federal government. I agree that they have learned a great deal and we have supported them since 2012 to 2018. Through FANS we have provided over \$5 million to Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

I do agree with the assertion that our target is 85 percent, and further, we work with (interpretation ends) Family Services (interpretation) towards trying to reach this target by encouraging income support clientele who can't get employment to use the (interpretation ends) G.R.E.A.T program (interpretation) to work towards gainful employment. When they finish this G.R.E.A.T program, now we have a (interpretation ends) G.R.E.A.T. 2.0, (interpretation) which is the next level program designed last year.

The government funds are now being expended on Nunavummiut for enhancing their chances of getting government positions and further, to be able to work at any position locally. Additionally, Nunavut Sivuniksavut receives funding from the (interpretation ends) Makigiaqta Corporation. (interpretation) This funding stems from the NTI lawsuit and an agreement was reached with the federal government to train Inuit towards government positions. They ought to be using only Inuit money from this fund as NS does get funding already from (interpretation ends) Makigiaqta Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 1985, when the

program started, I was there and I remember when it started. Up to now there have been 500 graduates. They are from Nunavut and you know that they're all from Nunavut.

We express that we want to support people from Nunavut and the government always says it wants to support people from Nunavut, even when they're outside of Nunavut. Now this government seems to think of people from Nunavut, when they're outside of Nunavut, as non-Nunavut people. We fully support Nunavut Sivuniksavut because we know they will help us in the future a great deal.

Can the Premier reconsider the decision that was made and support Nunavut Sivuniksavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government supports people who want to continue their education in Nunavut or outside of Nunavut. If our youth are interested in furthering their education through Nunavut Sivuniksavut, universities, or colleges, inside or outside of Nunavut, after they complete grade 12, we support their further education and we encourage them to continue their education. If they continue their education, then it will be easier to get a job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask my final question in English.

(interpretation ends) Can the Premier commit to refunding the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program? It is a tool that this government can use. There are so many tools out there that this government seems to ignore, tools that this government can start living up to the obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Certainly this is one of the tools that I believe this government can certainly use.

As I said, my last question is: can the Premier commit to relooking at funding the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program? It creates a very important program for Nunavummiut by Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right that we have many different tools we use to make Nunavummiut more employable and advance in their careers. I talked about some of the programs that FANS funds in terms of trying to get the people that are not ready or can't get into college or university, the more vulnerable people.

I agree that Nunavut Sivuniksavut's students are more employable. A lot of the students that are doing very well in school go take that program, so they already have a head start. They may have been able to go straight to university. There are other students that either didn't finish grade 12 or just barely finished grade 12 and they need help to go to the next step to make them more employable. Some of the people of Nunavut have barriers that they need in order to advance their education.

We the government are here to help all Nunavummiut, whether they're in the territory or out of the territory. As I stated earlier here, we want Nunavummiut to be educated and we are doing our best to make them educated, whether they're going to Nunavut Sivuniksavut, a university down south, college down south, Arctic College in Nunavut. I encourage young Nunavummiut to further their education. I have always said that education is the key for us Nunavummiut to be more employable, which means better standard of living, which means generally that things are better.

The funding source, where it was coming from, was a three-year commitment and it wasn't following FAM. Mr. Speaker, when you find that there's something not being followed and you continue making that mistake, it's not right. We're here to correct stuff and make sure that when there's a funding request, it follows the guidelines and manuals that are there. I'm not saying this is rigid. If they wanted to send another request to another department like Education, they're free to do it, but the way it was funded was not following the *Financial Administration Manual*.

I encourage all Nunavummiut to get further education and we will fund them. We will help them to get educated. We want them to be employable. We want to reach our target on Article 23 of 85 percent and we're trying our best to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 427 – 5(2): Support for Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and people of Amittuq.

Earlier I was one of the members speaking about the need to further encourage our youth, and I will be directing my question today to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

I, too, am using students as the subject of my question to ask about the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program. The graduates return, and as my colleague from Aggu stated, they are offered employment opportunities in the government.

Mr. Speaker, this relates to what the minister wanted to work towards, as he made a report during our standing committee review and mentioned that \$561,000 was set aside for this program that prepares our youth for employment. As well, for providing more information on this program and I am only referencing them here as I want to be clear where I am coming from.

Why can't Nunavut Sivuniksavut receive a part of this funding? Although the agreement has expired, the graduates who do return can provide further training for the clientele under the G.R.E.A.T. program through Arctic College.

As our Premier just alluded to, we want to make our youth employable as this is already being provided. I wonder if we can tie it into providing further education using Arctic College facilities. Has this ever come under consideration in trying

to provide more Nunavummiut with this type of training by using Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates to run this type of training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. In speaking about Nunavut Sivuniksavut where students travel down to Ottawa to receive an education, they are usually assisted with funding from the Department of Family Services. Unfortunately Arctic College isn't responsible for that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is so unfortunate there is no vision.

Yes, I would ask you reconsider that idea, to use existing resources, as this can provide tremendous benefits to both our income support clients and these graduates. It will show our youth who haven't gone down south that gainful employment is possible with further education. This would allow them to become intrigued about post-secondary courses and they would become encouraged seeing other youth who succeeded as potential role models.

I want to see more use of existing resources in our immediate future, especially initiatives that further encourage our youth to pursue further education. Let me point out a few more facts. There were eight graduates all

together from Hall Beach for the NS program, and 33 students from Igloolik have graduated from this program.

This is an area that requires stronger commitment from Arctic College as well as by the Department of Family Services. Can you meet with your ministerial colleague of Family Services to see how we can utilize this type of peer-to-peer training to provide positive encouragement to our youth in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Arctic College provides training beginning in the fall. We are open to any further training possibilities involving Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates, as they are also able to get other educational opportunities under Arctic College. We are open to them taking courses, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I heard the fact your department is open to ideas as I think more youth peer training would provide actual encouragement or even just a pilot project where you hire the graduating Nunavut Sivuniksavut students to teach their local peers. What I meant here is youth seeing successfully educated youth they can emulate and copy since they are our future.

Now, an exciting result would be that our current NS graduates who return to their communities could then provide

youth-on-youth training and provide actual experiences that they went through. They can show that this is how the other youth can also succeed in pursuing further education.

There is a budget line item consisting of \$561,000, which is quite a nice amount. I believe this line item could assist us in that, as you stated courses commence in the fall or winter up to spring. I would like further understanding if the Department of Education, the Department of Family Services, and Arctic College can initiate discussions of this nature to see if there is any way to get more clients employed by using NS graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That fund he mentioned of \$561,000 is specific to a particular activity and is allocated towards that. During the standing committee review by members, they approved the future budget appropriations.

Now he is asking that we change the agreed to direction that was approved within this budget line item. Now he asks if we can change this item. We can't change items that are already approved here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Whale Cove, Ms. Towntongie.

Question 428 – 5(2): Increasing Benefits to Elders

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services.

Now the concern I have relates to our elders within Nunavut. They aren't able to get employment nor do they attend educational courses. Whenever any month ends, the federal government sends their pension cheques. I feel compassion towards our elders, as do my colleagues. That much I understand.

When they look at personal items, they have a hard time purchasing snowmobiles or ATVs. The monthly allocation that they get was going to be reviewed to see if this amount could be increased. I want to ask where this review is at. They were talking between the territorial government and the federal government about elders funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed to the minister, the question was from the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. I apologize for saying Whale Cove earlier. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I also support elders. I was raised by elders.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services, with federal funding, has the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit, which is what you're asking about. That was reviewed on April 1,

2015. There was an increase from \$175 to \$200 a month. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was a bit confused when you said Whale Cove. Thank you for the correction.

I'm sorry, but I'll be speaking English. (interpretation ends) The senior citizen benefit program, there are a lot of low-income seniors in Nunavut. The guaranteed federal income supplement, my questions is: would the minister herself be able to buy \$200 worth of groceries in a whole month? One bag is about \$200 if you go to the Northern in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

How did the justification for the increase of \$200 come into existence, especially when you're dealing with the Government of Canada in increasing it? Was the northern residency considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The Government of Nunavut provides a (interpretation ends) supplement (interpretation) for elders in additional assistance. This isn't the only pot of money for elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman...Mr. Speaker. Why do I keep calling you Mr. Chairman?

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to that answer, the minister did not answer me. If I was negotiating with the Government of Canada, because it's a co-managed payment program with the federal government and it's included on the monthly Old Age Security cheque, I would look at the cost of living in Nunavut per region. Let's look at the High Arctic. Let's look at southern Baffin, Keewatin, and Kitikmeot and calculate the cost of living for those regions.

With the benefit of \$200, if you're living in Arctic Bay, I'm wondering: what is the differentiation analysis of implementing \$200 from the Nunavut supplementary citizens' benefit?

Also, from the Government of Canada, what is the analysis for actually...? If we can increase the federal government supplementary benefit, then it would more reflect the cost of living in Nunavut for senior citizens and our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) You asked three questions and when I stand up, I tend to usually answer one. I just want to clarify

that.

The \$25 increase was based on the consumer price index, which was January 2015 and was reflected on the June 15 payment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 429 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven Test Fishery

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, the Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Association has been working with a number of partners as part of the Towards a Sustainable Fishery for Nunavummiut initiative to explore the feasibility of a commercial fishery for the community.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a new idea. As the minister will be aware, his department has published a number of excellent community-specific reports as part of the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory project. The report for Gjoa Haven indicates that test fisheries have been going on since the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Department of Environment has been part of the Towards a Sustainable Fishery for Nunavummiut initiative.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what support his department has been providing for the current Gjoa Haven test fishery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the specifics on that file on exactly what support has been given by the Department of Environment to Gjoa Haven there, but we support any fisheries initiatives, test fisheries, and like the member said, I guess they have been testing it for a long time, so they must know the results by now, I would think.

The way it works is if there's a test fishery, the Department of Fisheries is also part of the equation there. If there's an established commercial quota that is on the books on Schedule 5, then they do test fisheries to see if that information is still valid and, if it is, it's usually a three-year test fishery and then the Department of Fisheries and Oceans can move that back into a commercial quota for that area or that lake.

I can't talk specifically exactly how we in the Department of Environment are funding the Gjoa Haven project there, but we're here to help any community that's interested in going into commercial fisheries as long as it's viable. That's what they do the test fisheries for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is always looking for jobs for every community in Nunavut and this is one way of getting jobs to the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in discussing this issue

with Gjoa Haven's Hunters and Trappers Association, I have been informed that the hunters and trappers organization's current facility, which is used to process meat and fish products, is several decades old. I'm told that the building is from the 1960s and is in urgent need of replacement.

Can the minister indicate if the current test fishery project in Gjoa Haven may lead to the government making capital investments in the community to modernize the hunters and trappers organization's facilities and infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the fisheries turns out to be a viable project or venture, I guess you might call it that, if there's enough fish and there's a place to sell the fish, then the best option would be for the hunters and trappers organization there to talk with the economic development officer to come up with a business plan in terms of the facilities that are needed, the market that is needed. They could be helped out with the market. We're there to help too, but for the business end of it, an economic development officer would be the key person to talk to and we will be part of that equation too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week my colleague from Uqqummiut asked the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation some questions about the

status of a test fishery project in his constituency that was being partially funded by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I share my colleague's concern that it does not seem to make sense that the government's fisheries division, which focuses on economic development of the sector, is not located in the department that focuses on economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Minister of Environment to commit to raising this issue with the Premier of Nunavut, who has the authority to make changes to the government's organizational structure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The history between fisheries being with Economic Development and Environment or different names that Environment has in the past, it has gone back and forth a few times. I completely understand both members' point of view and I've had many discussions with the Premier on this, just mostly in the head. Generally I don't talk to myself, but I'll take the member's comments to consideration and it is something that we are considering for the member's benefit there. We are looking at where this would fit better because, like he said, it has gone both ways in the past ten years or so and we will be looking at it again. I'll take the member's comments to the Premier and the Premier will have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: I would rather do that. (interpretation) Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 430 – 5(2): Management of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Tammaativvik Boarding Home is used by patients from the Baffin region. The contractors have been changed and there has been a turnover.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the boarding home here in Iqaluit is utilized by the whole Baffin region. Almost every single one of them are Inuit who stay at the boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, since the change in the contractors, could you give us an update as to how it's running now and if there have been any changes or improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this question. Mr. Speaker, over the last number of months and years we have been working steadily with the contract provider here in Iqaluit at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

With progress made incrementally over that period of time and, as the member highlights, there was a recent change in the subcontract entity of that contract, I can say that we do continue to struggle

with the overcrowding there. Like the member mentioned, we are servicing a large region of the territory to bring medical patients down here to Iqaluit.

Other than that, I'm not aware of any recent major concerns that have been brought to my attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, currently quite a number of our constituents stay at the boarding home when they travel down for medical purposes, and some of them tend to express any concerns they may have to us, their elected representatives, as Inuit. This applies to residents of the Baffin region in particular.

To date I have received several complaints from medical patients who have come to me since the termination of the contract with the previous contractor and with the new contractor in place. This government keeps stating that Inuktitut and Inuit culture has to be recognized and respected, especially within facilities that many Inuit travel to.

There should be at a minimum written signs in Inuktitut and a person able to speak in Inuktitut, and more services in Inuktitut. From what I have heard, not one of the receptionists or the drivers is an Inuk since the contract was terminated. We all know that many of the medical patients are most often unilingual and are not able to speak or read English, and here we have non-Inuktitut speaking drivers attempting to

provide services.

Can the officials in charge of this current contract provide a bit more direction from the Department of Health and can they push to have frontline employees who are Inuit? Many medical patients are still unilingual Inuit and they should be provided service in their own language. Can your department work with the contractor to provide these services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickers.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first I have been made aware of this concern. I know my officials are watching closely on the proceedings and I can assure the member that they will follow up in due haste, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for saying that he will follow up with the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this next question to the minister. As I stated just a moment ago, Inuit ought to be provided services in Inuktitut, but due to the lack of Inuit staff, they have nobody capable of speaking the language at Tammaativvik.

As well, this other complaint should be again a priority. In listening to the patients who travel down for medical reasons, they have complained that the elderly don't receive any preferential

treatment when they require more assistance and this includes the disabled. This applies to patients who have just received treatment or surgery which causes them to be physically incapacitated when they arrive at Tammaativvik. They should be the priority here. Post-surgical patients and the elderly should be prioritized.

This is disconcerting to many Inuit. Could you also include that in your review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that issue with me. Like I had mentioned earlier, one of the issues that we do deal with at the boarding home here in Iqaluit is how frequently it's used. It's a very busy facility. Any time there are flight delays, it can create some serious challenges in organization of allocation of rooms and services.

They do have limited rooms that are available for elders and people with mobility issues. They work very hard to make sure that those rooms are allocated to people who need that extra level of service.

When somebody is in a room that may not have mobility issues in a room that is designed for that, they are requested to give up that room to an elder or to somebody with disability issues, and I like to think that our human nature is respect for our fellow people that somebody who is able to move around would relinquish that room to an elder.

That being said, like I said earlier, my

officials do watch these proceedings and this will be a note of conversation with the contractor at their next meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Ms. Angnakak.

Motion 032 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the member for Manirajak, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period has been extended for another 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 431 – 5(2): Airline Industry Regulation

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As you will recall, both of us participated in the important televised hearing that was held in this Chamber in January of 2016 concerning the codeshare agreements that were then in place between the three major airlines in Nunavut.

As you will also recall, one of the issues that I raised during the televised hearing was the idea of the federal government establishing some type of “Essential Air Services Program” and this would subsidize the high cost of air travel in the north, especially to our most remote communities like Grise Fiord.

My question for the minister is straightforward: what is the Government of Nunavut’s current position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For essential services, we are looking into this, but we don’t have a firm position on it yet. As we currently are going through the request for proposals on this, it is still on the emphasis that it is a free market system for the airlines. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the minister’s response it appears to me that perhaps it’s not something that’s going to be taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, it appears clear that we will not get a clear answer to the question of whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports or opposes the proposed merger between First Air and Canadian North, so I’m going to ask a different question. What is the Government of Nunavut’s position

regarding federal regulation of airline fares and tariffs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The current federal regulation is one that we have to live by, very similar to on merger. The current regulations allow for these, and we provide input into that process. For the regulations themselves too, federal regulations, it is exactly the same. It is federal legislation and regulation, and it is something that I have committed to working with my federal colleague in terms of how to help in terms of our airline industry in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m not sure what that response was. It wasn’t very clear, but I’m going to go to my next and last question. What discussions has the minister had with his federal counterpart regarding the regulation of the airline industry in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope I’ll be clearer and I thought I was clearly responding to the questions.

As of today, I have not had any formal discussions with my federal counterpart

on these particular regulations.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 432 – 5(2): School Attendance in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Poor attendance is something we all know is improper. This seems to be the gist of many issues as poor attendance continues to dog us here in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I was copied on a recent piece of correspondence from the Minister of Education and in that piece of correspondence the minister talked about education as a Nunavut-wide challenge. I am particularly concerned about my constituency, but it's the whole territory. It seems, unfortunately, in Nunavut we have developed a culture of non-attendance.

My first question for the minister in terms of trying to change this culture or change things: when we look at one student, for example, who does not attend school, who is responsible? Is the school responsible? Is the DEA responsible? Are the parents responsible? Who holds the responsibility for non-attending students? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I think it's everybody. I mean a child, any Nunavummiq kid who is eligible to go to our schools, as parents, as the school, our department, as leaders, I think we all have a role to play in that. We all have a responsibility and that's where the saying comes from where they say, "It takes a whole community to raise a child."

In terms of what we try to do from the Department of Education, we do want to allow for a safe and conducive environment for our children to be able to learn. That's where, I think, for me, and I think Nunavummiut can harp on this, is we need to go to the root of wanting Nunavummiut, our children to go to school. There's a value to it. There's a drive to go to school. I think that's where the root problem exists and I think we all have a role to play to address that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there's a close link that was actually highlighted to me by a teacher. There's a close link between unemployment and non-attendance when it comes to children. I'm not talking about child employment. When the parents are unemployed, there's a higher risk of non-attendance in their children.

Can the minister please explain what his department does to work with the Department of Family Services specifically on the issue of non-

attendance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was ready for the member to suggest we put in time clocks for students in schools...

>>*Laughter*

...but on a serious note, as far as attendance for students, the only part where we play a role with Family Services is when the student receives income assistance. That is the only area where we work together on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for his response, but I do wish that more work was being done with Family Services to try to coordinate on these issues. There is a close link there.

Mr. Speaker, my last question is regarding this annual report from the Department of Education. The attendance rates are listed on page 60 at the back of the report. Reading through the report, there is not a lot in there on the issue of attendance even though, from my understanding, it is one of the largest issues facing the education system in Nunavut.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the next edition of this annual report contains a section specifically on

attendance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Through our *Education Act* we report on an annual basis what our attendance rates are in our schools. With that, we have recognized how low attendances are a huge challenge for our staff and for the students to succeed. That's one area that we have committed to work on for a Nunavut-wide registration and attendance policy in partnership with our DEAs.

I think, since there is a space for students to be a representative, a student rep on DEAs, they can play a large role in helping us raise the attendance rates across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Question 433 – 5(2): Alcohol and Cannabis Harm Reduction

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's *Liquor Act* provides for social responsibility campaigns with funds from the Liquor Revolving Fund.

I was interested to note that in both prohibited communities, as my colleague from Arviat pointed out, and in unrestricted communities, which

Kugluktuk has recently become, there are no alcohol education committees to provide information and material aimed at reducing the harms associated with alcohol consumption.

Can the minister clarify, for those communities without alcohol education committees, what social responsibility campaigns are being undertaken to provide community members with information or materials relating to the harms of alcohol consumption to residents? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In communities where there is no alcohol education committee currently in place, any community can move forward and either create one where there isn't one or re-create if there was one in the past.

