



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 123

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Pages 7735 – 7814

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

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

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

Calvin Pedersen
(Kugluktuk)

Cathy Towntongie

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Michel Albert

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	7735
Speaker's Statement	7735
Ministers' Statements	7735
Members' Statements	7740
Returns to Oral Questions	7743
Oral Questions.....	7743
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	7761
Report of the Committee of the Whole	7813
Orders of the Day	7813

A.

Daily References

Thursday, March 11, 2021.....7735

B.

Ministers' Statements

601 – 5(2): Polar Bear Studies in the High Arctic (Savikataaq)7735

602 – 5(2): Airline Reservations – Delayed Travel Due to COVID-19 (Akeeagok)7736

603 – 5(2): Organizational Realignment of the Department of Education (Joanasie).....7737

604 – 5(2): JUNO Awards Nomination (Nakashuk).....7737

605 – 5(2): Justice Career Fair (Hickes).....7738

606 – 5(2): Student Services at Nunavut Arctic College (Joanasie)7738

607 – 5(2): Construction Continues Despite COVID-19 (Nakashuk).....7739

C.

Members' Statements

853 – 5(2): Condolences to the Family of Luki Sammurtok (Main).....7740

854 – 5(2): Medical Assistance in Dying (Netser)7741

855 – 5(2): Recognizing Ayla Kreelak (Simailak).....7742

856 – 5(2): Happy Birthday to Brother (Ehaloak).....7743

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1229 – 5(2): Medical Travel and COVID-19 (Kusugak).....7743

E.

Oral Questions

1251 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq Water Supply (Rumbolt).....7743

1252 – 5(2): Elder Care (Main).....7745

1253 – 5(2): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (Angnakak)	7747
1254 – 5(2): Electronic Money Transfers and Income Assistance (Kaernek)	7748
1255 – 5(2): Limit on Alcohol Purchases (Lightstone).....	7750
1256 – 5(2): Busing Needs for Chesterfield Inlet (Towtongie).....	7752
1257 – 5(2): Mining Sector (Akoak)	7754
1258 – 5(2): Condition of Public Housing Units (Qirngnuq).....	7755
1259 – 5(2): Consumer Protection (Simailak).....	7757
1260 – 5(2): Northern Life Skills Programs for Youth (Pedersen)	7759

F.

Bills

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Human Resources – Consideration in Committee	7761
Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee	7784

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

Speaker's Statement

As the House will be aware, today has been designated by the federal government as a National Day of Observance for COVID-19.

To mark this solemn occasion, our national and territorial flags will fly at half-mast until sunset.

I ask all members to join me in a moment of silent memory for the thousands of our fellow citizens who have lost their lives to this terrible pandemic, and I ask all members to join me in reflecting on the sacrifices that have been made by so many over the past year.

>>*Moment of Silence*

Thank you. We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 601 – 5(2): Polar Bear Studies in the High Arctic**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, before I begin my statement, I would like to take a moment to honour the National Day of Observance for COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the last year has been unlike anything we have ever experienced. It has been hard, it has been lonely, and it has been long. It has tested our territory and our determination. I ask all members to join me in remembering our Nunavummiut who passed away from the virus.

Nunavummiut, let's continue to keep fighting and practising all the public health measures to keep one another safe. Please make an appointment to get the vaccine, if you haven't already. Take care and be well, and I thank you all for

your work, patience, strength, and hope over the last year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that my department is planning to begin polar bear research this spring in two subpopulations in the High Arctic: Lancaster Sound and Norwegian Bay.

Mr. Speaker, both subpopulations are a priority for the affected communities in North Baffin because of the need for current population estimates. The Department of Environment conducted consultations with the hunters and trappers organizations in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay this past October, and plans are underway to begin fieldwork in April 2021.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut manages 60 percent of the world's polar bears. Research in the Arctic, especially the High Arctic, is challenging and expensive. My department, in collaboration with co-management partners and external funding parties, has secured significant funding for these studies to proceed. We will continue to seek external funding support to enhance these multi-year studies.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment is dedicated to the inclusion of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in polar bear research and management, and has initiated, supported, and been a leader to ensure it coincides with scientific studies to strengthen the success our co-management system.

I look forward to continuing this important work with our partners to meet the needs of our communities and our land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 602 – 5(2):
Airline Reservations – Delayed
Travel Due to COVID-19**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also extend my sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to share some information with the Members of this House regarding airline reservations that have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Through the course of the past year we know that the plans many Nunavummiut made for travel have been disrupted. These disruptions have carried on now for over a year, and many people have concerns that their tickets may have expired or that they may not be able to rebook their travel without paying massive change fees.

In response to these concerns, my department has contacted both of the major carriers who provide scheduled airline service in Nunavut. Both Canadian North and Calm Air recognize that these circumstances are beyond people's control, and both airlines have waived some of their change fees and extended the expiry dates for most flight credits.

Mr. Speaker, as the members know, airline tickets have many different fare

classes and codes. These relaxed rebooking policies may apply differently depending on the type of fare originally booked. I urge anyone whose airline reservation has been affected by COVID-19 to check the airline's website or contact the airline directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 603 – 5(2):
Organizational Realignment of the
Department of Education**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, to meet the increasing educational needs and support required for Nunavut's students and education staff, the Department of Education has undergone a department-wide organizational realignment. This has resulted in dividing the assistant deputy minister's responsibilities into two roles, one focusing on education programs and the other on support services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sonia Osbourne, the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Programs, will be responsible for Early Learning and Child Care, K-12 School Operations, and Advanced Education.

Dr. Osbourne has over 30 years of experience as an educator and educational leader in Nunavut and in Jamaica. She has vast professional experience from pre-school,

kindergarten to grade 12, and adult education. For the past five years, she served as superintendent of schools in the Kivalliq.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Melanie Abbott, the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Support Services, will be responsible for Curriculum Development, Éducation en français, Educator Development, Resource Services, and Student Achievement.

Ms. Abbott most recently served as Assistant Deputy Minister, leading the department through the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this she served as director of resource services for nearly ten years, overseeing the creation of over 1,000 new Inuktitut resources for teachers and students across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this change in my department's organizational structure will meet the growing needs of Nunavut's education system, providing the necessary support students need for lifelong learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 604 – 5(2):
JUNO Awards Nomination**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and offer my congratulations to Mr. Terry Uyarak on his nomination for a JUNO Award. Mr. Uyarak was nominated in the category of Indigenous artist or group of the year for his album entitled *Nunarjua Isulinginniani*. The songs in the album describe just how beautiful and distinct Nunavut is while showcasing our beautiful language.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that Mr. Uyarak is an employee with the Department of Culture and Heritage. I am proud of the work he does for my department and I am encouraged to see that outside of work, he pursues activities that contribute to cultural and language revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me to congratulate Mr. Uyarak on his nomination and I encourage Nunavummiut to listen to his album. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of him and he also resides in my community. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 605 – 5(2):
Justice Career Fair**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the upcoming Justice Career Fair organized by the Department of Justice.