That being said, whenever there is not an alcohol education committee in a community, materials are sent to the hamlet to disperse and to work with community members. Also, there are opportunities for community wellness coordinators and groups to work on different programming; applications or proposals to deal with specific programs or projects that they want to initiate in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I am 'aware' of the "Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta" program which

includes posters, videos, promotional items, a Facebook page, and website all geared towards promoting the safe use of alcohol while reducing harms associated with alcohol use. According to the Nunavut Liquor Commission's annual report, outreach activities occurred in seven communities in 2017-18.

Can the minister clarify which communities will be benefitting from "Let's Be Aware" outreach activities in the upcoming year and whether those activities will include safe use and harm reduction information relating to the use of cannabis as well as alcohol use? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the list today of which communities we're rolling out to next.

I will say in the second part of the member's question that cannabis is being integrated into the education system, and we are looking forward to having the information packages being sent out in the near future to all communities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I feel that much more could be done to explore ways to teach our youth about safe partying and to make them more aware of the harms of alcohol use and cannabis use. Our education system could play a big role in addressing

alcohol use and cannabis use.

Will the minister commit to working with his counterpart in the Department of Education to develop a school-based teaching module that teachers can use to teach students about the harms of alcohol and drug use as well as the concepts of safe and responsible consumption? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things we work on with our Liquor and Cannabis Commission is educational opportunities. Some of the materials are programmed to youth.

I can definitely have my officials contact their counterparts in the Department of Education and see how we can make that information more widely available to our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 434 – 5(2): Supporting Individuals with Disabilities

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are a number of different services for individuals with disabilities. However, at times it seems as if those services are not well coordinated.

Can the minister clarify how her

department assists individuals with disabilities to ensure that they receive all the benefits to which they are entitled? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his good question. A lot of the individuals with disabilities were probably not treated properly in the past, but I can say today that it is improving. There are more people with disabilities who are approaching the (interpretation ends) Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society. (interpretation) We have looked at income assistance reform in terms of the monthly allocation that they receive and also funded under (interpretation ends) Career Development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that to be eligible for certain disability benefits, a doctor has to sign off on a number of forms and these forms have to be submitted to different federal and territorial departments to access different benefits.

Can the minister clarify which staff in which offices at the community level can assist individuals with disabilities to get the appropriate forms filled out, signed and sent off to the appropriate departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly (interpretation ends) our social workers, social assistants (interpretation) provide assistance to those individuals, (interpretation ends) but I will get confirmation if there is a dedicated individual. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, it can be very frustrating knowing that there are benefits available which would help make a person's life more comfortable but are difficult to access. Such benefits as disability tax credits or housing subsidies to renovate a home require specific documentation to be submitted.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that there are staff available in every Nunavut community who are trained and aware of how to provide support to individuals with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with what he has asked for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 435 – 5(2): Converting Taloyoak's Old Health Centre to a Homeless Shelter

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, the old health centre building in Taloyoak has remained empty for some time. The Hamlet of Taloyoak has expressed an interest in acquiring the building to use as a homeless shelter.

Can the minister confirm whether she has received correspondence from the mayor of Taloyoak requesting her assistance in establishing emergency shelter apartments in the old health centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have a copy of the correspondence. We have said that we look at opportunities for the smaller communities and wish to support them, but that old building isn't ours and we await the response on the building itself. We will work with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that it is up to the community to take the steps to address issues such as homelessness. However, it

is important that our government provides assistance and support to make sure that good intentions turn into real solutions.

Can the minister clarify whether she has had any discussions with her colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services, to facilitate the transfer of the old health centre to the Municipality of Taloyoak in order that it can be established as a homeless shelter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. In terms of discussions on the issue, I haven't spoken with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the community of Taloyoak is not alone in trying to help its homeless residents be safe, comfortable, and secure.

Will the minister commit to working with the municipality to ensure that Taloyoak's old health centre can be set up as an emergency homeless shelter in the near future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

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

Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will commit to work with my colleague here and our staff and the municipality to see what could be done. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 436 – 5(2): Senior Subsidy/Benefits to Elders

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services.

I was a bit dismayed when she responded that this is already being used for income assistance. In English it is called the (interpretation ends) consumer tax index.

(interpretation) I worry about children suffering from hunger, as we so often mention. Nonetheless, there are many elders who are suffering from hunger, primarily widows and widowers in the north. However, it is largely hidden.

This incremental \$25 increase was implemented for Nunavut as part of this federal assistance fund from the Government of Nunavut portion. The monthly amount was originally at \$175, which has increased to \$200.

With respect to the (interpretation ends) consumer tax index, (interpretation) where does it come from? Does it come from the Government of Nunavut or Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. The Minister of Finance wants to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, can you respond to that question? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The senior subsidy is provided through Family Services out of our territorial budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know which minister to ask my question; I believe, the minister of family and income support.

I'm questioning the analysis for the Nunavut senior benefits program is following the consumer tax index. Are we following the Canadian Consumer Tax Index or do we have our own Nunavut consumer tax index when we calculated the rise from \$175 by \$25? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. We follow the (interpretation ends) federal index. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In looking at Canada as a whole and if you are following the rates set federally, I want to ask the minister if she personally is aware or knows if this amount is suitable for the cost of living in the north. We live in the north and don't have the luxury of living in the south, and our elders don't have the administrative planning ability since they rarely had employment opportunities.

Now, I keep asking where this rate comes from. Can we increase the amount of funding for our elders in Nunavut so they can at least survive without added funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. As I stated earlier, that rate came from a 2015 study of the monthly assistance funding, but we can always conduct another review to determine if we need to increase this amount.

Many of the factors related to social services have set rates for food, clothing allowances, as well as the average (interpretation ends) food basket (interpretation) costs that resulted in the increase under (interpretation ends) income reform. (interpretation) Further, regarding the volunteers who look after foster children, it is another rate we want to see increased, as I have heard suggestions about that. These are the

programs we want to review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 437 – 5(2): School Attendance in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions again are for the Minister of Education.

I would like to follow up on my colleague Mr. Main's concerns over the rate of truancy, the rates of low attendance in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, high school education is the basic minimum requirement for most of our jobs in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, over the recent years a number of jurisdictions in Canada and the United States have moved towards implementing truancy into their Education Acts and are making education attendance compulsory.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario's *Education Act* defines truancy as intentional, unjustified absence and it makes it illegal.

I would like to enquire if the minister has considered including truancy into the upcoming *Education Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his

question. The attendance rates in our territory are quite of a serious concern and I share them with the members. I think we need to work on this moving forward.

As for whether or not we considered it with the upcoming amendments to the *Education Act*, we have not done so, but those revisions are still to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I'm quite concerned over our attendance rates and I do believe that our government needs to do something to ensure that our high school students are attending and are getting the education required to lead a successful life.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe that truancy law is required, but I do not believe that it is a decision that can be easily made by the government, as to this day, there is still clear memory of the residential school era, and I do believe that if we are to move in that direction, it should be a decision made by Nunavummiut.

I would like to put forward a request to the minister if the minister would be willing to commit to working with Elections Nunavut in creating a plebiscite at the upcoming election in the fall to ask Nunavummiut if they would be in favour of the government enacting a truancy law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Attendance, there are figures that we posted in our annual report this sitting. It shows 30 percent or more times as a total where students are not attending. I think we need to hit it home to Nunavummiut in a sense where when our children, when our students are attending, it's a win-win-win-win situation. It's not just a win for the parent, it's not just a win for the DEA, it's not just a win for the government, but it's a win for the child. I think that's where we need to hit the mark that when they attend school, it's good for everyone.

On his question about whether or not we're doing a Nunavut-wide plebiscite, I think we need to think this through even more before we get to that point, but we can have that discussion internally and see if it's feasible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I would like to follow up with another request. I would like to ask the minister to commit to follow up with his department internally, but further to commit to coming back to the Assembly with the findings of the department as soon as the spring or the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we're going to do some serious policy changes or legislative

changes, we will want to hear from Nunavut of course. With that, whether we go on that path, we will give Nunavummiut the opportunity but also let them know what course of action we would like to take with attendance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the extended time for question period has expired and it can't be extended further. We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 142 – 5(2): 2016-2017 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the 2016-17 Annual Report for Poverty Reduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Tabled Document 143 – 5(2): Arctic Eider Duck Society Submission to the Canada Nature Fund

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the Arctic Eider Society's submission to the federal government's Canada Nature Fund, as well as my letter of support for the

proposal. The society's submission is titled "Conservation and Protection of the Belcher Islands."

Mr. Speaker, the society has been working closely with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq and the hunters and trappers association on this project, and I encourage all members, especially the Minister of Environment, to review this information with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

However, before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will now take a break and return at 2:00 p.m. and proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 12:40 and
Committee resumed at 14:00

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In

Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The wish of the committee is to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 Main Estimates of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. We would then proceed to review the Supplementary Bills 16, 17, and 18 and, if time permits, we will then review Bills 13, 21, and 20. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 –
Executive and Intergovernmental
Affairs – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. 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. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the officials to enter the Chambers?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Premier Savikataaq, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue on into your opening comments. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the DM of EIA, Kathy Okpik, and to my right is Director of Corporate Services Les Hickey.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to present the 2019-2020 main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) and the 2019-2020 business plan.

As a central department providing support to cabinet, EIA acts as the executive branch of government and leads the coordination of *Turaaqtavut's* implementation by working closely with all government departments and agencies.

EIA also ensures Government of Nunavut (GN) priorities and interests continue to be at the forefront of policy discussions and are represented at the national and international levels.

I am pleased to report the department's current main estimates for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is a total of \$19,064,000. This amount consists of approximately \$14.25 million for salaries and benefits, \$365,000 for grants and contributions, and \$4.7 million for operations and maintenance.

In 2019 the transfer of Sivumuaqatigiit and the Public Service Training lines of

business from EIA to the new Department of Human Resources (HR) will generate a loss of 33 PYs and will change EIA's current main estimates by approximately \$8.5 million (consisting of salaries and operation and maintenance costs).

Following the transfer to HR, EIA will count four lines of core business:

1. The Directorate Division provides overall management and coordination of activities for the executive branch, access to information and government-wide communications.
2. The Strategic Planning Division advises cabinet on business plans, strategies, policies, and legislation and participates in the collection statistical information, such as the recent Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis. The division also develops and supports initiatives tied to the implementation of Article 23 in Nunavut.
3. The Intergovernmental Affairs Division leads the management and the development of strategies, policies, and initiatives related to international, federal, provincial and territorial relations. It provides support to each of Nunavut's communities via the government liaison officers network and coordinates matters related to Nunavut's seniors. This fiscal year the GN will continue to provide \$150,000 in funding to the Nunavut Seniors' Society.
4. Finally, the Devolution Secretariat is responsible for the devolution

process of transferring control over Nunavut's public (Crown) lands and resources to the Government of Nunavut.

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. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) 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 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The department's approved 2018-19 operations and maintenance budget, as introduced in the Legislative Assembly, was \$27,886,000. The department's proposed 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget is \$19,064,000. The total number of positions in the department is decreasing from 139.0 person years in the 2018-19 fiscal year to 106.0 person years in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. These changes reflect the transfer of a number of positions to the newly re-established, and some would say resuscitated, Department of Human Resources.

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 I of the Operational Audit* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee continues to urge the government to ensure that the final report from the operational audit is tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that it "...takes part in Nunavut Implementation Panel meetings, which are held four times a year, to discuss implementation activities occurring within the government." However, given the infrequency with which annual reports for the Nunavut Implementation Panel are publicly released, the standing committee encourages the minister to provide periodic updates in the Legislative Assembly on its activities and initiatives.

The department's proposed budget for the Government Liaison Officer Program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is \$3,649,000. During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of the department's 2018-19 main estimates, the standing committee raised a number of concerns and questions regarding the

effectiveness of the Government Liaison Officer Program and publicly questioned the need to locate government liaison officers in decentralized communities and regional centres. However, the extent to which the government has acted on these concerns is unclear.

On March 13, 2017 the government's strategic framework for addressing the needs of seniors was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Collaborate with departments on the development of a comprehensive Senior's Strategy aimed at their needs for care." The department's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates include \$150,000 in proposed contribution funding for the Nunavut Seniors' Society. Given the significant amount of 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's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that "It is anticipated that a new formalized Federal-Provincial-Territorial Indigenous engagement structure will be established in the near future." The importance of achieving greater clarity in this sphere can be illustrated by recent developments concerning efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in Nunavut and other parts of the country. Although the goal of eliminating tuberculosis is one with which all parties unanimously and strongly agree, the lines of accountability with respect to how parties expend public funds and resources have become increasingly blurred.

The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan also indicates that "The Government of Nunavut is finalizing its implementation plans with the Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene and Athabasca Dene overlapping treaties, and related *Nunavut Agreement* amendments. A reference question is currently before the Nunavut Court of Justice on whether or not the Government of Nunavut's consent is required for *Nunavut Agreement* amendments and the two Dene treaties." It is the standing committee's understanding that a reference question of this nature would be submitted under the provisions of the territorial *Legal Questions Act*. The standing committee urges the government to make public its submission to the court.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates indicate that the Devolution Secretariat has a budget of \$2,255,000 and 10.0 positions. Although the department's proposed 2019-2022 business plan indicates that "Tri-partite negotiations have made progress towards [a devolution] agreement-in-principle," the standing committee continues to urge 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. 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 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Before we continue, I would like to remind members that I will give each of you 10 minutes to speak on each page and ask your questions if you so wish. Also, this department has six branches, so I will ask you to keep your detailed questions for the particular branch we're working on at the time and let's not get ahead of ourselves. I will also now open the floor for general comments and please keep your comments brief. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm clearly interested in the devolution file and I have been doing some reading on the subject, trying to better educate myself. One thing that I don't currently understand is why the federal government refuses to put offshore oil and gas on the table in terms of those negotiations. If we're talking about devolution and Nunavut having control over its resources, I think it would make sense for that to include the offshore. Whether resources are developed or we choose not to develop them, it should be our decision as a territory and it shouldn't be the federal government's decision. That's something that I would be interested in seeing more clarity on in terms of this file and the budget going forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. If there are no more general comments, we will move on. We will start on page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Are there any

questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you and good afternoon. I don't have very many questions in this area, but I do want to know more about the access to information budget. It seems to have decreased and I would like to know why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The compensation and benefits portion of it went down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier explain: is that because of less staff or what? Why did that happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's to do with staff turnover. The pay levels that we have with the government are usually 1 to 6, and when the experienced staff is gone and you hire staff at the lower level, then their salary is smaller. That's why there is a difference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Maybe just for me to understand a little better, how many staff do you have in the department that are looking after access

to information, and are those staff also responsible for working with all the other departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two staff, but one is vacant right now and we work with all of the departments as we're the central agency in terms of access to information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the vacancy, what kind of impact has that had on being able to fulfill the requirements under the access to information program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The job that needs to be done is still getting done. The position that is filled is the manager position and the vacant one is the advisor's position. We're still fulfilling our requirements under that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr... I was waiting for my light. Sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just makes me wonder because there is a lot of paper involved sometimes with some of these applications. One person is

managing that for the whole government. There must be some kind of negative impact in some way when you're short by one staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. The minister did state he was managing. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why we are managing is it seems like there are only two PYs there, but there is an ATIPP coordinator in each department and EIA works with that ATIPP coordinator from that department. If the request comes to that department, then we work with that ATIPP coordinator for that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, that makes more sense. I was going to say one person for the whole government would be... .

I would like to know if the minister can tell us or the Premier can tell us the number of submissions into this program and also, what kind of feedback does the department get from either the other departments or from outside, what kind of feedback on the program in how it's run? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of requests that are being asked for ATIPP is growing every year. That's why we have added a new PY so we can keep up with the

demands. As for the numbers, it has to be tallied up yet, but it's huge. The number of requests is huge and only growing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I was wondering if the Premier can provide maybe his position on whether or not people are just more interested in finding out information or maybe it's because people are not happy with how a service has been provided. Why does he think or what's the department's position? We're not supposed to say "he," "you," and everything, so I'm trying to be very cognizant of that, but I would really like to know what the thoughts are behind those numbers growing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The requests are quite varied. I can't say because they don't have to say why they want an ATIPP. It could be for if they want to find out some information as to how privacy breach was done or the media might have a media request or an employee who has a grievance might have a request. They're quite varied. When you put in an ATIPP request, you don't have to put a reason in why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on to something else. *Turaaqtavut*, the mandate of the government, has to have

an implementation plan of some kind. I'm wondering: is there an implementation plan and, if there is, will it be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have an implementation plan for *Turaaqtavut* and it's very detailed. We can table like an overarching one that's not as quite as detailed. We can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Angnakak. No, you're done? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question that my colleague was just asking about, the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, where we are at now and if the implementation plan is going to be tabled in the House.

Now, in the NWT what they have on their website (interpretation ends) is called a mandate tracker. They have a website called a mandate tracker and it lists all the different "achievable" and where they have achieved progress and where they have fallen short. Is the department considering setting up something like that for *Turaaqtavut*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look at something like that. I'm aware that they do have

that and we can look at that. I'm not going to say we're going to do it, but we can definitely look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe it would be beneficial so that Nunavummiut clearly understand what is contained in *Turaaqtavut*.

(interpretation ends) It says here that there's going to be a review done in this year in terms of the GN branding program. Is this just a statutory thing or is it just a regular update or are there issues with the GN brand at the moment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always looking at stuff to see if we can do stuff better, but if this is one here, it says here that an official communication review is similar to an audit. It's a systematic review of how the government communicates in order to assess communication, scopes, realities, and efficiencies, both strategically and operational. It's just to see if what we're doing is working or if we can just make it a little bit better. It's not a big change in direction. It's just to make sure that we're doing the best we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I have a suggestion for the government. Maybe they can incorporate it. When the puts out communication releases, it's all on the same letterhead, it all has the same, I would say, ho-hum kind of appearance. Even when it is something quite exciting or newsworthy, it's all on the same, standard, boilerplate letterhead and there are never any pictures. You see news releases that come out from other organizations. They have pictures or they will have links. They have like an online video file. That is just a suggestion in terms of things we could use to try to improve the messaging from the government.

I have a question about this. On page 3 in the priorities, one of the priorities from this current year was support government-wide efforts to develop infrastructure and economy. It says here, "The department has established a Deputy Ministers committee to lead and coordinate government efforts..." I guess just a clarification on the status. Is there anybody on that deputy ministers committee who resides outside of Iqaluit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to his comment about making it more exciting, we can look at that right now. We have a different colour swirl for each department. That's our big splash, I guess, and we can look at trying to just spice it up a bit.

As for the DMC, no, there's no one

outside of Iqaluit because all the DM positions are here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, but I think what you meant to say and what you said were two different things. Could you repeat your answer, please.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked if there were any members for the DMC that are out of Iqaluit. The answer is no because all the DMs are located here in Iqaluit, so there are none outside of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister. I would like to flag that as an issue of concern. I think, from a territory-wide perspective, it's unfortunate that there aren't any deputy minister positions that are located outside of Iqaluit. Given that all the DM positions for the whole government are located here, how are regional or community level concerns incorporated into the work at the Deputy Ministers Committee? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The DMs don't just make their decisions or what they want to talk about in a vacuum. They rely on their managers, the regional managers, the regional directors, directors, and it all filters up to the DM. That's how the communities would have their voices or

concerns heard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand that yes, they don't just represent their own community, but we have to realize that at the end of the day, every employee is just human; they're only human. When you have the most powerful bureaucrats for each department living in one community, and in most cases their families are living in one community, I don't think it's unreasonable to expect that they would either consciously or unconsciously favour certain projects toward certain communities. I don't know if it's possible for people to compensate for that internally.

I'm wondering if the minister has considered any changes to the makeup of this committee or putting in any measures to compensate for this. What I see is it's a built-in bias, and that's not a slight against the deputy ministers. It's simply, in my mind, a recognition that we care about what we know the most and what you know the most is the place you live, right? I would like to make it clear that I'm not... . Nothing against any of the deputy ministers at a personal level or a professional level; it's just the system and how that bias or unevenness can be corrected. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the DMs or positions are

located here, it's correct, but not all the DMs are from Iqaluit. There are DMs that have lived in small communities or outlying communities or other communities, however you want to look at it, and then they get the job and they come here. We do have some that have the communities' perspective and there are meetings that they have like conference calls and stuff, so they get the information from the outlying communities.

Another way is here. All of you, you're all MLAs and you're here in the House to voice your concerns to the minister, and then that concern is passed on down to the DM. That's the system we have right here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) That's precisely what I'm trying to do here is I'm trying to voice this concern to try to see if things can be changed. Will the minister consider looking into this issue and possibly incorporating changes into this very important committee going forward? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A deputy minister's job is very demanding within the department and all the senior managers or upper management is here, so I can't see that working out very well.

One thing that the last government did

was they had an initiative where if any of the DMs wanted to go work in the smaller communities for, I believe it was, two weeks, and then they went and did their job out of that community for two weeks, whichever community that they chose. That was one way of getting the DMs to see the outlying, smaller communities' challenges and their lifestyle and that. That was done in the last government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Will that be done during this government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look at it around operational requirements, but definitely we can look at it again and see how well it was received and look into doing it again because we don't want the DMs to operate in a vacuum. They should hear and there's not much substitute for seeing and feeling what's out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. I think it was a couple of years ago that a DM did go to my community for a period of two weeks and I think it's quite the eye-opener for them to see what life is like in our smaller communities.

Moving on, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my colleagues, I'll refer to the business plan on page 2, the very last bottom one there, Communications. It's quite a bit of a drop on the amount. What accounts for that? In my opinion it should have never dropped because not all Nunavummiut have access to computers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The drop is mostly to do with compensation because we have a 25 percent vacancy rate there right now. We're anticipating our service contracts to go down and we have adjusted the O&M budget to reflect those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On occasion we surf online to check out the news websites, to see what our government is doing as well as future projects scheduled for construction and to read up on news, updates, and issues that spur people to visit the House to listen in to our proceedings. Nonetheless, people voice their concerns and priorities they face that day by phoning into the radio phone-in shows.

With the majority of our population in Nunavut still comprised of Inuit, how will the government's public outreach efforts reach our voting constituents, or will this not make any appreciable difference in the quality as the priority is to have it in all official languages of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we send out communications as a government, we use Nunavut's official languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next one touches upon what my two colleagues brought up: *Turaaqtavut*. It was encouraging to read the minister's comment in the press regarding *Turaaqtavut*, and one of the key priorities in there is elders within our territory.

As the minister is well aware and other ministers are well aware and other MLAs here, I have been pushing to get the Martha Talirug Centre reopened.

Listening to the minister's press release regarding *Turaaqtavut*, "Implement a comprehensive communications plan to realize the goals of *Turaaqtavut*, with measurable benchmarks, timelines and specific deliverables."

My question to that is: seeing that the centre I'm referring to reflects elders, will that be one of the key priorities under *Turaaqtavut*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the mandates we have for *Turaaqtavut* is to give elders care and it's not community-specific. It's just

to give better care to our elders and I think the biggest concern that... I don't know if it's the biggest concern, but what we wanted to do the most was start bringing our elders home from the south that have to go south because we can't properly care for them.

I'm kind of overstepping my boundaries because the health department is in charge of that, but in terms of *Turaaqtavut*, I think we meant that we just want to give better care for our elders here in Nunavut. That means both trying to bring the elders home and providing better care for the ones here within Nunavut. If you have specific concerns like that, then that would be better answered by the health minister.

As for the reasons why it's the way it is right now, I know there were issues for the building there. I have heard the exchange between you and the health minister, and it would be a better battle between you and the health minister and not me because I'm not in charge of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm basing my statement on the elders, not the Department of Health. I'm reiterating my statement that the building in Baker Lake was created with elders in mind. I'm just putting an emphasis on that. In Baker Lake at that time we had the largest population of elders in Nunavut. That's why we started setting up those establishments and it was the first one built in Nunavut. I'm just reiterating that.

I would like further clarification on page 4 of your business plan, third bullet, which states, (interpretation ends) "Initiate a thorough review of GN communications tools including the Government of Nunavut website, the GN branding program, and the Visual Identity Program." (interpretation) What do you envision there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Ms. Angnakak asked that very same question a little while ago. If there is anything the minister wants to add and he says he doesn't, so Mr. Mikkungwak, if you could choose a different question, please.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Okay. I will now ask about the one right above that, (interpretation ends) the "Social Media Policy." Now I have a question regarding that. Why is the Department of EIA posting on Facebook when the Government of Nunavut has their own webpage established with all official languages, and you don't have all official languages in social media? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a Facebook page, that's correct, and it's when you want to get your message out and communicate, you go with what's being used the most right now. We have an official website and we have that too. I'm not sure exactly if you can... To be honest, I don't have a personal Facebook, so I don't know if you can post stuff in syllabics or not. I'm kind of ignorant in that sense there, but we want to

communicate with most Nunavummiut with the most efficient tool that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have used it from time to time, copy and paste and whatnot, but I do believe, when they are being posted, they are posted by EIA staff. If they are going to utilize the social media page, can the minister not ensure that anything that is going on the social media page reflects the four official languages in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, if we had to do that in four official languages, it would be so time-consuming. I'm not sure how much time we would have to actually get our message out. We want to get our message out as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Well, we set up the policies and the legislation, and they were passed by this House to be used. It was to respect the people of Nunavut and we have to abide by it. Some cannot read in English alone, and the majority of the population are Inuit. That's just a comment, Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue with my colleague Mr. Mikkungwak's theme on social media. I would like to commend the Premier on your social media presence. That's a striking difference between yourself and the Premier from the Fourth Assembly. It has been noted by me and my constituents that they feel they hear your message clearly on Facebook. I want to commend you for that and hope that you remain active in that area.

I would like to begin my line of questioning related to the senior management secretariat. I have seen the senior management handbook on the GN website, but it appears that the document is quite outdated and the tables reference 2010 information. I was wondering if there has been any updates since then and, if so, what. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can just clarify because I'm not sure if he's talking about the HR manual or what it is. We're just a little confused here. If he can just clarify so that we can understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was referencing the *Senior Managers' Handbook* that is on the Department of Finance's website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member just stated, it's on the Department of Finance's website, so that question would have to go to Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main. Sorry. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking the questions to the Minister of EIA as the minister is responsible for the Senior Personnel Secretariat, which I'm assuming sets up all of the guidelines and policies in the *Senior Managers' Handbook*, which is why I was trying to ask the minister that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Premier I'm responsible for the DMs, but all the ADMs are under the public service authority, or PSA. I think it's PSA. They're not directly under the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. As the Minister responsible for the Senior Personnel Secretariat, which includes all senior managers in the GN that are excluded from the collective agreement, all of the policies that apply to those individuals are set out in the *Senior Managers' Handbook*.

I'm curious if all of those policies listed in the *Senior Managers' Handbook* have

to be approved by the Minister responsible for the Senior Personnel Secretariat and the Minister responsible for EIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a little clarification here, all the senior managers under the PSC, and there is a PSC committee, but as EIA we're not involved in that. We don't approve the policies of the PSC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Main. Gee, I did it again. Sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Lightstone. I apologize.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct my senior manager handbook questions to the minister responsible, so I'll leave those questions for another time.

I would like to stick on the Senior Personnel Secretariat topic, though. I was quite surprised when the Minister of Finance indicated that the senior management bonuses were not tied to financial performance of their budgets. Looking at the *Hansard* of May 28, 2014, I would like to quote a question Mr. Savikataaq had asked of the Premier of the day. "Can the Premier explain the government's methodology for determining the amount of performance bonus payments that are awarded to senior management?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bonus and merits are two different things but dealt with at the same time. The bonus is if they're doing good work above and beyond what is normal, and the merit is there is no system for them to get a raise every year. For the union workers, you go steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. There is nothing like that built in like that to senior managers. There are the two.

To go back to the comment if the DM should get bonuses only if they stay within their budget, then the poor DM of Health would never ever get a bonus, ever, and same with maybe Family Services. There are just certain things budget-wise with certain departments that are beyond their control.

The communities want more services, the MLAs are demanding more services, and we're trying to do more with the same resources that we have. We're doing our best to stay within budget, but there are certain departments that have a tough time doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the difference between the bonus and the merit, so I'll stick to the bonuses for now.

Looking at a recent article, in 2017-18 there was a considerable amount of bonuses paid out, which is why I'm kind of curious how these bonuses are decided upon. I understand the minister

had indicated that bonuses are based on good work and going above and beyond, but I would like to know a bit more, specifically the methodology of how the bonuses are determined.

Does the Senior Personnel Secretariat get together once a year and decide that the government is going to pay out \$800,000 and each department is going to pay out a certain percentage of that? That's the kind of answers that I'm looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's formula-based and I'll just go a step back. For the DMs, it's at the privy of the Premier, but the ministers actually do sign off and the ministers decide on the formula on what the DM should get. Anyone below that, performance appraisals are done and then it's decided by their manager, but if you want it in more detail, if I can ask Ms. Okpik just to elaborate on that just to make it more clearer on the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you. In terms of merit and bonus, they are two separate items. For deputy ministers, the (interpretation ends) Senior Personnel Secretariat (interpretation) is responsible and there is clarity in terms of the actual percentage amounts. (interpretation ends) There's an actual percentage of their salary that's determined and approved by the SPS before that process takes place. There's a self-assessment included. Typically a deputy minister will have to look at their

mandate letter, they will have to look at the business plan, and there are specific *Turaaqtavut* objectives that they need to report into after their self-assessment.

I know, typically, assessments have been, we have been told, no longer than 10 pages. You will have any deputy submit a 10- to 20-page self-assessment depending on how big their department is, and then the recommendations; there's interaction between the Premier and the ministers on the assessments, so that's done at the SPS level.

With respect to directors and assistant deputy ministers, again, there's a percentage outlined. Typically it's 5 percent...in the past and I can only speak to the past. In the last few years it has been 5 percent of the department's salary that enables... . If you have, let's say, 15 senior managers that are ADM and directors, then 5 percent of their combined salaries is what you would look at. There is a cap and in any given year, so last year, for example, the senior and merit couldn't go over 7 percent of their salary. It's a combination.

Sometimes when you often look if a person has more salary, like a lower salary, you might give them more in a salary increase than you would on the bonus piece. Let's say you might do 5 percent of salary and a 2 percent, but it never goes over that 7 percent and it never goes over that salary cap that's determined by the SPS every year.

A few things have to take place. Of course there needs to be a positive performance appraisal. Their staff that report to them also have to have completed performance appraisals. You have to make sure that their leave forms

and all their leave credits are followed up with every year. That's how it's typically done.

For example, it's March now, so as the secretary to the Senior Personnel Secretariat, I'll start to get a list of who are the current directors, who are the current ADMs. There are certain provisions. For example, anybody who started employment after October would not be eligible. We often look at even prorating. If they have only been within the position for nine months, then we might prorate their performance merit, for example.

Directors and ADMs don't have an instant mechanism for salary increases, but it can go the other way. If you have a director or an ADM that the deputy minister feels hasn't been performing, you can actually make the request not to have a merit or a bonus allocated. It's not automatic. I have seen instances where merit and bonus have not been given to individuals. (interpretation)
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Okpik, for that information. It seems like regular MLAs have been trying to get this information since the minister brought it up in 2014. I would like to ask why this isn't public knowledge and why can't this information be found on EIA's website, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like Ms. Okpik just said, it's not a guarantee. They may get bonus and merit and they may not. It depends on their work performance and their evaluations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I would like to ask the minister to commit to making this information public and posting this information on EIA's website so the public knows how the government determines performance bonuses. The minister can even include that phrase that it is not guaranteed and that it's up to the Senior Personnel Secretariat or whoever. I would really like to request the minister to commit to making this public knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look at it in terms of what we could put on there. There are privacy issues here, so you would never put individual persons on there. It is so varied, but we can put in a general thing of how bonuses and merits are calculated, but it doesn't mean that anyone's going to get them because it's not a guarantee. It would be pretty vague. If bonuses and merits are going to be given, we could put the guidelines on in terms of a percentage of a salary, it can only be a maximum of this. I'm not going to commit to anything. We can look at it. It's quite more complicated than just posting this stuff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next line of questioning. The minister had indicated that deputy heads provide a self-performance review. I was wondering if the minister would be able to expand on that and specifically how the deputy head's performance bonus is decided upon. The minister stated that the ministers decide on their own deputy minister's bonus and then the Premier gives approval. I do believe that it's something that should be expanded on. That's more information that we regular MLAs should know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure exactly what he wants, but the DMs, like Ms. Okpik said, do a self-evaluation in terms of the mandate and the business plan to see where the department is in terms of those two, and then it's looked at. I'm not sure exactly what else he wants. If he can his just clarify his point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To rephrase, in a few months' time the Premier will receive a number of self-assessments, I'm assuming, and then shortly after the Premier will receive recommendations from ministers on how much bonus to be paid out to each deputy minister. That seems like a very vague and high-level description of

the process. I was asking to see if the minister could expand on that and give us more detail than was already provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I can provide any more details than Ms. Okpik said. She was quite detailed in her explanation of how the bonus and merits work. I can't elaborate any more on the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic. I was wondering if there was a performance evaluation mechanism in place for ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is, you guys, the MLAs. All the ministers and the Premier work at the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A quick question. It sounds to me that the minister has not set any sort of framework for determining and judging the performance of his cabinet. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every government looks at the mandate and see how they're going on the mandate and that would be one gauge of judging the government and judging each department on their share of what they have to do, *Turaaqtavut*, but in question period that's almost an evaluation at times too.

The ministers do what they need to do and I would say that if the minister is not performing to the satisfaction of certain people, then they will pick up on that. The ministers work hard and they try to get their mandate done, plus doing all the day-to-day stuff to keep the lights on in their department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's clear that's the Premier's prerogative when setting or distributing portfolios and the Premier has obviously shown that, but in follow-up to that, I would like to ask if the minister is satisfied with the cabinet's ability to provide answers so far in question period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the ministers are questioned in question period, they may not have the detailed information that is required at times and, if they don't, then they say, "I don't have that level of detail and I'll get back to you."

We have staff that do all the detailed stuff and sometimes the detailed stuff on certain things don't get filtered up right away, unless it's an ongoing issue or some issue that's going to be very political, but we don't hear about a lot of the day-to-day stuff because that's what all the bureaucrats are there to do. They're there to work and get the job done. If there are any issues, they normally flag it up and it comes up to the top there. They do the best they can with the information that they have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: is the minister satisfied that each minister has put in an equal amount of work in maintaining their portfolios? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure where the member is going on that, but the ministers do work hard. If there are any issues that come up, then I'm there with my staff to work with the ministers if there are any issues or any hard times that they're having. We work as a team on the second floor there and if there are any issues that come up and if we can help, then we're there to help all the ministers. We work as a team and we do our best to get the job that we have been given to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question, I understand that ministers have a very high demand for duty travel and home travel. Excluding personal situations, is the minister satisfied that when the ministers are in town, they put in an equal amount of time in the office running their departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I don't know what this has to do with EIA's budget, but Minister Savikataaq, if you want to reply, please go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the ministers have a job to do and they're there to do the job. I stated earlier that all of us in cabinet work at the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly and we're there to try to get a job done and we're doing it to get the job done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. We are on Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,473,000. Sorry. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions here. On March 16, 2016 a report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first phase of the operational audit of Government of Nunavut programs, which began in the year of 2015. On March 15, 2018 the Legislative Assembly was informed by the Premier that phase 2 of the operational audit is almost completed.

As of today what is the status of phase 2 of the operational audit, and will you commit to tabling it in the legislative, the final report on its findings and

recommendations? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, phase 2 is done and there are no tabling requirements, and I believe it is still being analyzed and looked at. I'm not sure if there are any recommendations that are forthcoming right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to know of the operations of the government even if it's not tabled in the legislative, but I'll move on to my next question.

Which Government of Nunavut programs have their proposed budgets or staffing levels increased for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as a direct result of the operational audit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's hard to answer that one, but other than the Legislative Assembly, we're the last ones there, so you have approved all the budgets with their increases or decreases for the year 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite clear, but perhaps you will have the same response, so I'll ask from the other side. Which specific programs have had their proposed budgets or staffing levels decreased for the 2019-2020 specifically as a direct result of the operational audit? Have you looked into that? That will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past audit of the previous government was not focused only on the financial aspects, and I believe it was more specific to the government's operations and duties.

The audit looked at whether the programs work efficiently or required further massaging, and further, whether the best practices are being followed or whether it needs to be completely altered. This was generically how it was audited. The financial aspects were not the priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Again, we're on Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,473,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-5. Strategic Planning. I will remind members to get your hands up right away and don't wait 'til the last minute, please. We will start off with Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

On May 4, 2015 a settlement agreement was signed in relation to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's 2006 lawsuit against the Government of Canada concerning its implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. The settlement agreement provided in part that the Government of Canada will complete a new Nunavut Inuit labour force analysis in close consultation with NTI and the Government of Nunavut. The Nunavut Labour Force Analysis report was publicly released in October 2018. What specific actions is the government taking in response to the findings of this report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. If your telephone is close to your microphone, if you can move it farther away, please; it's affecting the system. Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each department has an Inuit employment plan now and the government has an overall Inuit employment plan. We're doing training specifically to try to get Inuit to "go up the ladder."

On a side note of that, as part of that lawsuit settlement there, the Makigiaqta corporation was developed and they're there to give out training funds to make Inuit more employable both for the government and industry, but it was targeted mostly to government. The GN has two seats on the Makigiaqta board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, which minister currently sits on the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's Board of Directors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're just getting the new two board members on there. It used to be the Premier through EIA because the Inuit employment training was there and the Minister of Arctic College, which was David Joanasié. Both of these ministers are being replaced by the Minister of Arctic College, Minister Netser, and the new Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you. What specific initiatives is the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation currently undertaking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list is long and there are lots of projects that they are doing, but they're a corporation on their own and as the GN, we have two board members, as I stated. They're their own entity and they take applications in to fund projects that will enhance education or employability levels of Inuit, specifically for Inuit. The Makigiaqta corporation

has the final say on which projects they fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. I would first like to say I really heard the minister earlier when he mentioned the English language, but that all the other languages, including Inuktitut and French, are (interpretation ends) time-consuming (interpretation) to include. It is really disheartening to hear the Premier say that about the other languages that are important in Nunavut. The Premier shouldn't say they are too onerous because it is part of the government's responsibility.

The first statement I would like to make is that you work with the departments of Justice and Culture and Heritage to ensure that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values (interpretation) are incorporated into legislation and policies. What has been done to date to include these within the government's legislation and policies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to address what he heard that he dislikes. When we do public service announcements, all of the official languages of Nunavut are used. I was referring to Facebook where we only put things down in English, and people are appreciative of it.

Whenever MLAs table documents in the

House, they generally produce it in one language, but when the government is tabling a document, we produce it in four languages.

However, we will consider what the member said. I may be forgetting a part of the question. Perhaps the member can ask the question again. I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. I want to remind the members that Communications goes under Directorate and we already passed that page. Let's move on to Strategic Planning. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I'm in the right page under priorities for 2018-19 under Strategic Planning on page 5. That is what I based my question on. It states here in 2018-19 that they would work with the departments of Justice and Culture and Heritage regarding *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within legislation and policy. In 2019-2020 on page 7, it says the same thing; it has not been changed. That is why I was asking the question. What new things is he going to be pushing as Premier of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the Department of Justice and the Department of Culture and Heritage, as well as all other government departments. If we are looking at an Act or producing a new bill, we make sure that we are following what is called in

English (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values. (interpretation) It is always being utilized to make sure it aligns with (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values (interpretation) or *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. We try to make sure the (interpretation ends) policies (interpretation) apply to those. When departments are setting up policies, they make sure that those are followed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main reason I was asking what new programs you are pushing is the fact that you need to be more apparent. It's very obvious that it needs to be more apparent. We always say as members that there are still many people who speak only in Inuktitut. Thinking along those lines, when laws are not really following Inuit societal values, that's when I address them because they should be followed.