I would like to invite Nunavummiut interested in a career within the justice sector to attend the Nunavut Court of

Justice to speak with representatives from the Office of the Sheriff, Court Registry, Corrections, Coroner's Office, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker and members, the Department of Justice is committed to increasing opportunities for Inuit to find a rewarding career path and encourage everyone to attend the Justice Career Fair.

I would like to encourage those interested to please bring your resumé. This event will be happening Saturday, March 13, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nunavut Justice Centre, Building 510, here in Iqaluit. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 606 – 5(2):
Student Services at Nunavut
Arctic College**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great work being done by the college's Student Services division to support our learners. Members, this division is located at the Nunatta Campus here in Iqaluit. As the college's largest campus, the diverse student body comes from all regions of Nunavut, enrolled in a diverse range of programs with multiple certification outcomes.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Student Services division provides a

diverse range of services. Alongside the college's instructors and adult educators, this division connects directly with the college's student body. From career development, counselling services, security for its facilities and residences, and custodial services, this dynamic team is central to the college's everyday operations.

Mr. Speaker and members, the Student Services division has also recently welcomed a student success facilitator. This position is responsible for responding directly to specific student needs. Adding this role to the division has allowed this dedicated group to work with students to connect them with supports, such as tutors or study coaches. Members, this support can be provided to any college student regardless of community. This division also has the capacity to provide workshops that focus on skill development for students, and in Iqaluit specifically it is a role that has provided vital support to students from outside Iqaluit to research as well as to locate and secure child care supports.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to this work, the division has developed formal partnerships with organizations outside the college. I would like to recognize two organizations specifically, Frontier College and NuAbility. Members, Frontier College specializes in supporting adult learners in skills such as literacy, math, and self-management. NuAbility seeks to support persons with diverse abilities to achieve their goals by providing additional supports as needed. These partnerships allow the college to access complementary supports to facilitate student's success at the college.

As this division continues its work at Nunatta Campus, I can assure members that they are looking at ways to support the uniformity of services; in short, how to ensure all of the college's facilities of all sizes have access to equal student supports. This will require significant capacity development, but the division and the college as a whole look forward to finding workable solutions.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 607 – 5(2):
Construction Continues Despite
COVID-19**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This past year proved to be a challenge in our efforts to keep Nunavummiut safe from the pandemic. As Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it is my priority to provide safe and secure housing. Members will note that this is spelled out in the *Turaaqtavut* mandate's Inuusivut priority.

Fortunately the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the corporation's ability to deliver housing to the people of Nunavut's communities. I am pleased to report that none of our construction projects were delayed last year and none of our construction projects will be delayed this year.

(interpretation) In 2020-21 the housing corporation will build 116 units in

Naujaat, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Sanirajak, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, and Kimmirut. In 2021-22 the housing corporation plans to build 114 units in Naujaat, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Sanirajak, Kugaaruk, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak, Coral Harbour, Sanikiluaq, and Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure Nunavummiut that, just like last year, all our construction workers coming in to help build our units will continue to go through the mandatory 14-day isolation period in the southern hubs, as required by the territory's chief public health officer.

Mr. Speaker, I assure you that the housing corporation will continue to serve Nunavummiut with their essential housing needs this year, as we strive to overcome housing shortages with our partners in the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 853 – 5(2): Condolences to the Family of Luki Sammurtok

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

Mr. Speaker, with today designated as the National Day of Observance for COVID-19 victims, where we are to

remember who we lost and I have some comments on that matter, Mr. Speaker.

I want to commemorate the late Luki Sammurtok. Mr. Speaker, in December of last year, Luki succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic. We still feel the sense of loss amongst the family members to now and it is obvious that Chesterfield Inlet is also observing this day in commemoration.

Now, the difficulties of going through this pandemic is obvious, and when you think of his widow now, Diane Sammurtok, she contributed a lot even though her husband Luki had passed away, and although she was obviously grieving and her heart was also causing her issues, she continued to comply with the measures and publicly asked her fellow residents to faithfully follow these health measures enacted by the chief medical officer.

As well, when the first round of vaccinations was provided, Diane was very busy during this time and she encouraged Arviarmiut and Nunavummiut to get vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to memorialize this person as I recalled and wanted to apologize because she had to go through this personal loss when Luki passed on, and I wanted to remember his family members he left behind.

I don't think we will make any progress if we just talk about the pandemic without resolving our housing crisis that impacts our health, and economic development, as our governments have to implement these improvements.

Mr. Speaker, this is what I am remembering now, albeit only with words at this time. Without tangible improvements, it will not result in any changes, but I really wanted to remember him when this day arrived, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 854 – 5(2):
Medical Assistance in Dying**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about Bill C-7, which is the current federal government's proposed legislation regarding medical assistance in dying.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the territorial Legislative Assembly, I do recognize that we do not have a vote on whether or not this bill will pass into law.

However, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that we have the duty and responsibility as elected members to express our position on an issue that impacts every citizen of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to go on record as noting my appreciation to our territory's Senator, who recently spoke eloquently in the Red Chamber on this bill, and who expressed a number of important concerns regarding its potential impact on our people.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the House of Commons is currently considering a number of amendments to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply committed to the principle of valuing all life and I am profoundly opposed to the idea that people suffering from mental illness should be able to access medical assistance in dying.

I want to take a moment to quote the President of the Canadian Medical Association, who has publicly called for a "... cautious, phased-in approach to broadening access for medical assistance in dying. Such caution is needed to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place and a consistent pan-Canadian framework is established. Certain issues captured in the Senate's amendments, such as broadening criteria to include individuals whose sole underlying condition is mental illness or advance requests from those suffering from neurological conditions are very complex."

Mr. Speaker, we all know that there are high rates of addiction, mental illness and unresolved trauma in our communities.

I am deeply concerned that our federal government is heading on a slippery slope... .

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays?

(interpretation) There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

(interpretation ends) I am deeply concerned that our federal government is heading on a slippery slope to a society where we tell people who suffer from these conditions that the answer is death.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, those suffering mental anguish usually have room to improve, and this is a dangerous slope and deeply concerning because many people who are already depressed are finding openings. They feel that death is the only release from their suffering. This is becoming a very alarming mental health challenge, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Our suicide rate is already far too high, and I firmly reject the idea that people in crisis should be at risk of making a terrible decision that cannot be undone.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, many of our elders are sent out of the territory because we currently lack the means to care for them here in Nunavut.