Will there be any new programs created in 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When there's a new legislative proposal, we try to include Inuit societal values right at the beginning and as the bill is being worked on, they're included right at the beginning. The different departments have IQ coordinators and we include them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister

Savikataaq. Before I go on to the next name on my list, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:22 and resumed at 15:36*

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We're still on Strategic Planning. I understand, Minister Savikataaq, you wanted to make a comment before we proceed, so please go ahead. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a correction or clarification. The Premier's Facebook page is in all four official languages. As I stated earlier, I personally don't have one, but it's in all four languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq, for that clarification. Next on my list for questions, Ms. Towtongie. Please go ahead.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's proposed 2019-2022 business plan indicates on page 11 that it "takes part in Nunavut Implementation Panel meetings, which are held four times a year, to discuss implementation activities...within the government."

The most recent annual report that was publicly released by the Nunavut Implementation Panel was in the year 2012-13, about six years ago, and this report was reported in Parliament in February of 2018.

As of today, who are the members of the Nunavut Implementation Panel and what

specific work is the panel currently undertaking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last most recent ones are the staff members: Ms. Kathy Okpik, Mr. Steve Pinksen, Ms. Sheila Kolola, and legal people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lawyers.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question was: what specific work is the panel currently doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mostly on Articles 23 and 24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates indicate that the budget for the bureau of statistics is projected to fall from \$782,000 to \$577,000. That's a decrease of approximately 26 percent. What accounts for this change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vacancies account for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question is with regard to page 6, second bullet, and it says, "Develop a compendium of sources of financial, technical and marketing assistance and place the information on the...website for Nunavut-based small scale businesses to seek support to expand their business operations."

My question is with regard to intellectual property rights. I see a lot of products that should have been Nunavut or Nunavik-specific like ulu or amautik. Has that been considered? Is it on this website? My final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's just to support business in terms of statistical data that they can use. In terms of intellectual property, the bureau of statistics would not be involved in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to be referring to the same bullet on page 6, small-scale businesses. On the status it says, "...83 sources of opportunities for funding..." Is that across the board from government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to have to guess that I guess there are 83 different sources of funding available for small businesses within all the departments within the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. On that light, if it's across the Government of Nunavut, what is the benchmark to be identified as small-scale business when each and every government department has their own criteria and their own different policy for funding sources? What do you deem as the benchmark for small-scale businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member would be better suited to ask that question to Economic Development in terms of what's deemed as small business and what's deemed a medium business or big business. This is just funding sources and I think that 83 might even involve federal government funding and Inuit org funding sources that businesses have, but the bureau of statistics does not define what a small business is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

My question is on the bottom of page 5

in your business plan, which states, "Participate in the review of human resources policies and programs to increase Inuit employment at all levels of the public service." I'm just asking: do job postings go out, including deputy minister jobs? I'm asking if any job postings go out in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, some DM jobs are posted in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you do not find anybody suitable in Nunavut, do you go south at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we look within Nunavut and if we get a firm to help us in finding a suitable employee, they still work within Nunavut with the HR department to try to find a suitable Nunavut person to fill the job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How successful are you in finding people within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It really depends on how specialized the job requirement is for that DM and which department it is, so it's not an overall, blanket statement. Sometimes we're successful in finding someone from Nunavut. If we need a specialized person who has certain knowledge and skills and if we can't find it within Nunavut, then we look to the south, but we make all efforts to find a suitable person within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. My next line of questioning has to do with airfares within Nunavut.

At the bottom of page 6, the last bullet under status it says, "Collection of airfare prices started in January 2018. The survey covers travels between Nunavut communities..." When you say "Nunavut communities," what all you say is "...from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay to major out-of-province destinations such as Ottawa, Yellowknife, Montreal and Winnipeg."

My question to that is: do you do surveys from smaller communities, not just the regional ones? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure why it's written like that, but it's between the major centres where most of the traffic is. That's what I'm going to presume it is, but if I can get Ms. Okpik to just

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you. Regarding the airfare survey that researches travel costs, the travel fare is surveyed for all the communities from a hub. For instance, we used the hubs of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay as they are destination hubs for points south. For example, we estimate the costs from Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay with a southern location such as Edmonton. They conduct an airfare survey on all routes to determine how much the costs of air travel are from each point of origin.

Further, for every community, they also conduct the nutritious foods costs. They use a list of essentials to purchase a food basket to determine the costs of those items in a particular community and compare it to other communities. There are different surveys and cost of living information that help to determine the parameters they need to consider in order to provide assistance in that community, and they use the prices found in the food basket surveys to estimate the overall amounts.

We would use that information to look at the benefits and other costs the government accrues. Those would be under the bureau. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These smaller

communities are sometimes forgotten, and food prices and airfares are very expensive. From Gjoa Haven to Yellowknife, (interpretation ends) one way is \$2,000. (interpretation) The food is very expensive. I don't want you to forget small communities. I am asking you to consider the small communities. That's just a comment. (interpretation) *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to... I was just listening to the member and I'm reading it here myself. I think it is just the interpretation here. The survey covers travel between Nunavut communities and from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, which fly out of territory. I think that's the way it's worded. It is to cover there.

As for the member there about the high cost food, yes, we have the GLOs do food pricing baskets so many times a year so that we have an understanding of the food costs in all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To supplement my colleague's comments about the airfare survey, I would like to know if the airfare survey going to continue in 2019-2020. It doesn't make any indication on here.

The possibility of the merger between First Air and Canadian North is of a major concern that it would cause rises

in prices. Therefore I wonder if the airfare survey will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tender is out for (interpretation ends) duty and medical travel. (interpretation) Once the contract is finalized, perhaps that can be looked at again. We're not going to see a major change right now. Once the contract is completed, we can revisit that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, the airfare survey work is not going to continue in this next fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm saying that we're waiting for the contract to be finalized and then we can look at doing it again, and we might do it again if there's a merger and stuff like that. There are factors that come into play that might force us to do it again just to see what the difference is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate

having the airfare survey continue, considering what he spoke about.

(interpretation ends) Under this business registry item here on page 6, it's not a priority in this next fiscal year going forward. It says that they're "...harmonized into a comprehensive business registry." Well, the business registry will only be valuable if it's continually updated and refreshed. I would just like a little bit of clarification on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are certain projects that we do and then we look at it and see if it's a worthwhile project, I guess. For some of the stuff like the NNI Registry, NTI is in charge of that and they send us a list of who all the NNI registered companies are. That is updated all the time, but is not our list. We don't make the list, but that's just one component where the list comes to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Where it says here on page 6, "These will be updated and harmonized into a comprehensive business registry," where will that business registry be available? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail here, but I can just go out on a limb a bit and say stuff like with the tourism stuff, Economic Development and [Transportation] would have the outfitters, the hotels, the bed and breakfasts. I would say that they would have all that stuff in, I don't know if it would be a directory, but a pamphlet or that information would be readily available for them because they do license them.

As for the other part, I don't have that level of detail right here with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Okay, this comprehensive business registry, just a comment on the business registry, it would seem to me that if you have, let's say, 25 businesses operating out of the same post office box and the same phone number, that might raise some flags for people.

Within the NNI Registry, for example, if we're trying to talk about separating paper companies from real companies, I think that's something that needs to be addressed in our territory because it plays into our contracting processes and it ends up being that real, physically Inuit-owned and operated companies are put on the same level playing field as a paper company that's there simply to take advantage of contracting procedures that have been put in place to benefit the real Inuit companies. It's something we have to address and I would be interested. That's part of the reason why

I was asking where this comprehensive business registry was available. I would be interested to see that information.

(interpretation) This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) On page 7 it mentions "...a survey of key leadership positions in Nunavut using gender lens in order to reveal the extent to which governance systems in the territory are gendered." (interpretation) I would like to know exactly what that is, how it operates and how it affects the programs that are brought out by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) In reading it, what we're trying to do here is look at the number of female employees we have and if it's reflective to their jobs.

(interpretation ends) In the union workers there are lots of females. The majority of the workers are females. The Inuk male is the minority in the union work there. We're just looking at it to see if there are any barriers in upper management. I'm going out on a limb a bit here again, but just looking to see how we can accommodate more gender equality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for allowing me to jump in again.

Specifically when it comes to gender equality and looking at leadership positions, what specific actions are we

talking about here in the term of the main estimates here? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The departments and divisions are always asking for these stats from the bureau of statistics too. That's why we have it there and we compile it and it's used to make decisions there.

I'm not sure if I fully understood exactly what the member...if he can just rephrase his question, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's going to be a survey of leadership positions using a gender lens and it's just not clear to me, I guess, what the purpose of this survey is, "to reveal the extent to which governance systems...are gendered." The minister mentioned that females are the majority in the civil service. I just wanted more specifics around this survey and what's the point of the survey, what is the end goal of conducting this survey. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll read what it says here. The Department for Women and Gender Equality has been contracted for

collaboration in analyzing variables to explain the gender leadership patterns that are identified during the survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe I'll look at *Hansard* and try to understand that.

On page 8, the last bullet, the last priority for this fiscal year mentions the Nunavut job vacancy database. I have never heard of that database, so if the minister could explain where this database is made available. Is it internal? Is it on the web? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me read to see where it's done. "The department collects data on job vacancies advertised for both the public and private agencies to provide information on job demands in the territory. Among others, the job vacancy database provides statistical data on numbers and types of job positions that are on offer as well as job vacancy locations."

I guess the departments would use that. It's not clear whether it's like a public database or not, but the departments would use that in order to help them in their plans for employment plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. It's not clear to me whether this is just looking at Nunavut government job vacancies or if it includes the private sector, but if it does include the private sector, I would highly recommend that the bureau collect information from the mining industry. At Meliadine, for example, there are hundreds of jobs coming online in the next two to three years, literally hundreds.

Unfortunately it has been quite disappointing so far in terms of action on the mine training front. We don't seem to be, as a government, up to speed yet. I think this is maybe, if it does include the private sector employment, it's an opportunity for direction to come from the top, from EIA in terms of "Look, we need to get up to speed on this industry in Nunavut." (interpretation) That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Was there a question there? I wasn't quite... It was just a comment? Okay. Moving on, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to page 7, for 2019-2020, near the bottom of the page, it has to do with elders, *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within legislation and policies. Are there elder advisors with the Department of Justice and the Department of Culture and Heritage? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each of the departments have what are called in English (interpretation ends) IQ coordinators. (interpretation) All departments have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you. Are some of these positions filled by elders?

I want to note the use of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within the government system. I would think it would make more sense if the departments had elders who know our culture, customs, and law. That would work in terms of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate as a goal.

I would like to see the departments having elders in the system to promote Inuit employment. There are only 10 more days until the Department of Human Resources is in place. I would consider this a priority in terms of our elders. If we could get clarity, it would help the *Turaaqtavut* mandate and help increase elder employment in all government departments. That's my final comment regarding our elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, who is sitting over there. I'm done.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The departments have Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators. I can't say at this time if they are indeed elders, but all departments have an IQ coordinator. The Department of Education has an elders committee as well as the Department of Culture and Heritage. It's obvious that we do work with those committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. We are on Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,660,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turning to B-6. Nunavut Cabinet. Any questions? Mr. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak and ask about the ministers' home travel allowances. I know this is a policy and it relates to home travel. I think, in the past, it was misinterpreted and misunderstood, but even so, as the new Premier you put your foot down on a couple of ministers that had and were accessing these funds. This was due to the fact that the funds were to cover travel expenses for ministers.

I quote from an interview that the Premier did with CBC last November in that the "policy states home travel expenses can only be reimbursed to ministers 'who reside in a community other than Iqaluit or Apex.'" I realize that there may have been some confusion over how the policy was read, but at the end of the day the Premier put his foot down and you made a ruling. That was it.

I would like to ask the Premier if one or both of these ministers have paid these public funds back to the pot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not ask for the ministers to pay back their home travel portion, as they were following the rules that were given to them by the interpretation of the Premier of the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize this is kind of a contentious thing and it's really not about going after anybody. It's really the principle of it.

I know that you put your foot down obviously because you saw it was the wrong thing and, if it was a wrong thing, it makes me think, "Well, why didn't you go that step further and say, 'This is wrong. You accessed funds that you weren't supposed to. You should pay this back'?" If any staff member across Nunavut was over paid by even \$5, you are told to pay it back and you don't even have a choice.

When a minister accesses funds that they shouldn't have, I'm just wondering why you wouldn't want them to pay it back because it is public money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a phrase or policy that comes to defence in legal stuff quite a few times. It's called officially induced error, when you are told by someone above you that "This is okay" and it turns out it's not, but generally if that person was told by an official that it was okay to do that, then they are not guilty of that offence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even with that explanation, I know that there are staff that have been paid and it was okay to be paid by somebody superior to them, and then it turned out it wasn't right and their wages were garnished. It just doesn't look good. It is a really bad image on this government to have something like that happen. That's just a comment. That's it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up on Ms. Angnakak's questions and comments. In the CBC article that Ms. Angnakak was referencing, the reporter had referenced that the policies related to ministers' home travel were set in the government's ministerial handbook. I was wondering if the minister would be able to tell us what this handbook is and whether or not it's a public document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not posted anywhere, but I believe the reporter back then did have a copy of the ministerial manual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next question for the minister is: for the benefit of transparency and the policies which the minister or the Premier, I guess, dictates or interprets, does the minister believe that the public has the right to know the contents of this ministerial procedures handbook/manual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I took over the Premiership, I highlighted a few areas where this manual could be tightened up. Under my direction, I would ask them to review this manual. The review is just about done and there are going to be changes so that it is way clearer.

Ministers have to sign stuff and date it for certain benefits that they get. For example, if they want ministerial home travel, they have to prove and it will be clearer that the ministerial home travel is for ministers who do not reside in Iqaluit or Apex.

We're just about done it and it will go to cabinet for approval in the very near future. The document that we're looking at right now is changing to make it clearer and to the best of our abilities, no grey areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had indicated that there were a few other policies that the minister is looking at amending or had amended. I would like to enquire: what else other than the travel policy has the minister amended? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not so much amended, but some amendments will be made, same with the ministerial housing allowance, the salaries for the EAs, salaries for the secretaries. We're looking at the whole thing just to make sure that it's easy to understand, not there for misinterpretation. We're looking at the whole manual and we're just about done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to return to my first question. In the attempt at increasing government transparency and accountability, would the minister agree that it would be in the public's best interest if the policies and all the information included in this ministerial handbook were to be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, we're looking at this. Another twist to this, I guess, is that the indemnity review that they had, I know there was some talk and some question on whether the ministerial benefit should be looked at or taken over by the MSB. We're waiting to see what the recommendations are going to come out of that too. We're working on this manual and it may come up that it may be administered under the MSB. We don't know yet, but we will look at the recommendations that come out of the indemnity commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there is a review undergoing, but I would like to return to my question. Does the minister believe in increasing government transparency and accountability that this document should be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not advertised anywhere. It's not on the website, but the reporter did have a copy and he didn't get it illegally. It is available. It's just that we don't advertise it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to reference that CBC article. The reporter did gain

access to the document through an ATIPP request. The government didn't just hand it over with a smile on their faces. They technically were forced to give it up. I would like to ask again: in favour of increasing government transparency and accountability, does the minister believe that ministerial benefits, policies, and roles should be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to state again that it is public. All the expenses that we as ministers; our salaries, our benefits are all tabled every year. Once the newer version of this ministerial manual is approved, I can give one to every MLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand that ministerial indemnities, salaries, and benefits are tabled annually, but the public still doesn't know the rules and policies surrounding them, which is why I myself think that if the government were truly to be transparent and accountable, it would release that information to the public. It would post it on its own website and not force members of the public to ATIPP this information.

I personally believe that this ministerial procedures manual/handbook should be publically shared, it should be on the government's website, and the public should know what benefits our ministers are receiving. I would like to request the

minister to commit to sharing the current policies and procedures manual for ministers as it now for the public to see. Will he commit to doing so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what advantage of sharing the current ministerial procedures manual is as it's being changed very shortly. There are sections that are going to be changed.

I told the member just a few minutes ago that once we have the new one approved by cabinet, I committed to giving every MLA a copy and they can table it. They can do whatever they choose to do with that document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now as it stands, the ministers, including the current minister, are receiving public funds that pay for salaries and benefits. As it sits now, that information is not public. The rules surrounding all of that information are not public.

In other jurisdictions in Canada they're completely open and transparent in that respect and they share all the rules surrounding ministerial benefits and regular members' benefits, which we do. I don't understand why the government is reluctant to share the current ministerial benefit package with the general public. I will ask the minister: why is the minister reluctant to share the

current benefits package with the general public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All our salaries, all our indemnities, all our benefits, all of that is tabled every year for every minister. It's tabled and anything tabled is public information.

I just don't see the point in giving this when it has been changing. My guess is within even a month or two it will be changed, and I have no problem giving the new approved copy to all the MLAs. It seems pointless to put something out there that is going to be changed. I disagree with the member saying that the public doesn't know how much; they do.

Everything is tabled. All the MLAs, all the ministers, all their indemnities, all their benefits, all of that is tabled every year. The public knows every public fund we get because that document is tabled by the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand that the final salary dollars and benefits are tabled, but again, the public doesn't know the rules and policies surrounding them. The general public doesn't know what kind of benefits ministers get outside of salaries. I do not think that is a very accountable or transparent way to run a government.

That's why I believe that the policies,

whether they're in place now or they're going to be changed at a later date, it's irrelevant what our ministers and cabinet are receiving today. The rules surrounding those benefits should be made public, which is why I believe that the current policies should be made public as well.

One last time, in the favour of a transparent and accountable government, will the minister commit to sharing publicly on the website the current ministerial manual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how I can state this anymore clearer that all our benefits and every pay we get is public. It's tabled here in this House and they have access to all the tabled documents. If people want to read it, they can read the tabled documents. It's public. Any public funds that are used for us ministers, for us MLAs, they all know it. It's all tabled.

I told the member here again, once we approve the new ministerial manual, I will give every MLA a copy of it, but I don't see the point of doing an exercise that is, in my opinion, futile because we're changing this anyway. In my opinion, we're changing it for the better so there's less chance of any miscommunication or misinterpretation.

All my benefits are tabled. I get housing allowance here. It's tabled. My home travel is tabled. My northern allowance is tabled. Everything is tabled for all of us here. We all know that it's tabled and

anything tabled is a public document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. I think you have used about six minutes of your time so far asking basically the same question. If you don't have a different question, we will move on to a different member. You're getting the same answer each time. Do you have a different question or are you going to leave it at that? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: One last question and it's not the same question. My question is: what is the minister hiding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's nothing to hide. All the benefits are, like I said for the same thing, all tabled. All our benefits are tabled. Any ministerial benefit that any minister gets is tabled and anything tabled is a public document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think you stated that was your last question, so we will move on. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm interested in the topic of conflict. Ministers have quite a lot of power and that is given to them by the Legislative Assembly, and at the cabinet table decisions are made and I'm interested in what the definition of a conflict of interest is. What definition is used by the cabinet? I guess that's my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll read off the soon-to-be revised ministerial manual. Guidelines, "The conflict of interest provision of the *Integrity Act* applies to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, including Ministers. Ministers must uphold the highest ethical standards so that public confidence and the trust in their integrity and impartiality of government are maintained and enhanced.

Ministers have an obligation to perform their official duties and arrange their private affairs in a manner that will bear closest public scrutiny. This obligation is not fully discharged merely by acting within the law.

Ministers must avoid conflict of interest, the appearance of conflict of interest situations that have the potential to involve conflict of interest, and Ministers must declare a conflict of interest at the point and the time it becomes apparent."

And it goes on, "Ministers shall not engage in any other employment or in the practice of a profession, engage in the management of a business carried on by a corporation, carry on business through a partnerships or sole proprietorship, or hold an office or directorship unless holding the office or directorship is one of the Minister's duties as a Minister, or the office or the directorship is in a social club, religious organization, or political party.