I am deeply concerned that elders, many of whom are unilingual, may be placed in situations where medical assistance in dying is presented to them as an option.

It's unthinkable, Mr. Speaker. This is not acceptable to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by calling on our government to make its voice clearly heard on this issue, which

is literally one of life and death.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 855 – 5(2):
Recognizing Ayla Kreelak**

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and to the people of Baker Lake. I proudly rise today to recognize another talented artist from Baker Lake.

Ayla Kreelak is a grade 12 student at Jonah Amitnaaq School who has been producing her own comic strips based on her perspective as a young Inuk.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the COVID-19 school lockdown, Ayla would share her comic strips daily for her fellow classmates and teachers to enjoy by posting them in the hallway at school. Ayla's comic strips include Inuit-specific humour inspired by living in a small community as well as her and her friend's inside jokes.

Mr. Speaker, Ayla's comic strip titled "Smidge and Friends" can now be enjoyed by a national audience on the *Nunatsiaq News* website every Saturday. Through her comics, Ayla is giving readers an opportunity to see a glimpse of our realities. Mr. Speaker, I commend *Nunatsiaq News* for contacting Ayla and posting her comics on their website.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing Ayla for her achievements and encourage her to keep up her creative thought. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. It is very heartwarming to hear that and we are proud of her, and others who work hard to succeed. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Member's Statement 856 – 5(2):
Happy Birthday to Brother**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, my colleagues, and those that are watching.

I rise today to wish my very dear older brother, Charlie Ehaloak, happy birthday. He's known in the community as Papa C. He has no children, he has no spouse, he has been single all his life, but he reminds me of my father who was very kind, very gentle, can't say no to anybody, no matter who it is.

For those of you in Cambridge Bay watching, if you see him on the street, please wish him a happy birthday. It would really warm his heart. Happy birthday, Charlie. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Proceeding with the Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I'm apologize. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions
Return to Oral Question 1229 – 5(2):
Medical Travel and COVID-19**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19, you are in our thoughts and hearts.

I was asked a question by the Member for Amittuq when we had a conversation about isolation hubs. His question was with regard to the food served at isolation hubs and whether it was cooked at the hotel. I would like to supplement my response today so that it will be clear.

Mr. Speaker, there are four isolation hubs, and the food is cooked in the hotel kitchens. Three of the isolation hotels don't have kitchen facilities, so the food is cooked outside of the hotel. That is how it is set up. I think his questions concerned the residents at the isolation hub in Ottawa. For that hotel, the food is cooked outside of the hotel because there are no kitchen facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Let us proceed. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 1251 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq
Water Supply**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. My questions today are for

the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, although national media attention is currently being focused on the drinking water crises facing a number of First Nations communities across the country, members of this House are well aware that we also face challenges in Nunavut as well.

As the minister is aware, her department has been working to address Sanikiluaq's situation, and I want to acknowledge the efforts that have been made to ensure that my constituents have access to clean drinking water.

When I last raised this issue in the House, I was informed that the department was working on a plan for a either an alternate water source or a new water treatment plant for the community. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. Community and Government Services has been working with the residents to find solutions on the aesthetics quality of their drinking water. A temporary response provided drinking water to the community by installing 280 in-home reverse osmosis units.

The department has determined that using the current water source for a reverse osmosis treatment plant is the most feasible long-term solution for

drinking water in Sanikiluaq. The planning for a new water treatment plant and associated infrastructure for Sanikiluaq was approved under the planning envelope for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The planning for this project was submitted under the Green Infrastructure Stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Once the planning is complete, an application will be submitted to Infrastructure Canada for design and construction funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the update. Mr. Speaker, the water issue in my community has been going on now for over four years. Can the minister update us today on the timeline for construction and completion of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community Government and Services, government, government...I'm sorry. (interpretation) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The planning phase for this project was completed in May 2019 and a business case will be prepared for the fiscal year 2021-22, and the design and construction of this plan has not been determined to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier the minister stated that some of this funding would come from the “Green Stream” from Canada. I’m wondering if the minister can update us on how much money will be allocated from the “Green Stream” for this project in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don’t have that exact amount, but under the “Green Stream” funding and infrastructure funding, usually the federal government pays 75 percent and the Government of Nunavut pays 25 percent, but I don’t have that exact amount right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1252 – 5(2): Elder Care

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I asked a written question to the former minister on November 5, 2020 and it is No. 81 – 5(2). I have questions regarding the Department of Health’s response.

My first question is regarding this: (interpretation ends) the department’s response to Question 3 is “The Government of Nunavut determined that a facility of 24 beds, in two households of 12 beds, is the minimum size that would be built and operated, in order to be cost effective and to ensure staffing efficiencies and economies of scale.”

Can the minister clarify how the minimum size that has been set, which is 24 beds, how does this decision on minimum size for elders facilities affect the existing facilities, including the Arviat elders’ home, which are less than 24 beds? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. That’s a pretty wide open question in terms of how does it affect that. Mr. Speaker, the Arviat facility was built before the new preferred guidelines were built, so it would not have an adverse effect on the current new guidelines that we are following, Mr. Speaker. We are still maintaining that facility, and the facility is still being used at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My next question is about the response to Question 1(c), which was regarding the role of essential family caregivers. The department’s response, again, it says that “To date, this specific role” of essential family

caregivers “has not been formally established in Nunavut; however, the Department of Health makes every effort to involve families and caregivers where appropriate.”

My next question is: is the Department of Health considering formally establishing the role of essential family caregivers as it applies to elders facilities in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the line of questioning from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, as I had mentioned earlier during this winter session, our department is taking a look at how we are giving elder care across Nunavut and that we will be putting together a study to see how best we could serve Nunavummiut. I think how we serve our Nunavummiut should go beyond elder care facilities and such. Home care and elder care providers are some of the really good tools I think we could have. While we go through that process, I’m sure that issues and topics such as this will be outlined and dealt with through that report. I’m looking forward to having input from my colleagues on that report and sharing it when it’s done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My last question is with regard to the response under Question 5. At the bottom of the page on

Question 5 the response says “Arviat and Iqaluit Elders’ Homes are awaiting renovations from Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC).” I realize that this is something under the housing corporation, but the Department of Health does oversee the operations through a contractor, so I think the question is a fair one to direct to Health.

Mr. Speaker, this situation, waiting for renovations, has been status quo for quite a while; so long, actually, that I was able to look up questions along this line being asked by our current Premier when he was a regular member in terms of when the renovations would happen. To the best of the minister’s knowledge, how long has the Arviat elders facility been waiting for these renovations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking my colleague for pointing out the details in the letter, as I don’t have that letter before me. I really appreciate him quoting them.

Mr. Speaker, too long; I believe it has been far too long. If my memory serves me correct, over 15 years or something like that, maybe sooner, but it has been a while, if memory obviously doesn’t serve me correct, but it has been way too long, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 1253 – 5(2): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Good afternoon, Premier.

During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, a number of resolutions that were recently passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities were tabled in the House. As someone who has previously tabled NAM resolutions, I was pleased to see these latest ones brought to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, one of the resolutions concerns the issue of the application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Nunavut municipalities. As the minister will recall, amendments were passed by the previous Legislative Assembly to bring municipalities under the Act, and his department is responsible for coordinating the government's overall management of the ATIPP function.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities indicated that "little progress" has been made in developing a training curriculum to help municipalities get ready for their new responsibilities. Can the minister indicate what specific actions his department has been taking to address this concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the municipalities, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and the Department of Community and Government Services for when the legislation is being used by the municipalities to make sure that they're trained on it. That has been ongoing, but the Nunavut Association of Municipalities created a draft ATIPP, or Access to Information and Privacy...I forgot what the other "P" is with this acronym. They had draft bylaws, but they have not passed their bylaws yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, we were very clear in the previous Assembly that municipalities will not be subject to the provisions of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until such time as they are ready to take on the responsibilities. Can the minister clarify the government's current timeline for designating municipalities as "public bodies" under these regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member just stated, until the municipalities are ready to comply with the *Access to Information and*

Protection of Privacy Act, it will not be imposed on them and we are working with them to build up their capacity to get to that level. Once they are ready and once the association of municipalities feels that they are all ready, then that's when the commencement date should happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an easy one to answer like that now, Premier.

As the minister will recall, another amendment to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly was to provide for greater disclosure of public sector remuneration in Nunavut. Some jurisdictions in Canada refer to this as a "sunshine list." Can the minister indicate how much progress has been made to date on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was seen like it should be a simple issue where, "Okay, if someone makes over a certain amount, the 'sunshine list' is published with a person's name within it," but it's quite more complex than that.

As a government, we give out allowances. We have the northern allowance. We have the housing

allowance. We have different allowances that we give out and some of the decisions that we have to make are: is it just on their salary? Is it all what they get? Should other subsidies be in there? We're still working on it, Mr. Speaker.

Currently I don't have a timeline of when we would have a sunshine list, but we are working on it, and we are committed to eventually having one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1254 – 5(2): Electronic Money Transfers and Income Assistance

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow people of Amittuq and Nunavut. My question is to the Minister of Family Services. Let me refresh here.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, a concern has been voiced previously, or actually it may not really be an actual concern. How can I say this properly? People with bank accounts sometimes ask for banking information.

(interpretation ends) Let me change into my English. When it comes to these clients who go for income assistance and they're asked about their banks; and nowadays we always do some kind of electronic money transfer between family members. Let's say for instance, a family member is in Sanirajak and the relative is somewhere in Nunavut.

Does Family Services consider that electronic money transfer as an income when they don't have any jobs? Is that also considered income, when they get declined or not approved with their assistance? Is it considered income; yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question on this issue. It's unfortunate, but when it comes to bank statements where clients have any money in the account, that it is in fact noted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That didn't really answer my question. What then are the reasons for being declined after their bank statements are revealed?

Perhaps they receive \$400 in a transfer, how do they rate these? What is the minimum amount, or rather the maximum that they are allowed to receive? Is it \$100, \$200? How are these deposits amounts established, and what is the maximum limit before denying them assistance, if you can elaborate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for your question. (interpretation ends) The Income Assistance Program and benefits, as you know, has been under review. I believe there are still improvements to be had in the sense of reviewing the regulations.

As it stands right now, in the review of the Income Assistance Program, we increased the assistance itself. Obviously included, we recognized that single people had the most minimal benefit of income supports, so we did increase that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister just mentioned, this isn't in the review process right now with this electronic money transfer. This is an issue in my region that there are hardly any government jobs up in my riding and so that's why it has been an issue for these income recipients when they get denied.

As the minister mentioned, can the minister also state to the House that when reviewing this process, will there be any changes to this policy when it comes to these income recipients? How will the policy be changed in terms of the electronic money transfer? Will it be also looked at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For individuals with values of over \$500, it's the threshold of reviewing, but as we continue to look at regulations of our income support, we will certainly, as the staff are watching, make a note of his question and look at that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1255 – 5(2): Limit on Alcohol Purchases

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister is aware, a number of members in this House as well as our mayors have been raising concerns about the harmful impacts of bootlegging and alcohol abuse.

Yesterday I tabled resolutions that have been passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Mr. Speaker, one of these resolutions call upon the government to introduce limits on the quantity of alcohol that can be ordered by residents and shipped to communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are currently very few limits on the amount of alcohol that residents living in unrestricted communities can order at any one time. This makes it all too easy for bootleggers to repeatedly place orders for large volumes of hard liquor

for the sole purpose of resale to vulnerable people.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in June 2020. I would like to ask the minister: what specific actions has this government taken since then to address these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely thank the member for this question. This topic not only comes up in the House or out in the public; it has come up between me and my officials numerous times.

We continue to be, I'm going to say, somewhat limited with our legislation as it currently sits. We have three options within a community of restricted, unrestricted, and prohibited. I do want to bring high attention to the review of the *Liquor Act* itself that is ongoing and we're going to be sending out notices to stakeholders and request feedback. I think this is an excellent example of an issue that we need to get feedback on so that we can target legislative changes in the new *Liquor Act* as it comes into force or as it gets presented in the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for

bringing up the review of the *Liquor Act*, and I do hope that the minister will receive lots of input on that legislation.

Mr. Speaker, days after the Nunavut Association of Municipalities passed this resolution, there was an article published titled “Nunavut Association of Municipalities wants RCMP, GN to crack down on flow of alcohol.”

Mr. Speaker, in the article, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is quoted as saying, “The misuse of alcohol takes a huge toll on...our communities...” It further states that “The territory’s mayors called upon the GN to develop regulations that restrict large quantities of alcohol delivered to communities...”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask again: since June 2020, since NAM passed this resolution, has there been any development on the regulations on the sale of import permits or how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission sells to customers from across Nunavut from warehouses in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a social responsibility committee within the government that discusses things like this and again, this topic has come up. It has been hampered, I’m going to say, on a lot of the face-to-face meetings that normally do occur under this profile, but I think it’s very important to acknowledge that we do work with the RCMP and very

closely to do what we can to combat bootlegging.