Ministers must declare and take the necessary steps to avoid conflict of interest. If any member of their family is

a senior manager in any government departments, public agency, or statutory body for which the Minister is responsible, acting appointments are to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Ministers are reminded of the potential conflict of interest that may occur if a spouse or a dependent child of the Minister holds or enters into a contract, including a contract of employment with any department or agency of the Government of Nunavut for which the Minister is responsible. In the event that such situation occurs, the Minister may utilize the method outlined in section 19 of the *Integrity Act* to get a ruling from the Integrity Commissioner on the condition under which such a relationship would not represent a conflict of interest."

That's what it says there. Mr. Chairman, every cabinet meeting, before the meeting, there is a section for declaring a conflict. If any minister sees that there will be a conflict in the agenda or even a perceived conflict, then the practice is for that minister to declare conflict at the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that information. It will be interesting once we get copies of that handbook.

A couple of things I just wanted to follow up on. I guess I just ask: on average, how often are these conflicts being declared? I'm not looking for a number. Is it something you see regularly, once in a long while, or pretty

much every meeting? How would the minister characterize the use of conflict? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are not that common but the places they occur the most are in cabinet meetings if there is a direct appointment or any policies that affect the minister, the minister declares a conflict and leaves the room, and when we're finished dealing with that issue, then they come back to the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Okay, so not that often, but the conflicts happen and they are declared, which is reassuring.

If the minister could clarify, he mentioned when he was talking about the conflict section when he was reading it out, it mentioned family member. Does that definition of family member just mean people who live in your household or does it mean your siblings? Does it mean your children? I'm just interested in how it's defined. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's an actual definition of family members. I don't have it here

in front of me of who a family member is, but if there are any ministers that have any siblings or children working for their department, that is declared and brought to the attention of the Integrity Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The second thing I wanted to ask about is lobbying from business or other special interest groups. I know a lot of other jurisdictions have lobbying registries where, if ministers are approached by business owners, for example, if they sit down and have a meeting with them, it would be recorded and publicly made available. We don't have a lobbying registry right now in Nunavut, but I'm interested: is there any type of reporting process that happens within cabinet?

Let's say, for example, we will use airlines. If a certain minister is asked to dinner by the owners of an airline company, for example... I'm just using that as an example; I don't have any information to that regard. Let's say it's a busing company and they want to set up bus routes on the new Nunavut highway that has just been built and they ask the minister to a big, fancy dinner. It's blending personal life and business life. Is there any requirement to declare these types of activities or meetings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, we don't have an actual policy on lobbying, but we use common sense. For example, with the airline procurement out right now, we gave direction to all the ministers that if you're invited to a paid supper or a paid breakfast, no, you can't do that. We just use common sense in that. We don't have an actual policy or law saying not to, but if we think there's going to be a conflict, then each minister deals with it on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think that it could be a win-win for our government if we figure out some way to set this up because I personally want the government to be connected to business interests. We want the government to know what's happening on the ground and know where jobs are coming from and what the issues are. We don't want to firewall ourselves off from, let's say, mining companies or transportation companies. We want to have that dialogue in place but at the same time safeguard against undue influence.

I'm just wondering: has there been any thought put into what type of reporting or framework would be needed to set something like this up? Again, I'll just reiterate that it's not necessarily a bad thing when business leaders are talking to government leaders, in my opinion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That does happen as long as it's not singling out everyone and I can come up with an example. Last year at the mining symposium the minister of the day with ED&T met with every mining company. As long as you're consistent, we booked half an hour for it, every mining company was there, and we sat down and we talked one on one and we did that to everyone. That was a very good, productive meeting and we do stuff like that. It's when you start singling out or favouring someone else is where you have an issue, but the government does talk to businesses and industries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the minister commit to looking into this in this fiscal year? It's not on any of the priorities and I'm not talking about setting up a full-blown lobbyist registry like they have in Ottawa, but some sort of regular reporting, "This minister met with these companies." I don't know.

Maybe it would be something that would be tabled twice or year or something. It could be of benefit and I think it would maybe give the cabinet a piece or mind or the ability to take on these meetings without worrying or without... . Do you know what I'm saying? With the appearance of conflict, the minister could say, "Well, yes, I had this meeting with company X, but that's going on to my list of meetings which will be tabled, so I'm not hiding anything." It's all about balancing the different priorities.

(interpretation) I'm trying to ask if he can look into this. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My line of questioning will be on your travel and transportation budget. As MLAs, we travel and I do understand the Premier and cabinet also take on extra travel. When you look at travel and transportation, my first question will be this: how much of that budget is allotted for federal-provincial-territorial meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the travel portion here is just for ministerial home travel. What the member is talking about is departmental staff travel, which each department has their own travel budget for FPTs and any other meetings. This travel is for home travel and duty travel, but I couldn't tell you exactly how much is spent on FPTs. It's a budget and it's their travel budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that front, what would you consider duty travel? Ever since the Fifth Assembly we got elected, we're almost reaching two years now. I'll use Baker Lake as an example. The other day I did an invitation to a cabinet minister, but prior to that, since we got elected to now, we have seen one cabinet minister come to our community. Is that what you would consider duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that would be part of duty travel. For myself, duty travel for me would be going to the First Ministers' Meeting or going to a COP meeting, stuff like that. What he's describing would be duty travel in his definition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that I would like to ask is, seeing that this year marks 20 years for the signing of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, and I've had constituents of mine and I'm pretty sure every other MLA from outside of the capital has heard this, it should be brought up and it should be taken into consideration.

When there are celebrations occurring, our communities are lucky if we put something together during the celebration, even if it's after the fact. I can understand that, but maybe one thing that could be taken into consideration is maybe you have eight or nine cabinet

ministers, designate one or two to go join celebrations in these one, two, or three communities and this other minister do these other three. It's just something to think about, but I know it's not listed in your budget, but people out there in our communities do see that.

For example, in Iqaluit, Nunavut Day, you've got the Premier, the NTI president, and you've got all the other MLAs from Iqaluit participating, but in these other communities they're very lucky if they get money to put some kind of a festivity. That's why I wanted to find out regarding travel and transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't hear a question in there, Mr. Mikkungwak. Was there a question or was that just a comment? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that this year is a special year, would that be taken into consideration, yes or no? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was a question. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, to go back there, it's 20 years that Nunavut has been in existence, not 20 years of the land claims agreement. It's the 20-year anniversary for Nunavut. We are working with the hamlets and we are going to fund all the hamlets a bit of money to help in their celebrations of the 20-year anniversary of Nunavut.

As for each minister, they can decide which communities they want to go to and if a community wants to invite a

particular minister for a particular event, they are fully welcome to write the minister and ask that minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question, even though I have time allotted still, what amount are we looking at for each community, if any amounts? As the minister indicates, there will be an amount given to each community for the festivities. What amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going off my memory because we're just working on the plan right now, but I think the plan is \$5,000 for Iqaluit, \$2,500 for the decentralized communities, and \$1,500, I think, for the rest of the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just an observation when the Premier was going through the conflict of interest, I thought the conflict of interest was too wide for Nunavut. Nunavut is such a small territory. When he mentioned family members could be involved in a perceived conflict of interest and conflict of interest, in Nunavut we have a very huge housing shortage. We often have people living in our homes that are not family members.

This is just a comment. I would like to see the conflict of interest guidelines

tightened to say not just people who are family members but whoever resides within the household. That's the danger in Nunavut because if somebody resides in a minister's house or the Premier's house or my house and starts to get access to FANS or other government grants and contributions, that's a potential conflict of interest. That's just my comment, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. Final.

Chairman: Thank you. We will take that as a comment. We are on page B-6. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,310,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going to B-7. Commissioner of Nunavut. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure how long we've had a very capable Commissioner and we've had prior Commissioners, but since we've had the new Commissioner, we haven't appointed a deputy commissioner. I know that the Commissioner and the deputy are appointed by the federal government. Have we submitted a name to the Prime Minister for the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have submitted a name to the Prime Minister for the deputy commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): With that, have you heard whether they are reviewing the matter or do you anticipate getting a deputy commissioner in the near future even though the federal election is coming up pretty soon? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we still haven't received a response yet from the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has to be a deputy commissioner. Have you been pushing for it? Since he hasn't had any response from the federal government, is he just waiting for a response or is he pushing them for a response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do know that there's a requirement for a deputy commissioner. I did write a letter and submitted a name. We're still waiting for a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on B-7. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$295,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on. Intergovernmental Affairs. B-8. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I brought this issue up earlier (interpretation ends) in terms of the reference question that's currently before the Nunavut Court of Justice with regard to the two Dene treaties and whether the GN's consent is required. I'm just interested: when did the GN make its submission in the court and at what stage is the court proceeding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't remember the exact date, but it was the fall. It might have been in October or November of 2018 when we made our submission to the courts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At what stage is the proceeding as of today? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the member is fully aware that it's in the court process, so I can't comment on it at all. It's in the court's hands right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand that it's before the court, but I'm trying to get information regarding this in terms of what the government's submission was. Will the government be making public its submission in this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to confidentiality issues, no, we will not be; we are not allowed to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not sure if he can answer this or not, but what other parties, if any, have intervened or are seeking to intervene in this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there have been motions filed, but I can't even answer that question to members. I can't answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the priorities that are listed here,

it mentions “strategic partnerships with Inuit organizations...to advance the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut.” One of the key partners in a lot of things is Nunavut Tunngavik.

We can read between the lines if we read the headlines and news stories, but my understanding is that there’s supposed to be a cooperation protocol in place with NTI. When do we expect to have a new protocol in place with Nunavut Tunngavik? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re working on that right now. When I met with the NTI board, I informed them that we’re coming up with a new working relationship protocol, not just with NTI but with the Inuit orgs because the Inuit orgs are doing more and more. We have to have a working procedure or a system not only through NTI but with the Inuit orgs too so that we don’t always have to communicate through NTI. They will be kept informed, but the three regional Inuit organizations are doing more and more, so this protocol is going to include them too and they are aware of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was looking through the business plan and it doesn’t say anything specifically with regard to a protocol with NTI. If it’s going to be under the larger protocol or larger work that’s being done, this is

the “formalized Federal-Provincial-Territorial Indigenous engagement structure.” Good luck, translators, with that one. (interpretation) That’s definitely a government term.

(interpretation ends) Getting back to the relationship with NTI, on what specific issues do the Government of Nunavut and NTI currently have disagreements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it’s quite public that NTI and the Department of Education aren’t seeing eye to eye on Ed. Act amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are there any other areas of disagreement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say there is, yes. The Inuit employment plans, Article 23 that we are not at 85 percent yet, and the language of instruction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wish we had a better relationship with NTI. As a new MLA, I don’t really

know, I guess I didn't really understand how this relationship was until I got into it. It has been a disappointment for me personally seeing opportunities for collaboration and cooperation being missed. Nunavut is such a small territory and it's frustrating when we have organizations butting heads.

Understanding that of course yes, disagreements are inevitable and we can't always agree on everything, even in this House, but what can we do repair this relationship? Like I said, I think it would be in the best interest of Nunavut to have a good working relationship with NTI. In terms of the work that's going to be done in this year, do we anticipate any strengthening of that relationship? Do we need marriage counselling, or is it do we need somebody to intervene and to sit the two parties down at the table together and hash out some of these relationship issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be wrong to say that we don't have a good working relationship. We work very closely with them on all issues. We see eye to eye on some issues, for example, on devolution talks. They are part of the devolution team and it's working very well.

It's just in a few things, and I have met the NTI board, I have met with the NTI president, and I have always told them that my door is always open to anytime they want to meet. We have an open relationship and we communicate with them. It's on certain stuff that we don't see eye to eye and that's neither here nor

there, I guess. We will have to work on it because the land claims agreement is a contract and we have obligations to meet under the land claims agreement and we will work with them to meet our obligations. Some are harder than others and I must admit that Article 23, we're having a tough time getting to 85 percent.

All I can say is that we're committed to working with them, but we still have to get a job done here in Nunavut to provide the services for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll just request that the next time that a meeting... . The minister mentioned Article 23 and that 85 percent target. I would be really interested to hear NTI's position and/or support for a decentralization initiative because the past 20 years have shown that decentralized offices do perform better than centralized offices in terms of Inuit employment. It's something I have been pushing and I will continue pushing towards, but I just request that the minister, when the conversation does turn to Article 23, that decentralization be included in that conversation with NTI. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have never talked about decentralization, to the best of my

recollection anyway, but if the member wants to request a meeting with them to talk about decentralization, I mean every member is welcome to make a meeting request to them. I think they're just more concerned about getting to the 85 percent target. I have never heard them talk about where this 85 percent has to be located. They just talked about that we have to get to that 85 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it would mean a lot more if the minister put it on the agenda instead of me as a regular member trying to meet with NTI on something like this. I don't have very much clout and my office is on the first floor, so I don't even know if they would want a meeting with me, to be honest.

I guess I will request again that the next time the minister is sitting down or if there's a meeting around Article 23 that decentralization be included as an agenda item or included as part of the discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there's no harm in bringing it up. I agree with the member there and we can bring it up, but one of the things we're doing here too as a government is getting more details on all the communities on what talents are out there and what training would be needed.

If there are certain jobs that can't be filled in a community, what training or education has to be put into the Inuit in the communities in order to fill that job? We are working on that and trying to fill in the gaps so that Inuit in the smaller communities can get the jobs that are there in the decentralized communities. I understand that in the non-decentralized communities, yes, government jobs are very limited and in decentralized communities we're doing what we can to try to get the people in those communities trained to get the jobs that are there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to seek clarification in terms of the smaller, non-decentralized communities that are left behind and there's lack of employment opportunities. In the smaller communities there are high rates of unemployment and there are no employment opportunities. How many vacant positions are there in any of these communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think we understand that question clearly. We're wondering whether he's asking about the GLOs. I would like to know what he's asking about, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear that some

decentralized communities are said to have high rates of unemployment and there are many vacant housing units. To date, how many positions in decentralized communities remain vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have this current information. There are numerous departments that are in some of the decentralized communities. With respect to how many positions are filled or are vacant at the community level, we don't have that detailed information. We can try to find out and ask the departments individually for a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. We will be looking forward to that detailed information.

Turning to another topic, in the 2018-19 main estimates for the government liaison office, the funding was \$4,024,000 in 2018-19 and in the main estimates for fiscal year 2019-2020, it's \$3,649,000. It has decreased by about 10 percent. What is the reason for this decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease has to do with the office lease. The funding has been transferred to CGS that

will be paying this amount now, so the transfer has happened. We transferred \$252,000 to CGS for the office lease. There is a decrease of \$100,000 for overall travel and transportation. There is a slight increase of \$12,000 for the (interpretation ends) compensation levels (interpretation) for employee salaries. Their salaries increase annually. There is a \$35,000 reduction on travel and transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Next is Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials.

I just want to make a supplement to the Member for Uqqummiut's question. I would just like a little more clarification on a part of his questioning. What are the duties of the government liaison officers in the communities? I just want a little more clarification, hence my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GLOs in the communities are employed under EIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What duties do the GLOs have in our smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GLOs provide information to the communities and provide direction and assistance to people looking for information about the government. They are the main contact person in the community for the government.

If people want to submit complaints to the government, the GLOs are also an avenue they can take. For the non-decentralized communities, GLOs provide assistance for the departments and people requesting services of those departments. As of last year, the GLOs help people with filing their income taxes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Are these GLOs hired in the communities from the communities they work for or from outside? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite hear his question. I'm sorry, but if he could repeat his question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the GLOs hired locally or do they come from another community to perform their work in the community? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that clarification. When a GLO position opens, it's an open competition and anyone can apply from anywhere in Nunavut if they qualify for the position, but almost all GLOs are from the particular community that they serve. For example, if we look at Arviat, when that position opens, the applicants are from the community. An employee is selected from the pool of applicants in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are successful in retaining that particular position, is there already office space for them or are they going to be working out of their homes? Where is their workplace? I hope I was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GLOs all have offices. They are not working out of their homes. They work in an office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's my understanding that you find office space before you advertise for a job. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In communities

where there are GLOs, how many days a month do they work in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding, they work (interpretation ends) Monday to Friday (interpretation) throughout the year, but sometimes they go on holiday or go on sick leave or they go on medical leave. However, they have to work from Monday to Friday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All those employees are also providing information to the community. They also inform community members if there's new information that they need to know. I understand that they have office space already before they're hired. This is just a comment now, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 13 of your business plan, third bullet, it states, "Establish a process to incorporate advice of local Elders in government service delivery at the community level." I'm wondering if you could elaborate more on what that means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that I don't take time reading it, if you can just point out which bullet it is, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak, if you could clarify, please.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you. It's under your Priorities (2019-20), page 13, third bullet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is to work with the elders so that we know what facilities or what services the elders should get. As EIA is the seniors' advocacy voice, we don't provide the services, but we're here to take the concerns and pass them on to Health, which has the file for taking care of seniors in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you. Thank you for clarifying that. Your department's draft 2019-2020 main estimates include \$150,000 in proposed contribution funding for the Nunavut Seniors' Society. What specific initiatives will the society and your department be working on during the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's funding that we give to the Nunavut Seniors' Society and it's for Nunavut-wide and they come up with

their strategies and its core funding so that they can function. I have met with them and we're looking at... . As one of the things as advocacy in the House I was questioned, and I said I will look at updating the seniors' handbook, which was quite popular from the last government and that's one of the things that we as an advocacy group for seniors is going to do, but it's not related to the Nunavut Seniors' Society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, is the government currently reviewing the issue of harmonizing the age at which residents are considered to be seniors for the purpose of eligibility for certain government programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's another question that I did get in the House, and it's quite different here. I think for most of the Government of Nunavut programs, a senior is defined as 60 years old. The federal government and a lot of their programs is 65. For NTI, it's 55. For this Nunavut Seniors' Society, I was quite shocked when they said their definition of a senior is 50. It's all over the place and I think most of the Nunavut programs, a senior is defined as 60 years old. I could be wrong, but I think most Nunavut programs, a senior is 60. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the minister is also responsible for indigenous affairs. I was just curious why the division had recently changed the name from "Indigenous Affairs" to "Aboriginal Affairs." I was aware that for a number of years, governments around Canada and the world have been moving away from the "aboriginal" term. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my understanding here, it has always been "aboriginal," but we are working to the word "indigenous," so it wasn't changed, but we can see it being changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to point out in the main estimates, last year it actually was "Indigenous" and this year it was changed to "Aboriginal." I just wanted to point that out. I do believe it would be beneficial if the government were to move towards using the term "indigenous." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I think that was a comment. I'll leave it at that. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're at Intergovernmental Affairs. There is an

agreement with Manitoba. Well, they were going to sign an (interpretation ends) overlap agreement. (interpretation) My first question is regarding the fact that the Government of Nunavut was told not to be involved when the agreement is signed. What's the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Member John Main asked about that earlier and my response was that it's in the courts right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, it's obvious that as the people of Nunavut, we believe that the Government of Nunavut should be involved.

Moving on to something else, with the government liaison officers, is there a policy on where they can't and can be involved? For example, as members, we can't be members of other boards. That's my first question. Is there a policy in place on where GLOs should not be involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, there is no policy in place. However, if they became involved in something else, they have to declare where they are involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To use an example, are GLOs in the communities able to become board members of Inuit organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, they can become involved in that, but they have a responsibility. If they went to attend a meeting during their work time, they would have to identify it. There are no rules in place that the GLOs can't become a part of a board of directors for an organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's understandable that Inuit organizations represent only Inuit and you repeatedly say that the government represents everyone. It's probably okay if GLOs became board members of Inuit organizations. Is there no conflict there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they became a board member, they would still have to work full time Monday to Friday and perform their duties in their office. They would not be able to work on board member duties in their office. It's only after hours that they would be

on the board. It seems obvious that some GLOs are members of hamlet councils or the DEAs or the HTOs, but they would have to declare if they became members of any board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for clarifying that. I'll switch to English.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates on page 12 that "It is anticipated that a new formalized Federal-Provincial-Territorial Indigenous engagement structure will be established in the near future." As of today, what is the status of this initiative, and can you describe the structure that is being established? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in the very preliminary stages and I can elaborate on this a bit.

The federal government seems to be going more and more into a Crown-indigenous relationship. An example of that would be ITK getting the TB elimination funding. If that's the way the government is going, then we have to adjust to how the federal government is going. We have to figure how we're going to fit in and get the funding that we need because we're the service provider. We know the issues, we know the challenges, we know how to get the

job done, and we have to work with the funding agencies.

If there are going to be different pots of money that are going through, for example, for ITK, if it is application based, then we have to apply to get the funds. It's something new and we are learning more and adjusting to it if we have to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. (interpretation ends) Which organizations are involved in this initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now it's just ITK and that's the only example we have right now where federal funds are flowing through ITK to Inuit Nunangat. Right now that's the only organization that we are dealing with in terms of federal funding. If there's federal funding that goes through NTI, then we would be dealing with them. It's whoever has the federal funding that we would deal with so we can get the federal funding as a service provider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many questions in this area, except I do want to know a little bit about the service contracts of a little over a million

dollars, \$1.8 million. If the minister can elaborate a little bit on what those service contracts are for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if we're on the page here, but we have our service contracts at \$423,000 for 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I might be on the wrong page. I'm on B-11. Am I allowed to ask a question under that budget at this time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please go ahead, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Under B-11 it says "Service contracts," if you can look at that page. I'm just wondering what that's for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is up in B-11. It's the total contracts at \$1.8 million, and if I can get Ms. Okpik to elaborate on that more, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Ms. Okpik

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's the total amount for all the

contracts within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I don't have that full listing. I would have to go branch by branch to advise you of which contracts are for what; the elders' society contract for example. We have contracts for Arctic Inspiration and different organizations, and through devolution as well, the leases as well too, and housing leases for ministers as well. It's a combination of all across the department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think the \$1.8 million you're talking about is a total of all six branches put together. Each branch has a service contract amount in it and that's where that number is coming from. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Okay, that explains it a bit more. Do you have any contracts that you have standing agreements with that you use every year for the same thing? Are we having the same contractors up every year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do use standing offer agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious: how often are these standing offer agreements renewed? Let's say you do a call-out so different people can put in their bids... I'm not an expert on this all goes, but I know a standing offer is something that

you can go back to for a certain set of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with CGS on this and it depends on what the RFP is requesting. It's so varied that I can't come up with a specific answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Just another question in terms of the summary of grants and contributions you have here for Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs grants. Can you elaborate on what that is? It was \$65,000 and now this year the estimate is at \$80,000. What is that going to be used for and why the increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's for anyone who wants to apply that has aboriginal and soon-to-be indigenous content to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand his reply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, if you could clarify your answer, please.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anything that has arctic and

aboriginal content can apply for the grants and contributions from this funding source. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,071,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page B-9. Devolution Secretariat. Any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have often wondered about devolution; in reality, how realistic it is for us. I know there are certain portions that are being negotiated now and it seems to be under a cloud of secrecy most of the time, but perhaps the Premier can give us an update on where things stand in regard to how far along this file is going. Are we going to see devolution within the next few months or years? Where are we when it comes to this file? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct in terms of there's not much I can say because we're in negotiations, but I can talk about it high level. We're still negotiating and hoping to have an AIP signed. The federal government would like to have one signed before the federal election. I've had meetings with Minister LeBlanc and I made it clear that in order for us to agree to devolution, it has to be a good deal for Nunavut. Whatever deal we come to, it's forever;

it's from here on. We're still negotiating and the goal is to have an AIP signed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Yukon government was the first to sign their devolution agreement and then the NWT. What has the Nunavut government learned from those negotiations? We always learn from each other. We look at what each other is doing. What are some of the points where you say, "You know what? We're not going to go down. We're going to do ours differently."? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff work closely with the Northwest Territories just for that, to get pointers on "Okay, this is good, this is bad. Don't go there. This is okay." We work with them to try to get the best deal we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there anything specific that the minister can tell us, "This is what Yukon did and this is what the NWT did," or didn't do that we're going to be doing or not doing, the contrast, or are we just following along kind of what they're doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's so little I can talk, actually, about devolution. Once the AIP is signed, we can talk about it more, but I can say that they have been advising us on stuff that they feel they could have done better. That's about all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. I wonder, though, if the minister can tell us: approximately how many federal positions does the GN want to see transferred to this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of the negotiations too, so I can't even say how many would be transferred over. It's part of the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Maybe I can't get an answer to this too, but I do want to ask: is it all federal positions? You say you can't say how many, but does it mean that the Government of Nunavut is not interested in all positions? If you are, then it would be the number of federal positions here in Nunavut currently. Just by your answer, is there a possibility then that not all positions are going to be transferred over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that simple because there are some positions that are shared. That's why we're still negotiating on the number of positions to come over, but we want to make sure the number of positions that come over is adequate for the extra responsibilities that we will be taking on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. This is my assumption. When the federal staff are transferred over, there are a lot of federal employees that are in federal housing. I'm assuming they would all be transferred over, but just for confirmation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the negotiation is the lease on staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Keep trying. Ms. Angnakak.

>>*Laughter*

Ms. Angnakak: I will keep trying. How about this question: how many beneficiaries are in government positions that you're looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is asking about federal positions that are beneficiaries, we don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The budget for devolution this year is \$2.2 million. What's the cumulative investment that has been put into devolution negotiations so far? I know they started years and years ago and here we are putting \$2 million into this again.

At the same time we're telling organizations looking for money, let's say, \$175,000, we're telling them that we don't have the money, or building public housing, we don't have enough money for that.

I'm not looking to the last decimal point, but in terms of how much we have invested to date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Devolution has been on the go for many years, so I'm not sure if the minister is going to have that information in front of him. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman is right. It has been going on for a long time, so we would not have that information in front of us. We're dealing with the budget right now. It has been going on for a long time and it kind of slowed down for a while, so we can't even use this amount and times it by the number of years. That's beyond the information that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister or Premier mentioned that the federal government would like an agreement in principle before the federal election. That sounds like a little bit of leverage on our part given that we know they want an agreement in principle, but I can't think of too many other ways in which Nunavut has leverage at the negotiating table. We're not an equal party to the federal government. We're heavily dependent on them for funding.

In terms of how the negotiations would go, just on a very high level, the party that has more power and more leverage is going to get a better deal, generally speaking. In terms of the power dynamic that's at the table with the Government of Canada and NTI, what leverage do we have over government in these negotiations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what leverage that we have other than they would like to see an AIP signed and I have said that we would like to see one signed too, but we're not signing one at all cost. I'm pretty sure that on their mandate, they have strict limits from their cabinet to the negotiators on what they can negotiate. We're hopeful that they will come to the negotiation table with a good, fair deal for Nunavut. As the member knows, when you negotiate, both sides have to give and take a bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's kind of my concern that we don't have any leverage over the federal government and we're relying on their mandate and their agenda.

I guess I'll get specific about this because you mentioned the NWT devolution deal. It has been five years since they signed their deal and when they signed their deal, offshore oil and gas was not included. It said right in the deal, "Within 60 days of signing this agreement, negotiations will start to work towards that offshore oil and gas management for the NWT." Five years later and it has not even started. That's my understanding from the media.

Nunavut's current negotiations don't include offshore oil and gas. Can the minister confirm that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of the negotiation and we believe that it should be part of it. Like I said, it's negotiation. The member says they have all the money and all the clout, but we have to agree to the deal. If the deal is not beneficial for Nunavut, we're not obligated to take the deal. This is negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of that offshore oil and gas matter,

it sounds like the Nunavut government would like that to be a part of the negotiations but it currently isn't. I would like confirmation of where it currently sits at the negotiating table with regard to offshore oil and gas specifically. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My answers will have to be very close to the member, Ms. Angnakak, asked. I can't talk about that; it's part of the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess it must be a part of the negotiations if the minister can't talk about it because, if it wasn't part of negotiations, I would imagine you would be able to confirm that this is something that is not being discussed in the negotiations, which are in the business plan here. In terms of how many items or how many items are outstanding as you make progress towards an agreement in principle, as per page 15 of the business plan, how many agenda items are on the meeting agenda? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still can't comment on how many items are even on there. These are negotiations. They are confidential

negotiations. I'm sorry, but there is so little I can comment on, on this devolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I feel that this offshore oil and gas should be part of any devolution negotiations and, if it's not, then we should not sign because the NWT example seems to illustrate that, as the minister mentioned, once you sign the deal, you're locked into it.

It hasn't worked out very well for the NWT in that regard, and we have arguably more oil and gas reserves than they do, if you look at the High Arctic reserves. Whether we want to develop them or whether we want to leave them in the ground, it should be our decision and not the federal government. We should not be subject to things like their moratorium.

There is a whole bunch of reasons why it should be part of what I feel would be a good deal for Nunavut because, if we go out and sign an AIP, an agreement in principle, without offshore oil and gas as part of that, then we're going right into another set of negotiations after this one. Who knows how many more millions of dollars we have to put into that before we see a deal.

My question to the minister is: in terms of the direction that he gives to the negotiating team, has the negotiating team been directed to walk away from the table in terms of offshore oil and gas being a part of the agreement?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When an offer has been made, the offer would be taken to cabinet and cabinet would make a decision on the AIP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point I guess my question is: when would the rest of the Assembly receive information about the contents of an agreement in principle? It sounds like there is very little information that can be discussed at this point, so we don't even know if offshore oil and gas, for example, is on the table or off the table. Last I heard, it wasn't even part of the negotiations and that was the federal government's position.

When would regular members of the Assembly hear about an agreement in principle? Would we have any chance to provide input, following the consensus model of government such as what we're doing right now, where we are provided a chance to put input into something like the O&M budget for the government? This is not even a budget. The devolution agreement in principle is something that stretches decades into the future. I'm curious as to how the input and suggestions from the non-cabinet Members of the Legislative Assembly would be incorporated. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regular members would be able to see that if and when an AIP is signed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't think that's acceptable. We are working in a consensus model of government. This is an agreement that is going to be in place for decades. At this point we're being provided very little information on what would even be in that agreement. I don't think that that is a model that fits with our consensus model of government. Maybe it fits with a party system like they have in Yukon, where the ruling party... .

Under our consensus model, I would ask that the minister reconsider this and take this to cabinet and consider seriously what the best way to deal with the devolution agreement in principle is in terms of "Yes, we want the best deal for Nunavut and yes, we want everybody on board with it," because we risk... . I just can see some risk associated with the signing of an AIP. (interpretation) Will the Premier consider discussing this with cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any kinds of negotiations are confidential. When we're negotiating with the NEU, those are confidential too until an agreement is signed. This is just the same thing.

Cabinet will make the ultimate decision of whether to sign this AIP or not. It will be a cabinet decision. Just like when you negotiate with a union, it's the government that's obligated to negotiate and the mandate is there to negotiate with the union. Regular members are not privy to the negotiations of the union workers too.

Negotiations are confidential and whether it's this devolution deal or the Denesuline land claims, they're confidential. Some of the stuff, we're not even privy to that information too because of confidentiality clauses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand the confidentiality. There are ways to get around that. It could be shared with regular members. We could all sign non-disclosure agreements. Those are legally binding ways to get around issues of confidentiality.

I guess I'll just say at this point that I'm disappointed to hear that there's no consideration given to the majority of members in this House in terms of an agreement of this magnitude. This is not a union contract we're talking about. This is something very fundamental to the future of Nunavut. It would be, I think, very beneficial for us to be able to debate and discuss the issues associated with such an agreement. (interpretation) That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same topic, I'll ask my first question in English. (interpretation ends) My first question of course is... . Out of ignorance, I guess, I'm going to be asking a question on the jurisdiction of our Nunavut territory. Is the jurisdiction of the Nunavut territory the same thing as the Nunavut Settlement Area? (interpretation) That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I understand the member's question clearly, but our Nunavut government governs within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think we all know that we govern within the Nunavut territory, but my question is, I don't know if he ever has seen the jurisdictions or where the exact boundary of the Nunavut Settlement Area is. (interpretation) Do you know it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. From what I'm gathering from his question, does the boundary exceed beyond the land out into the oceans? It's that type of thing that he's asking. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: I'll try my best to answer this with trying to see where he's going.

We govern within Nunavut, but we don't govern the resources on Crown land or

Inuit-owned land. We provide a service within Nunavut. We have certain laws within Nunavut that are applicable to only Nunavut, but we don't have authority to manage the resources within Nunavut. We don't have authority to manage offshore like for the fisheries. That's the federal government and the lands management is the federal government.

I'm a bit confused on exactly what the member wants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I asked that question is because the institutions of public government are the ones that administer within the boundaries of Nunavut and those IPGs, for example, the wildlife management board, water board, and so on are at arm's length from the Government of Nunavut. For example, if they are going to make wildlife regulations, they would go through the wildlife management board.

The reason why I brought that up is that those IPGs can administer throughout the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Settlement Area. (interpretation) Our Chairman hit the nail on the head with the gist of my question. The (interpretation ends) Nunavut Settlement Area (interpretation) extends to Hudson Bay about 50 miles out and from eastern Baffin, it is a little farther down. That's why I was asking that question. With devolution negotiations, I assume that the jurisdiction of Nunavut would be followed. That's that.

Lastly I would like to say that with

devolution, because we want to take more responsibilities that the government doesn't currently have, we can't negotiate forever, but there has to be a set deadline where we would reach an agreement. We're going to be using \$2 million this year. Are we going to be spending that amount every year for the next ten years? I think the Government of Nunavut has to be more aggressive in negotiating with the federal government.

(interpretation ends) That's the next step of us getting Nunavut and getting our Nunavut government. That's the next step, which is devolution, and I think we cannot just let it roll and roll and roll and say, "Let it roll."

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was just a comment; I didn't see a question there. We are on Intergovernmental Affairs...no, sorry. We're on Devolution Secretariat. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,255,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go back to page B-3. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$19,064,000. 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. Minister Savikataaq, do you have any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my staff that are here and the staff that put a lot of work into my briefing binder here so I could better answer your questions.

I'm sorry that I couldn't give the members any more information on anything to do with negotiations because I can't, but it's good to have this exchange and ideas come in. We will look into every idea that you brought us. Any issues that I said that we will get back to you, we will get back on you. There's nothing wrong with constructive criticism and ideas on how we might be able to service Nunavummiut.

I thank everyone for their time and for Mr. Chairman there. He had it bang on in how long it would take to do this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. We still got three minutes.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you as minister and your staff for being here to answer our questions. With that, I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he could please escort the witnesses out.

Before we go to our next department, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:02 and committee resumed at 18:16*

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 –
Legislative Assembly –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Good evening, members. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. The next department we have to deal with is the budget for the Legislative Assembly. I will begin by asking Deputy Speaker Mikkungwak if he has officials he would to appear before the committee. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mikkungwak): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in. I will ask Mr. Mikkungwak not to be too nervous up there. It's his first time appearing before the Committee of the Whole.

I will now ask Mr. Mikkungwak if he could introduce his witnesses and then proceed into his opening comments. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and on my left is Mr. Marc Rose, Director of Corporate Services.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you know, Speaker Enook is unable to be with us this afternoon.

As Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to

appear before you today to present the 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The Legislative Assembly's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates reflect the financial and human resources required for the operation of our institution, as well as the offices of our independent officers, including Elections Nunavut.

(interpretation) I am pleased to note that we are not requesting a budget increase for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, during our recent fall sitting, the Speaker took the opportunity to welcome the recent decision of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to renew the mandatory distribution order for the broadcast services of the Nunavut and Northwest Territories legislatures.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the renewal, which has been granted without an expiry date, ensures that residents of both territories will continue to be able to view the proceedings of this legislature on both cable and direct-to-home satellite services.

The Legislative Assembly's work to upgrade its broadcasting system is underway, with a request for proposals scheduled to close later this month.

As members will recall, an Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits was established in the fall of 2018 under section 37 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

The independent commission, which is chaired by the Hon. Justice Johnson of the Nunavut Court of Justice, is in the process of finalizing its report, which the Speaker will be formally tabling in the House during our upcoming spring sitting.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, two of our core parliamentary outreach programs are the Speaker's Youth Parliament and the Speaker's Mace Tour, both of which occur on a biennial basis.

Our Seventh Youth Parliament was successfully held at the end of November of last year, and I am pleased to announce today that the Speaker is very much looking forward to this year's Mace Tour, which will involve visits and community events in the beautiful communities of Sanikiluaq, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak, for recognizing my community as being beautiful.

We will go to page A-4. Assembly Operations. Are there any questions? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Deputy Speaker and your officials.

I have a question on the opening comments. First I want to read this in English, (interpretation ends) "...the recent decision of the Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to

renew the mandatory distribution order for the broadcast services of the Nunavut and Northwest Territories legislatures...the renewal which has been granted without an expiry date...” (interpretation) What are your thoughts on this?

There are times in this House when we can't understand each other's dialects. I would like our constituents to clearly understand what we are saying, but sometimes it's impossible. Regarding my own Nattilik dialect, there are capable interpreters available. I'm saying that this individual can be an interpreter, but I don't know if this individual is able to understand Inuinnaqtun or another dialect. My question is how this can be considered for the future, as it not only applies to this House; it will be used in the future. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our colleague for his question. In terms of all Nunavummiut and the people we represent, the ones who watch TV, we're happy that we no longer have to seek renewal, which doesn't have an expiry date.

For the second part of his question, I can say that in terms of his Nattilik dialect, we understand. I can say that if he feels that we need a certain translator here for him, we could certainly provide the opportunity for that translator to give it a try. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on

Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would not want to pass up an opportunity to ask Mr. Mikkungwak a question.

A number of Assemblies across Canada have moved towards broadcasting their proceedings through such media as YouTube or even archiving question period on their websites. I am grateful that our Assembly works so hard to broadcast our live proceedings, but unfortunately many of my constituents or many Nunavummiut do not have the luxury to watch our proceedings live.

With the fibre optics project looming, I was curious if our Assembly would be moving towards that direction of providing our proceedings on demand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I would like to defer the question to my official, Mr. Rose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rose, please go ahead.

Mr. Rose: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Right now we're in the process of collecting enough content and getting it digitized to host locally on our external website, and then to be able to move it towards a platform such as YouTube or Facebook or some other media platform would require some extra processing to

bookmark so that it could be easily navigated for any user. That would take some additional work, so it's not a thing that we're looking at doing for, let's say, this immediate fiscal year, but in the short term we are hoping to get to providing that content on other platforms. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my fellow colleague, I also want to ask the (interpretation ends) Deputy Speaker. (interpretation) In this beautiful legislature that we have been using since we started, I recall some other legislatures have gone to different locations like the one in the NWT. I wonder whether you have given thought to whether we could sit outside of the Chamber at least once. Has there been any thought on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to my colleague's question, that hasn't been considered to date. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be great for Nunavummiut outside of Iqaluit to witness the proceedings. We claim to say that this House represents the whole territory. I would think that we should meet in another community at some point, not now, but I would like our Deputy Speaker to consider it for the

future. I don't think it's much of a question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was a comment. We will leave it at that. We're doing Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,706,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page A-5. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Any questions? If not, Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,316,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page A-6. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Are there any questions? If not, Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,073,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,095,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues for approving the budget for the Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to reiterate to Nunavummiut that when you're in Iqaluit, you are always welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak, for being here for us. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses out.

I will ask members to go Bill 15 in the binder that's below your desk. It's the white binder. Go to the legislation binder and it's tab 15, where you should find Bill 15.

Thank you. Bill 15, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. I'll try to get this number right the first time. \$1,735,462,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 15 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 15 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now take a 10-minute break and prepare for Bill 16. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:34 and resumed at 18:53*

Bill 16 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Good evening, members. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are first going to deal with Bill 16 and I will first ask Minister Hickey: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickey.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the witnesses in the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Hickes, if you could please introduce your officials and then go into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. With me today is not a stranger to this House, Mr. Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman and members. I appear before you today to present Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019*. Through this bill, the government is seeking \$471,000 in supplementary capital funding in 2018-19.