When we look at the example the member gave himself of individuals putting in order after order after order of a large quantity of alcohol, it raises flags and we’re going to continue to do our best right now, but I think that at the end of the day we really need to get the public feedback and some examples of how we can put limitations on importing. We run into scenarios where some people legitimately purchase their alcohol for the year through a sealift, so that’s one large bulk order versus people who are making order after order after order and it may equal a similar amount at the end of the year.

There are a lot of complexities to it, but I do acknowledge the member’s line of questioning and I think it’s something that does need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the minister for his response. I’m very glad to hear that the minister and the Government of Nunavut are working with the RCMP to combat bootlegging in the territory. I’m wondering if the minister would be able to provide a little bit more detail and elaborate a bit more on exactly how the collaboration is between the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP. Is there some sort of tracking mechanism in place to identify any unusual activities related to alcohol

sales in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate the question and I'm not intending to be vague. There are ongoing discussions all the time with the RCMP to see what tools are available. To be honest, I don't want to jeopardize some of those practices to be discussing publicly all the measures that we are taking, but I do want to highlight that this is just one avenue that alcohol flows into the territory through the legal means. There are also illegal means, especially in restricted communities or in prohibited communities.

Again, just as recently as a couple of weeks ago, I know the Premier was getting asked questions on Canada Post. Speaking with my other hat, I'm going to mix it a little bit here, Mr. Speaker. We had justice officials sitting down and talking with Canada Post officials as recently as two weeks ago to discuss this exact topic of how we can work with law enforcement and how we can work with Canada Post on restricting access to illicit materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1256 – 5(2): Busing Needs for Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, and during the National Day of Observance for COVID-19, Danny Autut's dear wife, Betty Autut, my thoughts are with you. We love you.

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

Mr. Speaker, the issue of storage for community school buses has been raised by a number of my colleagues. On March 9, 2021 I tabled a letter from the district education authority of Chesterfield Inlet which makes a very seasoned request for a heated garage for the school bus.

Can the minister confirm that he has read this letter and indicate whether he will be responding favourably to the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority for a school bus garage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I did read the letter that the member tabled and I do have a response that I signed-off on, on March 9 that has been provided to the district education authority.

Mr. Speaker, there were a few items that were discussed in the letter. I believe we did respond favourably on two of the three items. In terms of the busing garage, I think that is a capital budget

ask, which at this time we are not considering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now the hamlet garage in Chesterfield Inlet cannot be used. Even the hamlet's heavy equipment is stored outside.

(interpretation ends) As my colleagues have also noted, there are many good reasons for having storage facilities for school buses. During the extreme cold season, storing the bus inside reduces the risk of mechanical failures and allows for better ongoing maintenance.

Keeping the bus protected reduces the risk of vandalism and by ensuring regular busing services, we improve school attendance and provide better protection for our students. In Chesterfield Inlet, there is actually a polar bear walk. Polar bears go into the community.

We actually need action. I have read that letter, but Chesterfield Inlet needs action. Can the minister clearly explain what additional rational or information his department needs in order provide or consider a heated garage for school buses across Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our current capital plans focus on building schools and it does not include bus storage capacity. In our

capital plans, or rather, when a community or school is district education authority is looking at bus storage, I just looked at our list and currently we have eight buses that are stored outside of the facility, but we do try to see what is available within the community. Whether it is a municipal garage or if there is a private entity in the community, we will look at those as options.

However, if there are no options, unfortunately that is the reality that we face in that Education's capital budget does not include bus storage at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clear response. However, this fall we are going to be having a final look at the capital requests of the House. (interpretation ends) I believe it would be a good step if the Department of Education included funding for school bus garages in its capital plan.

As you are aware, smaller communities have no options. Will the minister commit to considering the request from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority and include a project for a Chesterfield Inlet school bus garage in his department's upcoming capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the capital plans are focused on building schools. Again, when we have bus servicing contracts with different parties, whether it's hamlets or the private sector, that's something we consider. If a private entity can provide bus-storage capacity, then that's an option that we will be looking at to see as a solution then. Again, Mr. Speaker, I think this is something that going forward, I'm not sure whether or not the capital planning of our department would look at garage facility in terms of space.

Looking at over 40 schools at this time, and the ongoing lifecycle of those schools is also an immediate need. So those are something that we have to prioritize at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1257 – 5(2): Mining Sector

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A big “hello” to my *panik* and her family. I understand the two little ones are patiently waiting in front of the TV for me to show up. Miss you, my sunshine and handsome.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines.

During last Wednesday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister made

a statement concerning the acquisition of the Hope Bay property by Agnico Eagle Mines. TMAC Resources has now been acquired by Agnico Eagle.

As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut signed a formal memorandum of understanding with Agnico Eagle Mines in September of 2017. The minister tabled a copy of the memorandum of understanding in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of June 4, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding covers a number of areas of co-operation, including training and economic development.

Can the minister clarify if the memorandum of understanding will be updated to reflect Agnico Eagle's acquisition of TMAC Resources and the Hope Bay property and, if so, will he commit to tabling the new MOU in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that we will need a memorandum of understanding with that property, and once it's done, I will gladly table it in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his statement last week, the minister indicated that Agnico Eagle has “...demonstrated a steadfast

commitment to the training supports required to enable even more Inuit to benefit from employment in the territory's natural resource sector.”

Can the minister indicate how his department monitors the company's implementation of its commitments under the existing memorandum of understanding that it has with the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we do have these memorandums of understanding, this allows us to have a two-way discussion with the company, and through that we continue to monitor what's been agreed upon under the memorandum of understanding.

Inuit employment and training are under there. It allows for some stats. to be provided by the company, and I'm looking forward to working closely with them on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, an Inuit impact and benefit agreement between TMAC Resources and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association was previously in place.

Can the minister describe the extent to which his department works with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association on issues of mutual concern regarding the mining

sector in the region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very comfortable working with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association president, and our staff continually engages with the Inuit associations. I encourage every one of them to continue doing that, and this is a very good relationship that we have right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1258 – 5(2): Condition of Public Housing Units

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Netsilik and Taloyoak. I am very pleased that it seems that you will be getting the equipment that you require.

I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is very much aware, one of the many problems that our communities face is that of aging or damaged housing stock. In some cases, public housing units are no longer fit for human habitation or have been damaged to the point where they need to be condemned.

Information contained in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business

plan indicates that the most recent Nunavut-wide housing need survey determine that “63% of Public Housing units were found to be below housing standards... meaning they were either crowded or in need of major repair or a combination of both.”

Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on what work the Nunavut Housing Corporation has undertaken recently to complete an updated inventory of public housing unit condition rating assessments across the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising this question, and for asking about whether we should lower the rent of the older or damaged units. I don't have the numbers that he is requesting at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand the minister's response and I will rephrase my question. (interpretation ends) I am aware of at least two units in the community of Taloyoak that have been condemned. Can the minister update me on what plans the Nunavut Housing Corporation has to dispose of these condemned units and replace them? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. The local housing authorities usually make a report to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to have housing condemned, and once the units are condemned the Nunavut Housing Corporation works with the Department of Finance and has those units written-off. Once they are written-off, we go through the FMB process because they have to be approved through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding. In your comments you indicate that in 2021-22, Taloyoak and Kugaaruk are slated to have units built, which I'm very glad to hear. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report indicates that "...it is responsible for 5,668 units in the public housing portfolio. The Modernization and Improvement Program ensures the health, safety and suitability of these units. In 2019-2020, \$13.5 million (2018-19 – \$17.1 million) was spent on modernization and improvements.”

Mr. Speaker, this is an average \$2,281 per unit. Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determines the annual modernization and improvements budget allocations for

each community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. The local housing authorities create and provide reports on which of the units are in need of modernization and improvements on a priority basis, and then they are budgeted for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1259 – 5(2): Consumer Protection

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of consumer protection.

I would like to begin by paying tribute to my constituents who work at the department's offices in Baker Lake. They do a fine job. One of them is Leah Aupaluktuq. She has been there since the beginning when the office was built, moved to Baker Lake, and that has been 20 years now, so I commend her for that. Long-term... .

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Long-term employees are very beneficial for us. Mr. Speaker, the issue of payday loans is an ongoing

concern. All too often, payday lenders act in a predatory way as they target our most vulnerable people with outrageously high interest rates and fees.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's department recently issued a public service announcement concerning the subject of payday loans.

For the record, can the minister confirm what advice her department has for Nunavummiut on the issue of payday loans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question and congratulations to your constituent for being a long-term employee of the department.

Payday loans, there is no legislation in Nunavut. It's not included in the *Nunavut Consumer Protection Act*. The member is correct; we do advise Nunavummiut about payday loans and the risks involved in payday loans, and we inform Nunavummiut that when they do go through payday loans, to be aware of precautions for cases of which... . They might go through a fraud process, but we do inform the members that when they do go to payday loans, to let them know that within the payday loans that they're getting from individuals from southern Canada, those payday loans have to follow the legislation of their jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response and I'm glad she mentioned the bit about legislation.

It is my understanding that a number of Canadian jurisdictions do have legislation in place to regulate payday lenders and to cap the interest rates and fees that they can legally charge. The idea of introducing similar legislation for Nunavut has been raised in this House on a number of occasions and I want to pay tribute to my colleague from Hudson Bay for having pushed this issue.

Can the minister confirm how much progress she has made in developing legislation to protect Nunavummiut from the predatory practices of payday lenders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. Because there are no statistics in Nunavut as to how many people receive payday loans from southern jurisdictions, the Nunavut government is not working on any piece of legislation regarding payday loans, but we do work with individuals if they feel that they are going through a fraud process or having difficulty with a payday loan lender. They can call our Consumer Affairs section within Community and Government Services and we can assist them that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons why Nunavummiut sometimes turn to payday lenders is lack of access in our smaller communities to banking and other financial services. Can the minister update the House on what progress has been made in expanding access to these essential services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When it comes to banking services in the communities, it all depends on the banks themselves. I mean, the Government of Nunavut does not indicate or approach any banking services to ask them, "Will you open a banking facility in a certain community?" I think that if a community felt that they had enough people or they want banking services in their community, through the municipality or through the community itself, I think that if they wrote directly to the banking services themselves and worked with the banking services, I think that would be the best solution, but Community and Government Services has not approached any banks to try to open banking services in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1260 – 5(2): Northern Life Skills Programs for Youth

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. I realize this question may have been asked in the Assembly sometime in the past, but I'm hoping that if I ask it today, I'll get a yes, yes, and yes.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Agreed.

Mr. Pedersen: Mr. Speaker, in many jurisdictions across Canada, courses like driver's education and basic first aid are offered to high school students as a matter of course. These are important life skills that they can continue using long after they finish school.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of life skills courses are offered across Nunavut's high schools and clarify how many schools deliver these kinds of programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, yes, and yes.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, schools provide all kinds of life skills and the member is right; there are opportunities... I mean, I'll just use an example. Sometimes our teachers do such a tremendous job over and above their day-to-day work. For example, in Resolute Bay I know of a particular

teacher that helps students in the high school to obtain their driver's licence. It's a very successful program and they do it on top the job, so this is something that we try to provide as much opportunities for our students to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of other specific courses that are available, there's a whole slew. I can't name all of them, but cooking skills, sewing skills, these are things that our students can use throughout their lifetime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. We need more teachers like the one he mentioned earlier.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the north and guns are a common feature in our daily lives. Firearm safety awareness is possibly more critical for northerners than learning how to drive a car. Knowing how to use and store firearms safely saves lives.

Would the minister consider offering firearm safety courses in all of Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe this can be provided as an option if a district education authority, along with the school, does their due diligence on

getting all the proper safety precautions in order. I believe this can be done as a local program and, perhaps, we will look at a proposal if any of the communities or schools would like to see this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response as well. That's very good to hear.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we should take every opportunity to provide our youth with knowledge that directly applies to their lives in the north. In addition to firearm safety, survival skills, such as Wilderness First Aid, GPS training, and an introduction to signalling and communications, could be critical if they ever end up stuck on the land, hundreds of miles or hours away from help. There are plenty of qualified trainers all across Nunavut who could deliver these courses.

Will the minister commit to establishing a program to encourage schools to deliver such courses as firearm safety, Wilderness First Aid, and other skills that are directly relevant to life in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Again, I think those types of courses can be looked at in terms of when there is land-based programming

that the district education authorities have depending on different seasons, but those safety aspects in how to ensure your navigational tools are in line and in check and making sure you have all the preparations in order to have a safe and successful outing. Those are something that the schools always look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I believe the member had gotten his wish.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed to Item 7. (interpretation ends) 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. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:07 and Committee resumed at 15:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. Colleagues, welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2021-22 Main Estimates for the Department of Human Resources, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage, Environment, and if time allows, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 59?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 –
Human Resources – Consideration
in Committee**

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeeagok, please introduce your officials. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is