Mr. Chairman and members, on June 20, 2018 a major disturbance occurred at the Baffin Correctional Centre's medium-security living unit. As a result of damages to the facility, security systems and equipment, the Department of Justice closed the unit for more than 30 days, transferring 40 individuals to a facility in Ontario.

Mr. Chairman and members, the Department of Justice and the Department of Community and Government Services acted swiftly to

undertake the necessary repairs and get services back up and running.

Rather than initiate a special warrant for this emergency repair, the departments of Community and Government Services and Justice identified and used internal funds, with the intent of returning to the Legislative Assembly through a request to replenish these funds through supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I'll ask members to go to page 4 of Bill 16. It is Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2018-2019. Justice. We have been through this bill in committee and a lot of our questions got answered at that time, but I'll still give you an opportunity if there are any additional questions any members have on this bills. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just interested in the process by which departments can identify and use internal funds for things like this in terms of how it's determined whether internal funds are sufficient or whether there's this internal surplus and whether a supplementary appropriation is indeed needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your indulgence, I would request Mr. Chown to give a full response, but I will say this: at the time, in hindsight, we probably likely would have used a special warrant in normal circumstances. Mr. Chown would be

able to provide detail with regard to the member's question on the process itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a *Financial Administration Manual* directive on budget transfers that speaks specifically to the rules around capital transfers and what's required if a department wishes to move money into a new project or between projects. The directive has various steps, including notifications, as members are likely aware, to the various standing committees with respect to those projects.

Whether it's appropriate to take funds out of an existing project to fund a shortfall versus coming forward for supplementary appropriation would depend on the individual circumstances. The department would not generally take funding out of a project that was going to require those ongoing funds and couldn't do without them were the Assembly to say no because, obviously, we would not want to presuppose the will of the Assembly.

Generally when a department is looking to find funds internally, it's from a project that is going to be lapsing funding or an area where they could adjust their plans accordingly if the project was not resupplied. In this particular case the department did take funding out of their preplanning pot.

As the minister noted, in hindsight, I probably would have recommended a special warrant for a situation like this. It is permitted and certainly would have been justified. At the time the

department did have funds in the preplanning pot and although they do have several projects lined up within that pot, in theory, if members were to say no to them, those preplanning studies could be delayed and put on hold until funds were appropriated at a future date.

The decision at the time, for expediency, was to take funds out of that planning pot and come back to the Assembly with the hopes of receiving a replenishment of those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chown. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I realize you don't have folks from Justice up there with you, but in terms of doing our due diligence here, this is an expenditure that resulted after a major disturbance. In hindsight, one could have seen that major disturbance coming if there were a growing number of incidents or unrest at the BCC.

It mentions here in the information item provided with this supp that the "Repairs have since been completed on the severely compromised Baffin Correction Centre..." and it mentions "...reducing the risk of future incidents of this nature."

In terms of due diligence and making sure that we are not just... . When it says to reduce the "risk of future incidents of this nature," does that mean that this funding actually upgraded the facility past the condition it was in prior to the riot? Was it brought up to a higher standard than it was previously?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this came up during the standing committee to a certain degree, but not so much upgraded but it identified where the intrusion was and took mitigation measures so that that specific access would not be available to inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe just a little bit more information on that intrusion: how was there an intrusion into the centre and how did that contribute to the major disturbance? My understanding is that it was inmates within the facility largely caused by unrest or lack of programming within the facility that caused the riot. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically in a nutshell the inmates accessed the ceiling area of the room. That wasn't foreseen, I guess, if you want to call it that. In these repairs that is now not possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Has there been any improvement made to the

living conditions other than the security of the inmates at the facility?

I do realize it's a bit beyond the scope of this bill, but if, for example, another half a million dollars is needed to offer temporary exercise space, my question would be: why wasn't that a part of this supplementary appropriation?

I realize I'm pushing the boundaries of what is in this sup, but is there sufficient programming being offered right now to prevent further expenditures along this line in terms of a major disturbance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I will allow this question, but again, you are going beyond the scope of this bill. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general, I would say, and some of us have done tours of the facility and realized one of the issues that has been identified through the Auditor General reports and other reports that the lack of programming at the facility is an issue, which is why through the budget process we have approved a capital project to create a new expansion for more medium and high security needs with defined programming space available within that project.

That being said, to address the member's question, these funds were needed to bring the facility back into use. It wasn't to improve or to expand on anything. It was strictly just to get the building usable again so that we could repatriate the inmates that we had sent out of territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One final question. It mentions here the need to assure safety of the staff and that's part of the reason why this was taken on. I'm assuming that conditions at the BCC are now good enough to ensure the safety of the staff, but making assumptions is a dangerous thing to do. I would just like to clarify as much as the minister is able to provide that conditions are indeed safe for the staff working at the centre. (interpretation) That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Without going through the exercise of bringing in another witness to the table, I'll do my best to answer the member's question.

We have, through numerous discussions in this House and studies, brought to light that there are safety concerns at the BCC facility that we currently use. That is, again, why we have taken a step to initiate the capital process for a new building.

That being said, these fixes or renovations or updates, I guess, from the riot incident met the needed threshold for the safety of the staff.

It's a high-risk occupation. I can't sit here and claim that there's never going to be another incident of this nature, but at least a duplicating of this incident should not be duplicated exactly because of the mitigation measures taken by the

department. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I have no further names on my list. We are at Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$471,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2 of the bill. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2018-2019. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$471,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I will now ask members to go to Bill 16 in the white binders that we were using previously, the legislation binder.

Thank you. We're on Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2019. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$471,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move on. Minister Hickes, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank the members for their concern over this incident.

Just on behalf of the Department of Justice's standpoint, I appreciate the moving forward of the next phase in correctional facilities here in the territory.

I would just like to thank the staff to help prepare me for my appearance. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I forgot one step before I went to the minister's closing comments, so we will do that now. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 16 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move on to Bill 17. I will ask Minister Hickes to go into his opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I appear before you today to present Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*. This bill seeks \$2,791,000 in supplementary capital funding in 2019-2020 to advance three important projects as follows:

- \$1.35 million to the Department of Health to develop plans for long-term care services in Nunavut. This is among our priorities in *Turaaqtavut*.

We have already allocated \$500,000 to early planning in 2018-19 through the Department of Community and Government Services' capital planning envelope.

Mr. Chairman and members, with this additional funding we will create a distinct project in the capital plan under the Department of Health and will continue our work on this complex issue. This represents an important step in improving in-territory care for our elders.

- Also, \$950,000 for the Department of Community and Government Services to cover a projected budget shortfall in the Rankin Inlet Arena construction project.

This project was awarded in 2017 with a construction bid of \$23.7 million, \$1.7 million over the initial construction estimate but still within the overall \$25 million budgeted for the project. This meant there was little room to cover change orders and other unforeseen costs. As the project has progressed, it has become evident that additional funds will be required to complete it.

- In addition, \$491,000 for the Department of Justice to conduct a planning study and develop a business case to replace the existing Courts Information System and the Corrections Operational Management System, two important IT systems that are outdated.

Mr. Chairman and members, the requested funding is necessary for these projects to move forward and cannot be funded from within existing appropriations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. We will go to page 4 of Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1, 2019-2020. Justice. \$491,000. Any questions? Total Department. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder why this wasn't originally included in the capital estimates for this department. This should have been something that was identified during the capital planning process, I believe. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give a little bit of history, this project has been on the business case request pile for some time. It has become apparent that the existing system is critical, a little bit more critical than was anticipated during the reviews of the different business cases. It has come to this point where it's for the health and safety and to keep proper records within the corrections system and justice information. We do have to move forward. It wasn't expected to be this critical, but due to the nature of how the current software is working, this is a necessary step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$491,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 5. Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the planning for this will be under a P3 project. The government has a policy about P3 projects. If I remember correctly, I believe the largest P3 project in Nunavut was the Iqaluit airport. Have you learned anything from the previous P3 project? Are there any regrets on what was done?

Looking at the project and looking at the future, are they going to be making any changes for the next P3 project? There is a bunch of debt that will have to be paid in the coming years. I would like to

know if that will be a part of future considerations for the next time around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a little early for that. The model hasn't been decided yet. P3 is one of the options and I would be very presumptive to use that as segue into what we're going to do. These are strictly preplanning dollars to look at what options become available to us and to make sure that we're meeting the clinical needs that the facilities and the design meet the clinical needs of the residents.

With regard to lessons learned from P3, it would probably be a topic for another day to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It does say public-private partnership right in here.

In terms of the models of delivery, it says, "identify models of delivery." What are the different models? A P3 would be one model. What are the other models that are still on the table? It seems, reading this information, that the government is leaning heavily towards a P3 model already, but if there are other models still on the table, what are they? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I think that will be part of all the preplanning study which way they want to build the new unit. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and like it mentions in the documentation, it's a value for money review. Fee for service is also one thing being looked at, even going so far as for us to use our capital budget to build the facility. That's all part of this review process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It says here, it mentions different size of facilities. In terms of economies of scale, I guess I just want confirmation that that will be part of this planning. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project is described here very well. When do you anticipate this planning to finish? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this fiscal year we

want to make sure that we have worked with the Department of Health to identify the needs of what type of facilities that we need across the territory. We are looking for the business case and substantiation back to the FMB in the upcoming fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the business case of a little over \$1.3 million, you have it broken down in different parts of where the money is going to be going. For example, one is a design-build RFP. I guess my question is: how are you working with CGS on this? It says this is for Health, so why is not CGS part of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all capital projects, CGS is involved all the way through. It's a Department of Health capital request, so that's why it's under Health. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to who is driving the boat, is it Health or CGS on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: If I could say there are two rudders to the boat, I would say there are two rudders to the boat. They will be working very closely together, but I think the ultimate driver is

all of us and all Nunavummiut. We realize this is a high priority. That's why we have taken the step of putting this proposal forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question; I just want to say that I'm getting concerned about how long this is taking because by the time you get to all this information that you're trying... I realize you have to find out this information, but the years are going to go past and I'm concerned about that. I am, because we can take a long time and we study everything to death that we can't seem to move until so much is done.

On the flip side, I understand why nobody wants to waste money, but sometimes we could be a little too extreme too that we don't move. We don't go anywhere; we just stay there. It takes so long and before we know it, we will be into five or six years from now when we're finally starting to build. I really want to voice my concern about that and I want to see if we could try to build this building as soon as possible without waiting so long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's just comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I have no other names on my list. Minister, I'm sorry. It was a comment and I didn't think you would want to reply. Minister Hickes, go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: I do want to reply and I thank the Chair for allowing me.

I think the way we're doing this shows

that this is such a serious matter that we're trying to squeeze every timeline we can out of it. We could have easily sat back and waited until the Partnership BC report came out and then put this forward either through a supplementary or even waiting for the next capital cycle. I think the urgency shown by this government is proving by taking this step of how serious we want to move forward with these projects.

This is potentially hundreds of millions of dollars that we're looking at across the territory in the long term, so we want to make sure we're doing our due diligence, like the member said, but we're definitely not going to be dragging our heels on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Health. Capital. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,350,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 6. Community and Government Services. Capital. \$950,000. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This project here is quite the interesting case study in contract management and/or execution of capital contracts. Just looking at the briefing material here, if this was a class "A" estimate of \$20.3 million, and here we are two years later... This was two years ago, and here we are and it turns out the total cost is going to be \$25.9 million. We have overshot that class "A" estimate by over \$5 million. It's interesting. It's concerning.

I know that the Department of CGS has agreed to provide us a list of ongoing capital projects and which ones are on budget and which ones are over. That is good to know, but in terms of the application of the NNI Policy and the bid, there was a \$5 million bid adjustment that was allowed to this. In terms of the different factors that play into the government exceeding a class "A" estimate by over \$5 million, I would be interested to hear the minister's thoughts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have often brought forward similar concerns in the past and current. When we look at getting our estimates done on any project, I would have to say that, in a lot of ways, it was very accurate. The lowest per-dollar bid that came in was very bang on to what the class "A" estimate was.

When we get into discussions on bid adjustments through the NNI procurement process, I firmly believe that that's a long discussion and I think there are better venues than today to talk about that broad of an impact on our procurement side of things outside of this individual project, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess, yes, there will be a time for that discussion, but there was a contingency built into this contract as well and that

has been blown through too. Going forward, is there going to be a larger amount included for contingencies when we look at major construction contracts like this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't anticipate the practice of the level of contingency on a percentage basis per contract changing. To me, typically those contingencies are adequate to do any change orders or any additional work. Like the member said during the very first part of his preamble, this is a very interesting and in some ways unique case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It mentions here in the briefing note that historically Rankin Inlet has achieved reasonably high Inuit labour outcomes. It mentions that this has a 40 percent Inuit labour target, which is a good thing, but I don't understand why that 40 percent Inuit labour target wasn't built into the class "A" estimate in the first place. If Rankin Inlet has a historically high Inuit employment rate, shouldn't that have been in the class "A"?

Maybe I'm getting too detailed here and maybe the Minister of CGS would be able to answer better, but I just don't see... I guess my question is: does the class "A" estimate come with an assumption of bare minimum Inuit employment, let's say, 15 percent?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you're looking at Inuit participation in these projects, the costing to it is borne by the contractor. Any time they have increased numbers of local employment, it saves them money, which in turn has potential to make them more profit margin.

With regard to setting parameters, that's standard practice with Community and Government Services on their contracting. I can't speak to specifics on why this one was 40 percent and others are 20 percent. Typically one thing it will have an impact is the amount of projects going on in the community or even in a small region where you've got a few communities together, where you have limited workforce opportunities. To me, that would be one of the only mitigating factors in establishing Inuit employment numbers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What was the Inuit employment level that was built into that class "A" construction cost estimate of \$20.3 million? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the member's desire for detail, but these questions are

more appropriate during the capital planning process on the project itself. To me, it doesn't have any bearing on the supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main, if you could stick to the principle of the bill, please. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would respectfully disagree. I would argue that this is entirely within the scope of this bill. You're coming to us and we're being asked to approve an additional million dollars and the reason that we're being asked to approve this is because the government has overshot their class "A" construction cost estimate of \$20.3 million. You have overshot that by over \$5 million.

One of the factors which are listed in here, reading between the lines or from my understanding, the contractors say, "If you want more Inuit employment, it's going to cost you more." That is where I am coming from, just to try to explain myself why I'm interested in what the class "A" estimate included, what Inuit labour requirement was built into that class "A" estimate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the member's line of questioning.

I do have to go back to an earlier response that I gave that the class "A" estimate, if you would have taken a

dollar value of the lowest bidder, was bang on. I don't believe the error was made in the estimates, regardless of what the Inuit content was. There are a number of different factors that go into when you do your estimate: the material costs, labour costs, local and imported, weather. All kinds of conditions can have an impact on it.

When it comes down to the \$5 million you mentioned, we're here looking for \$950,000, which is over the \$25 million budget approved for this project, so it's not over \$5 million; it's over \$950,000. That's not to be argumentative, Mr. Chairman.

When we look at the capital planning process, we always do our best to give as accurate of an estimate as possible, but you can't always control the market conditions. We have all seen examples through our personal or professional lives where you think it's going to cost something and then you go to a contractor and you can be very close or you can be very far depending upon how busy those contractors are it seems sometimes.

To me, there are a number of different factors that go into these class "A" estimates, and I do want to acknowledge the staff at CGS who I think were very accurate with this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for his response. It is an interesting topic. It says here that "As for this class 'A' estimate being

accurate, the cost estimate was \$20.3 million. There were eight bids received and the lowest was \$21.7 million.” The lowest bid was over a million dollars off what the class “A” estimate was.

I understand there are some variants in there that are built in and you can’t estimate down to the last dollar as to what it’s going to cost, but as for the bigger discussion, I think, that we need to have, it’s regarding understanding what benefit is actually flowing from the increased costs that are coming from the new NNI Policy.

If we’re paying for more Inuit labour, okay. If we’re paying for actual Inuit companies to gain business and build up their assets, okay, but if we’re paying just because a certain business has a business arrangement with somebody to get them an NNI or NTI certificate, then that’s a real question mark for me. (interpretation) That’s just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Main covered my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Community and Government Services. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$950,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1, 2019-2020. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$2,791,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 17 in your legislative binder.

Thank you. Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$2,791,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 17

as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 17 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, do you have any brief closing comments on Bill 17? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the dialogue and I'm looking forward to continuing some of those discussions down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Members, we will move on to Bill 18. I will ask Minister Hickes: do you have opening comments for Bill 18? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and members, I appear before you today to present Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*. Through this bill, the government is seeking to increase its overall appropriation by \$46,665,000 as follows:

- \$40 million to the Department of Health to address cost overruns in various programs, including medical travel, mental health and treatment,

and various hospital and physicians contracts;

- \$5.5 million to the Department of Justice to address projected cost overruns within the Law Enforcement and Corrections branches; and
- \$1,165,000 to the Department of Family Services to address projected cost overruns within the Children and Family Services Branch.

Mr. Chairman and members, this supplementary appropriation would increase our government's total appropriation for 2018-19 to about \$1.71 billion, an increase of about 2.8 percent over the initial budget this Assembly approved last June. This increase is generally in line with those of previous years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We are on Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2018-2019. Family Services on page 4. Are there any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in regard to the Family Services, the money here is for residential care services. Is that in or out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I thought I was prepared for just about everything.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a mix. The majority is out of territory.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know a bit more about that. Is this across southern Canada or is it mainly in one area? Where are we sending our children to out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a shortfall in that line item where there are multi-millions of dollars that were spent at different areas of the country for residential care. This money specifically into this isn't to a specific residential care; it's an overarching budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. According to this, it says, "Residential care services are demand-driven and higher than anticipated client needs lead to higher than expected costs." I'm wondering: does that mean that we're sending more children down south or what? It's related directly to that, it says here, so I'm just trying to get a better understanding of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, when it's residential care, the majority is outside of the

territory. It is demand-driven. Most of them are for youth. I just don't have that level of detail, Mr. Chairman. Some of these dollars are for residential care and some of it was impacted through the Office of the Public Guardian as well. There's kind of a blend in there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably won't get an answer to this, but I am curious about the residential care facility that we have here for adolescents. Is some of this money going to that, and are we investing here in Nunavut to the facility here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is a very small component of an overall pot of money. How those monies get allocated, this isn't specifically for one project or another. It's numerous cases that have caused the budget line to go over its allocated amount and they weren't able to fund it from within, hence we're here for supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get more information on what is written here. It's written in English, so I'll speak English.

(interpretation ends) "The department's recent and ongoing income assistance

reforms; continued training requirements across the department have reduced the availability of services.” The other one of course is “There’s also a projected deficit of \$336,200 within Corporate Management and Career Development.”

This \$1,165,000 is not just going to go to children and family services coverage on residential care services. The reasoning of course is also due to those two factors that I just mentioned. (interpretation) Those two main factors seem to be the reasons why they are making the request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the main impact that those two factors have is typically there have been surpluses available, which they would have been able to access. Because of some of the changes in benefits to income support as an example, those surpluses are no longer available. Again, with the projected budget amounts, they are accurate to a point where those surpluses didn’t exist anymore, where they weren’t able to access funds out of there. I’m not sure why they even mentioned that to a certain degree other than the \$323,000 that was available to offset some of the costs incurred.

In general, again, like I brought up with the colleague beside you, we are working towards a more actual-based budget process. These are tools that we may run into this a little bit more as with needs-driven budget lines, we can forecast as best we can, but we can’t stop people. We can’t say, “No, it’s August now and no one else is allowed

to get sick.” “No, it’s September and we can’t send anyone else out anymore.” We have to follow the needs of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Total Department for Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,165,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I would like to follow up on Ms. Angnakak’s questions and on the need for increased residential care services. At what point did the Department of Family Services come to the realization that they were coming up to a budget shortfall in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what information I have, it was around November that it was brought to the attention of my deputy minister that there would be a shortfall. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a number of months ago. I would like to enquire: what are the specific cost drivers here? Now, the minister has identified that this is mostly due to out-of-territory residential care treatment. I’m curious: how much do these out-of-territory residential care facilities charge? Are these for children? Are these for elders? I’m looking for some of the specifics there in the cost drivers that lead to this increase in expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is probably not going to be too happy with my response, but for one, I don't have that level of detail. In addition to that, there are a number of different categories across the board. That would be, again, a better question for another venue on where the cost pressures are on this overall budget line itself.