Sheila Kolola, Deputy Minister, to my far right is Gloria Uluqsi, Assistant Deputy Minister, and right beside her to my right is Grant McMichael, Assistant Deputy Minister, and to my far left is Regilee Adla, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Welcome to your officials. Yesterday we did our opening comments on both sides. Are there any general comments? Seeing none, go page by page. Page D-4. Human Resource Operations. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions. In September 2019 the Government of Nunavut had issued a news release which announced that the cabinet had issued a direction, “Foster Inuit employment across the public service by substantially increasing the number of direct appointments of long-term casuals.” How does the government currently define what is a long-term casual employee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) One year or more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: As of today, approximately how many long-term casual employees are employed by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. In this current year, 2019-2020, there are 200 casual employees. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: My final question, Mr. Chairman: how many of the direct appointments approved by cabinet during the 2019-2020 fiscal year were for executive and senior management positions? My final question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were three direct appointments to senior positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

(interpretation ends) My first question is about the Inuit Employment Plan for the department. What has contributed to the department having difficulty filling its own positions? There are still a significant amount of vacancies within the department. So what specific factors are contributing to that? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I would like my deputy minister, Sheila, to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for the question. Ever since we started as a department on April 1, 2019, we looked at all vacancies and tried to start advertising them, and it was classified as a general position, and there were also some positions set specifically for Inuit workers.

Though it didn't seem to be too many, since the end of January the Department of HR has had 71 positions with Inuit holding 40 positions. The biggest obstacle we have run into from time to time is training Inuit to become senior managers as some Inuit had never held management positions during their employment.

For this reason, or alternatively, the low levels of education was the biggest barrier because some Inuit did not have the education level necessary to be placed in the position. For the positions we advertised, they were open to the general public for whoever wanted to apply and if there was no one hired, we would brainstorm and deliberate on our options both within the government, and our HR department. We wanted to develop some training initiatives, or even place a person in the program if they wanted to work while undergoing training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kolola. (interpretation ends) When I look at the Inuit employment plan for the department, it's very short. In fact, I think it's the shortest Inuit employment

plan for any department that I've seen, and there's only one priority listed for the upcoming fiscal year.

I guess the question is: why does the Inuit employment plan for this department... is it different because you are the Department of Human Resources? Why is it that you only have one priority under your Inuit employment plan, under your Inuit employment plan, as presented on page 56 of the business plan? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask Ms. Kolola to respond? Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I do realize the Inuit employment plan for the Department of HR may have looked very short.

This was a period of time when the business plans were brought forward as a new department, and there were a lot of vacancies in the department. The approach I usually have in putting any building capacity or Inuit employment in my department is to have my senior managers involved, and asking them how they're going to be filling their positions with Inuit.

At that time, when the regional business plans were being put forward, this is what we had put in as our priorities, not to say that we haven't had other priorities. For this past year, 2020-21, the Department of HR has supported

eight HR employee to participate in the Sivuliqtiksanut leadership program, the policy program and career broadening.

Seven out of eight of them were Inuit employees; two of them we lost to another department when they applied competitively because of the program that we supported them in.

We also just recently got approval to hire a manager of finance and administration intern through the Sivuliqtiksat Program, like every other has to apply for. In addition to our own department, because we oversee the Inuit employment plans or support departments with implementing their Inuit employment plans, we also have the responsibility of overseeing GN-wide delivery of current and new programs.

For 2021-22 in our business plans, we have committed to developing an Inuit executive development program, which would be accredited to have a graduate diploma in leadership. We also want to introduce to Nunavut a chartered professional HR designation so that our staff at HR and other departments can also get professional designation that's recognized across Canada.

A couple of others that I would like to mention are a new program in masters towards project management and an extension of our policy development program, building capacity, which would be a combination of our policy and the career broadening to make it an on-the-job experience. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the response. Before I move on, just an observation based on the latest statistics available, your Inuit employment for your Iqaluit-based positions is averaging 50 percent and then in all the other communities you're hitting roughly 87 percent. Just as a comment similar to what I said to Finance yesterday, I would be very supportive and appreciative if the department would consider relocating positions or allocating positions to communities that have a greater Inuit workforce in order to increase your own Inuit workforce within the department.

I just want to ask about one more topic, Mr. Chairman, and that is the Staff Housing Policy. It's mentioned on page 22 of the most recent annual report. This is a relatively new arrangement where Human Resources is chairing the Staff Housing Allocation Committee. I know this is different than the old arrangement, which was chaired by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. How is the new arrangement working? That's my question. What specific challenges is the department having with this Staff Housing Policy? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The chair of the housing allocation committee is currently sitting with me and providing advice in terms of for this budget. Through this, the change had been that it got elevated up to the ADM level in terms of having the allocation committee and going through each of the priorities and that seems to be working.

One of the biggest challenges that we currently have and something that my deputy and my assistant deputy ministers have been challenging is looking at the stocks that are available in every community, not just in certain places; in every community and it's a huge challenge for trying to allocate staff housing to positions. That's probably the biggest challenge that we're facing right now is the stock in terms of which positions do we put out for competition and each community, the calculations are done differently in terms of what's available.

There are a number of factors, but I applaud and I thank Grant for leading this charge in terms of getting the Staff Housing Policy operational. I'll leave it at that right now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) You say the stock of staff housing is one of the biggest challenges. That sounds like there have to be some tough decisions. You only have so many houses for so many jobs, right? I'm starting to lose track of how many departments or different agencies are signalling that they are having issues with their own staffing due to staff housing issues. How many competitions right now are being held up by staff housing issues, specifically the access to sufficient stock or number of units? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 389 positions are currently on the queue asking for GN staff housing

and that's the number we're facing.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) What is the mechanism? The housing corporation manages the leases and they own the staff housing units in some cases. I'll use Arviat for example. Through your Staff Housing Allocation Committee, you realize you don't have enough units in Arviat. What is the mechanism to instruct the housing corporation or request the housing corporation to build more units in that community or lease more units? What is the mechanism that's used there? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank this House for reviewing and approving the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budgets. It contains an allowance for funding to help either pay leases or to build staff housing. That's something that I applaud the work that has been taken place by this government. My deputy minister and the president of the housing corporation, along with finance and all the other deputies, are trying to find ways of doing this and there are a number of reviews that are taking place in terms of trying to figure out how to get this approved. I just want to thank this House in approving our appropriations in order to ensure that we continue to operate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main. (interpretation) You're done? (interpretation ends) Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a couple of questions. How many of the direct appointments approved by cabinet during the 2020-21 fiscal year have been for executive and senior management positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We currently are in the 2020-21 fiscal year. I don't have that specific answer and I provided the member with the [2019-2020] and I would commit to providing that same information when 2020-21 has expired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for clarifying. Your department's draft 2021-24 business plan indicates on page 49 that it plans to "Review and revise the Direct Appointment guidelines." During the 2023-24 fiscal year, what specific changes are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, through you, could I ask Ms. Kolola to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your

question. These vacant positions are the ones we try to put out for competition generally, and anyone who wishes to apply can put their names forward, however, direct appointments have been used previously, and people who have been on casual hire for many years were the priority of this current government.