Again, going back to a response to an earlier comment, when we're talking needs-driven resources that are being used, it can be difficult to forecast. Whether it be children, residential care in the territory, or outside, there are different levels of care in addition. Is it disabled that is cost driving? There are a number of different factors. I just don't have that level of information, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response, but I'm going to have to respectfully disagree. I do believe that now is the appropriate venue to ask these questions. I would like to know how much analysis was done to verify this request. I would like to have some sort of comfort in knowing that the appropriate measures were taken when reviewing this information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at the residential budgets and expenditures of over \$40 million. To me, when we're going over 3 percent from a needs-driven budget line, I don't think this is an extraordinary occurrence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again I thank the minister for that response. It's good to know that this is only a small percentage in comparison to the actual budget. It would be beneficial if that information was provided to us so we didn't have to seek it out. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,165,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. \$4 million... . Whoops. Sorry. Total Law Enforcement. \$4,500,000. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would like to ask a question on the second bullet of this page, supplementary appropriation. It says that "\$1 million out of this funding is for correctional facilities overage on permanent staff overtime and casual salaries." If you look in the business plan under Corrections, they're going down by a million or just about. I'm just wondering, here in one sense you're asking for more money, but when it comes to the budget where you're

asking for lower than last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. We're not to the line item for Corrections yet. We're doing Law Enforcement. The Corrections part is a million dollars. We're doing the \$4.5 million, if you can see where I'm coming from. On page 5, the first section is Law Enforcement, \$4.5 million. If you don't have a question there, I can go to the next member. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Here in terms of driving the costs up, it mentions at the bottom of the first page on the briefing note, it mentions the increase of members on long-term leave, which has increased quite dramatically from an average of 0.65 over fiscal year 2013-14 to 14.5 over fiscal year 2017-18. It is important to understand why we have more and more RCMP members who are on long-term leave. What are the factors that are driving this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We recently had a presentation by the RCMP where they went over a number of the statistics across the territory in addition to some of the requests that they have put forward in the past for additional staffing.

When we look at staffing for members that are on extended leave, those costs are incurred still by the Government of Nunavut. It puts us, even to me, a little

bit even more of an awkward scenario where we don't have enough members servicing our communities, according to what the RCMP does want to have.

In addition, we're even limiting that because we're paying for members that aren't even in the territory anymore because they're on extended leave. There have been discussions with the Department of Justice. The member was a party to some of those discussions when we had high-level discussions with the RCMP hierarchy here in the territory.

There's no definitive answer to that other than the amount of calls that are increasing in some communities are far exceeding normal, historic numbers. That, I would say, would be a high contributing factor. Just the level of calls that are coming through, the amount of time that members have to be on duty definitely has a factor in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those three are said to be the factors in the \$4.5 million overrun. For (interpretation ends) the administration cost, overtime, additional costs, (interpretation) can we get a breakdown of the costs of those three factors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have it broken down that way. This is a contracted service. When these additional costs

come in through the RCMP, these are over and above what normal costs have been incurred. We just do not have it broken down to that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's unfortunate. That's a rather large amount, \$4.5 million. We would like to understand how much each of them costs, and this a concern when you have to pay for overtime.

However, we were informed when we had the presentation, the RCMP said they had put in a request to our government for additional officers for the communities, but they were not approved in past years. Even though their request for an increase was refused, perhaps the past government didn't approve this, so we end up paying extra for overtime. They should have thought about spending less money at the time, but now we have to pay a huge amount.

Presently, if they put in a request for additional officers, this will have to be considered carefully. Will that also be considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever the business case from Justice comes forward through their discussions with the RCMP headquarters, it is always discussed. I think, as we see the need on policing more and more, we have always tried to find a balance of providing the services

in the community so that the corrections side or the policing side wouldn't be as needed through alcohol education or different health programs as far as healthy living habits and things like that. It's finding that balance.

It's just like any department that puts forward a business case for increased PYs. There are justifications for and limits to what we can and can't do. There are times where a business case could come forward to add PYs or a project to a department that will save money in the long term, but we don't have the money right now to do it. We have to phase these things in and take a look seriously at how we can do things, but they are looked at and analyzed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions on Law Enforcement? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment. It's probably not a question, but there is a large \$40 million contract. We definitely need the police, but they're not the only police force in Canada. We have to start thinking about having our own police force. We have Arctic College and we have learning institutions. Perhaps it would cost less if we had our own police force in Nunavut. Even though Northern Quebec is a small population, they have their own police force. As Nunavummiut, I don't think the government has ever considered that.

However, we contract them for a huge amount and we keep asking them as communities to be visible, like walking on the streets. We never see them in person, and we spend a huge amount of

money from our government and we never see them in the community in person. They don't get involved in activities within the community. I know they're doing their job, but they are not visible in the communities. We keep talking about that.

Since that amount of money is being spent on them, let's tell them to get involved in the communities. Perhaps they would spend less on overtime if they engaged with the people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll take that as a comment. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want clarification. I do know that on reserves in Canada, they get funding for First Nations policing. Does Nunavut get that same funding? I just need clarification on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Law Enforcement. \$4,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next line item is Corrections for \$1 million. Any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Now I'm at the proper place. I do apologize; I was ahead of everybody.

I noticed that in the budget there's a

decrease when it comes to Corrections, yet we're asking for another million dollars and this is due to shortfall and also in the MLA information item it does talk about overtime. I just want to know: is this due to overtime alone, or how are we doing with staffing?

I know before that the overtime problem was due to the lack of enough staff. Staff that were there had to do double shifts and that. Not everybody wants to work at corrections. Just in general, how are things going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will note that the overtime situation within Justice has been improving. The majority of these funds are due to the incident that we talked about earlier where we had to relocate a bunch of inmates to another facility and increased costs associated with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few quick questions relating to the overtime. First is: do relief staff receive overtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they don't.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It indicates that the

correctional facilities have 57 vacancies and 185 relief workers. I'm curious: with that many relief workers, how is it that they're still incurring overtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To meet the minimum operational requirements, you've got to remember that those are the total number of relief workers that have been employed over a year. There are a lot of people coming and going. With the training associated with that as well too, it increases the cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, how many relief staff are currently still on the payroll? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just with the needs required for staffing needs, the numbers would probably be fairly similar. They can change, I'm sure, on a day-to-day or at least a week-to-week basis for an exact number, but the ratio to vacancies and relief workers is approximately what it is there, the 185. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to the correctional facilities, there's a need for a million

additional dollars to cover the overtime in casual usage. Out of curiosity, to date, how much overtime and additional casual staffing hours have been required for the correctional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that direct information, but I will say and reiterate that the majority of this \$1 million expenditure was due to the riot or the incident that was at the BCC that initiated... . The monies associated with this are inmate transfers and the staffing associated with having inmates sent out of our territory for a month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Total Corrections. \$1 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$5,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 6. Health. \$40 million. Any questions? None?

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to ask questions. That's our duty. That is a rather large amount.

(interpretation ends) In the briefing note it mentions that scheduled and medevac medical travel volumes have increased over the same period last year. Medevacs are tied to a bunch of different issues, including availability of staff in communities.

Does the department watch for patterns within its use of medevacs? For example, if they see a pattern of regular medevacs out of certain communities, do they monitor those patterns and then allocate additional staff or resources to those communities to try to mitigate that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To a degree, yes. We do have gaps in our stats. Each health centre provides data. With turnover, the accuracy is sometimes in question, where we are looking at improvements in our data collection so that we can get a better understanding or a more accurate understanding of how things progress.

The member is very correct in stating that staffing in some health centres has an impact on the amount of medical transportation needs, whether that be medevac or through scheduled medical travel. It is something that we are cognizant of and not just taking steps in our whole medical travel review. With the model of care review, we keep saying there are all these reviews going on, and I am looking forward to making progress on this file specifically, in addition to a couple of our other budget pressure lines. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the mental health line, are we talking about all of these all at once, Mr. Chairman? I guess I should clarify first. Is this all on the same page? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, you can go ahead with your question. That's fine. I didn't quite hear what you said; if you could repeat, please.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to clarify that we're talking about all of this all at once.

In terms mental health contracts, on the one hand it's good to see that we're spending \$20 million or are forecasted to on this. I think it has been a long time that mental health was neglected or we were under-spending in this area.

It mentions on the second page of the briefing note, "Rapid referral to specialized institutions can be seen as a life-saving measure in many cases." We do see people getting the help they need when they do leave the territory, but the gap seems to be when they come home, whether they're living in poverty or in an overcrowded house, when they come home, it mentions on the first page here that if they are dual-diagnosed, they required highly specialized clinical staff. The next step would be to provide that highly specialized clinical staff closer to home.

In terms of what the picture is across the territory in availability of mental health staff, if the minister could update us with what the plan is to fill that gap with these patients. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. It's a very good one. The member draws attention to the aftercare portion of a lot of the mental health treatment. The resources that we have in the communities are lacking. We have a number of positions that have been approved in previous years for mental health positions, psychiatric nurses, and so forth where we do have difficulties filling them. We have to rely upon casual contracts or agencies, which doesn't bring that consistency of care, or has the potential to even re-traumatize people to have to go over their stories with different people all the time.

One of the things that we're looking at obviously is working on solidifying some of those positions, but also when we look at the pillars for addictions and trauma treatment strategy of bringing more resources to the community from a wellness standpoint as well as having regional on-the-land programs of that sort and even so far as an institution that I'm hoping I'm going to hear an announcement on in the coming weeks from the federal government of partnership opportunities.

It's a recognized gap and we are working at closing those gaps where we can make some headway. Again, I believe it was last year or two years ago

there were 17 mental health positions that were approved to increase availability of mental health workers and professionals across the territory. At the last question I got, I believe only four or five of them were filled indeterminately.

That's something we need to really focus on with our recruiting, working with the new Department of Human Resources to help assist us in outlining where some of those barriers in recruitment are, especially on the retention side of things. I know we have been making steps with orientation programs and things of that nature to help educate new employees when they come onboard so they know what to expect, but admittedly, we do need to do a better job and we're working towards that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Moving on to health care service delivery staffing, I just have a question about this information that's provided to us here. The very last bullet under health care delivery staffing, it says that "Health service delivery requirements do not allow for staff vacancies in service delivery operations."

I'm just curious about how, when the health department is looking at budgeting their annual amount for health care service delivery staffing, at the last bullet it says, "...do not allow for staff vacancies in service delivery," and the first bullet says that "Indeterminate support staff vacancies are projected to be over 50 percent." Just a little bit of clarification in terms of the budgeting

process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we set our budget line for compensation and benefits, it's using our health centre staff complement of what it should be, then, like the member mentioned, typically we're at about a 50 percent vacancy rate. We don't have a choice. We need to provide that level of service. That's where casual nurses, agency nurses, and those types of factors come into play and they are at increased cost, so it puts a lot of pressure on that budget line. It's more expensive to have an agency nurse in a health centre than it is to have an indeterminate nurse in a health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If we look at the overall number for health care service delivery staffing for this year, which is forecasted at \$158 million, how does that number break down in terms of indeterminate, casual, and agency? That's a big number, and my understanding is those are the three types of staff that the department has. Roughly how much is going towards agency, how much is going towards casual, and how much is indeterminate? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With our forecasts that we're looking at, these are give or take; these are estimates. Based on that \$158 million, it's approximately \$9 million for agency nursing, \$48 million, almost \$49 million for casuals, and we even have anticipated overtime at regular pay of about \$9 million forecasted. There is also standby pay brought into there and the permanent salary portion of approximately \$83 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the breakdown. From where I'm living, this is the very top priority. This is "mission critical," to quote from later in the briefing note, is being able to have enough nurses in the communities. At this point it's very frustrating for the staff and for residents in communities. We're not asking for the stars; we're asking for access to nurses and we're asking for health centres to be open without closures due to staffing issues.

It mentions in here the overtime shifts and the different factors. Is the department looking at scheduling or experimenting, or maybe they're already doing it; putting staff on the night shift where you constantly have nurses being called in? Are there any night shift positions? I'm thinking specifically for communities outside of Iqaluit, which are different. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I think that idea was floated around a few

years ago with a previous government too, and I don't know what became of it. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question from the member and the comment from the Chair. That topic has been around for a little while. We even got a proposal from one of our health centres. A group of staff submitted a proposal to us to do a pilot or to see what would work. We do have to make sure that we're... We have to work with the nurses union as well on that, but I am very optimistic that for sure this one health centre will move forward. I would like to see how this plays out.

I have talked about it with staff previously of looking at peak hours at the very least of when, if you've got a slow time in the afternoon, do you need all two or three nurses on staff at that time when people could be getting some rest in anticipation. Like I said, we do have to explore all of this information with the staff and with the union especially to make sure that we're not requesting or requiring outside of normal work hours without their contribution or collaboration, I think is the word I'm looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This supplementary appropriation is an annual thing for the Department of Health. I know we've had discussions over trying to deal with that and trying to budget better for the actual costs that are going to be incurred. I know it's outside the scope of this bill because this is

2018-19, but for 2019-2020, I think it's worth asking whether we can expect to see a similar supp coming to us in a year's time. I think it's clear that there needs to be some changes made to the way that budgets are put together for Health. (interpretation) That's my final one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I do appreciate the member's comments along that line because we have taken some steps this year. We requested an extra \$38 million this year compared to last, \$14 million of that going directly to medical travel, another \$11 million going to out-of-territory hospitals and physicians, which is also another line of large concern in this supplementary appropriation. Are we dealing with all of them all at once? No, but I feel we are moving in the right direction.

With the staffing side of things, I'm optimistic that we can make some further improvements not just on our recruitment but on our retention. It seems that's where there's even more focus that needs to be provided. I'm going to have to say it's a process, as I'm sure the member realizes, but I think we're taking some steps in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a lot of questions, but I do want to ask about the increases to hospital and physician treatment contracts and the physician services contracts. Is it because the

facilities and the service delivery are getting more expensive or is it because we have more Nunavummiut needing this kind of help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The latter more. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to paying the fees for these services, does Nunavut pay a higher price than other jurisdictions so that Nunavummiut can be seen quicker? Across Canada I understand there are long waits sometimes for services that we can get pretty quickly when somebody gets sent down south. Is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is very correct. We do. In a lot of cases with a lot of specialties, our patients, our residents do get seen a lot faster than even residents of the jurisdiction they're going to. That's just through shared services agreements. It doesn't cost any more. Reciprocal billing, other than Quebec, participates in... . If you're going to get a certain procedure in BC, it's going to cost the same as it is in Newfoundland. They set price standards for different types of treatments and through reciprocal billing agreements, other jurisdictions, if somebody from outside sought out health services here, they pay

us the same amount we would pay them for the same treatment in their jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have questions relating to the health care programs. My questions are for the additional service contracts which were not initially budgeted for. My first question is related to transient employee staff housing. My first question is: are these transient staff that are in staff housing in Nunavut Housing Corporation units or does the Department of Health seek their own accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through an MOU with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we utilize their services. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the details of this MOU? Does the Department of Health pay the same rates that are set out in the GN Staff Housing Policy? How many units does the Department of Health utilize for transient employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the MOU with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we basically utilize their services to locate units, to arrange leasing. The rates themselves are established in

conjunction with the union and they would be prorated. Sometimes a staff member might be here for three months, but they might come partway through a month and leave for a period of time and come back. It's pretty complicated to get into how exactly it's all structured, but the rates themselves are established in collaboration with the union. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: were these transient staff housing units included in the response to my written question on GN staff housing utilization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure; I would have to check. Because they are transient units, they might not have been caught up in the data collection. If there was somebody in it, maybe it would have. If they were vacant at the time, maybe it wouldn't have. I would have to confirm with my officials, Mr. Chairman. If the member would follow up with me with the document, we could sit down and go over it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many transient staff housing units does the Department of Health have and how much is spent on it annually? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Lightstone, I think you're getting away from the principle of this bill here,

but I will allow this question for now. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Across the entire territory there are 62 units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'll move on to my next topic and that's the human resource software and the leave and attendance system. I was wondering if the minister may be able to expand on that. I thought that was an initiative that the Department of Finance was working on and I would just like to hear more about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, until the human resource software is up and running, this is something to keep the lights on, I guess we will say. At least we've got some data and tracking ability to be able to report on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to this leave and attendance software, I'm not very familiar with the licensing of IT software, but \$450,000 seems like a large amount. I would like to enquire how the department negotiated that with the Saba company. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail with me today, Mr. Chairman. My apologies.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the same software that the Qulliq Energy Corporation uses for their leave and attendance system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I looked upon my wall of advisors there and nobody knows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) To my left, the Member for Uqqummiut, spoke about having mental health specialists who have a different culture and lifestyle. Communities are starting to request the Clyde River counsellors. (interpretation ends) My question is... . A lot of communities, with regard to mental health and operations and maintenance of the Clyde River counsellors, we're talking about \$9 million for nurses, agency nurses, \$48 million, and standby pay, \$83 million.

Instead of mental health, I think a lot of Inuit have gone through trauma after trauma. We're dealing with mental health by professionals that do not have our culture, our language, and I'm wondering with the Clyde River

counsellors, a lot of communities would like to work with the counsellors there. Has there been any co-partnership with that community in terms of Inuit counsellors with mental health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Your type of question is beyond the scope of this bill, but Minister Hickes, if you want to entertain the question, please do so.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will. With the counsellors that come out of Clyde River from the Ilisaqsivik Society, we have been utilizing them across the territory, especially in this region, but we have been partnering up with our mobile trauma response team.

In a perfect world, I would like to see an Inuk counsellor in every community working with the clinical counselling so that they can share each other's skills. I think, when you've got a holistically trained counsellor with a clinically trained counsellor working conjunction together, you're going to see a lot more success. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Health. Operations and Maintenance. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$40 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2018-2019. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation.

\$46,665,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, go to Bill 18 in your legislative binder.

Thank you. Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year March 31, 2019. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$46,665,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is everybody falling asleep? Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 18 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 18 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Hickes, do you have any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: I'll keep it very short, Mr. Chairman and members. I appreciate all the assistance in these.

I would also like to thank my wall of advisors, as I called them moments ago, on keeping myself and Mr. Chown educated so that he was able to assist me where I didn't have the detailed response. I'm sure officials are keeping track of some of the responses that I gave where I did commit to the member from Iqaluit-Manirajak. I look forward to sitting down with you with the written response and seeing how we capture that data.

I would like to thank members for their diligence, and I'm hoping that next year, if I'm sitting at this table with a supplementary appropriation, it's nowhere near this number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here today to answer the questions from members.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. New Speaker, for now. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 15, 16, 17, and 18 and would like to report progress. I would also like to report that Bills 15, 16, 17, and 18 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 15, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour, (interpretation) please raise your hand. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and the bill is ready for... .

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that the following bills, Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019*; Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*; Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Third Reading of Bills. Minister Hickes.

Bill 16 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies; I was

following the wrong script, apparently.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2018-2019*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Bill 16. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is carried and the bill is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. Minister Hickes.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 17 (interpretation ends) is ready for assent.

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. Minister Hickes.

Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 is ready for assent.

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation) Before I call for the *Orders of the Day*, I wish to take this opportunity to note that today marks another milestone in our legislature's journey.

(interpretation ends) Before I call for the *Orders of the Day*, I wish to take this opportunity to note that today marks another milestone in our legislature's journey.

(interpretation) Although it has been a long winter sitting and although we still have one more day to go, I am very pleased to note that today was the 750th formal sitting day since April 1, 1999.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Who knows how many of us will still be here when we reach the 1,000th!

>> *Laughter*

An Hon. Member: John Quirke.

>> *Laughter*

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 12:

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 13
- Bill 20
- Bill 21

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:46*