Every year there are some people (interpretation ends) direct appointed (interpretation) and the list includes approximately 60 Inuit out of 61 direct appointments. If we are tasked to undertake this further, or alternatively, we will bring these positions forward when people will be trained to fill the positions, or people who are ready to take on the role, and how the government wants to develop a career path for them is what we can consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I want to ask this question related to the departmental business plans where direct appointments are made for either women or men. (interpretation ends) During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 23, 2018, the Premier announced that the government's current harassment policy would be reviewed by a working group involving female deputy ministers, human resource experts, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to know how many Inuit staff work

in their department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would prefer a bit more clarification from the member, as during that previous review we did not know how many Inuit we had, so is that the question, or is he talking about the current situation and how many female Inuit work here? I am talking about deputy ministers placements, so I would like to find out what is question pertains to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq, please clarify your question. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry for calling you the Speaker first of all. I apologize.

I was talking about (interpretation ends) human resources experts (interpretation) and the experts on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* coordinators? How many Inuit work in this sector? Hopefully that is clear now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. I don't see any need to apologize for a simple error, as we want to speak clearly about these positions, plus we want to have complete transparency in our answers when responding to your questions.

I wanted to understand so I could provide a clear response, and this is why I asked for clarification. There are five,

actually there are seven employees in those roles, and five of them are Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to add to that query. (interpretation ends) "...to ensure it adequately addresses and meets the needs of women who have experienced inappropriate behaviour or sexual harassment in the workplace." (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this wording is what I want to understand clearly, as it has been many years for some employees.

How long are they required to be in that position before they can complaints, or if there is a generic prohibition of having all of them submit complaints, then I wanted to clearly understand how many women have submitted these kinds of complaints? I would like to clearly understand that, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the specifics in terms of the breakdowns of whether it is a sexual harassment or harassment. What we do keep tally of is when a 1010 Directive gets applied, which is harassment. I have to restate; our government has zero tolerance on any harassment, whether it be sexual or otherwise.

I am very pleased that we do have very good safeguards and allow for people to launch their complaints. Specifically through the 1010 Directive, as of April 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021, 42 have

launched a complaint. We have received 42 complaints to date, and 28 did not require investigation, which lead to 14 to proceed to investigation and currently we have not found harassment, and there was one deemed "unfounded." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me add I here. (interpretation ends) The government's current Harassment Free Workplace Policy was last updated on January 7, 2016. What is the timeline for finalizing and tabling the government's new harassment free workplace policy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials; Ms. Kolola, Mr. McMichael, and Gloria. Thank you.

I just have a few items that I had questions on. First I'll start off with focusing on the positive. After reviewing your Public Service annual report, it was very interesting to see the change in the retention rate and the drastic reduction in the number of employees that left the public service for that year. That is really excellent news.

Ms. Kolola also mentioned an initiative to create a program human resource specialists to achieve their CHRP designation; Canadian Human Resource Practitioner's designation. I think that is really a great initiative as well and I think will have benefits that will benefit every department as they all have their own HR sections.

Lastly, the education leave, which in your report has indicated that as of 2020, 64 percent of the employees on education leave were Inuit employees. That is a drastic increase from the 16 percent figure that had previously been identified back in 2018. That is excellent work on behalf of the department and all of the departments as well.

One item that I did notice was a reduction in the total amount of household allowance that is being paid out to Government of Nunavut employees, which means there are less homeowners and less employees renting from the private market. I hope that there will be an initiative coming soon to try and reverse that.

That is my first question. I noticed that the rate of household allowance paid out to GN employees has reduced, and I was wondering if the Department of Human Resources has identified that will be addressing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the positive comments that he started with as his preamble.

It is very rewarding watching our staff do a very difficult job, in terms of trying

to attract and keep as many of our employees as possible.

On his question, yes, we are taking and looking at the initiative and trying to figure out how to improve that. I believe we are working with a number of our agencies and departments on this, and it is something that I will be happy to report on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The next topic that I wanted to bring up in the annual report was; the Summer Student Equity Program. Again, I think this is a very important program. It provides a unique opportunity for youth to gain experience, including myself in my more youthful days.

>>*Laughter*

I just have a few recommendations, and these are issues that I have been raising with regard to the Summer Student Program on several different occasions over the last few years.

The first recommendation is to begin the process much earlier. I said this last year and the year before, the need to roll out the program in December; to allow the departments time to fill out the paperwork and then begin the interview process for students in reading week and March break, and ensure that students are going to be hired the moment that they finish the semester or more likely step off of the plane from completing their semesters abroad. Because a week, a day, or any delay in starting their summer employment will have a significant impact on the amount of

income they are able to save up throughout the summer.

Another recommendation I have been making over the years is to increase the budget for the summer student program. I believe it has remained stagnant at just shy of \$985,000 since its inception, meanwhile, the number of summer students participating has steadily been increasing over the years.

Another recommendation that I have been making is the need to collaborate with other departments and create information sharing agreements with the Department of Education's K-12, FANS program and Arctic College, to ensure all of those students have all of the information they need, and that you can easily pass along the information to those students.

The last recommendation for the summer student program is to expand it year-round. Our high school students have very limited employment opportunities in our communities and most often they are left working at Northern and Co-op, and they can be very dangerous places for young people to work. I have heard stories of young employees there having to deal with very difficult situations with difficult people.

Anyway, I think expanding this year-round to allow employment opportunities for youth, high school students, especially, would give them an opportunity to gain experience before they make significant life decisions, such as what to do after they graduate from high school.

I have been repeating these recommendations several times over the

years, and I just wanted to put it out there again. I would like to ask the minister if those could be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good recommendations, and I applaud the member for repeating this on an annual basis. It is something that as a part of our asks, is our program, all these, we take those into consideration. I think March 2020 we amended the...that was a significant step and I applaud our government for doing this. As time progressed, and those are very good recommendations, I'm sure that we will take those into consideration.

I think any student that can take any position is a great step forward to getting into the workforce. I think being a cashier in Co-op or Northern is a very beneficial one. In fact, one in this table, there is someone who started her career in that as a student, and my daughter is in that very same workplace. I applaud the employers for taking on students. Over the years as our government matures, I'm sure that we can start getting these programs.

Right now we're trying to staff up in terms of within our expertise. Those recommendations I know will evolve over time. I applaud the member for continuing to make these recommendations, because those are very sound recommendations and something that we should strive forward. I want to emphasize, applaud this House for making strong recommendations that move us forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that response. I will move onto my next topic. It's the staff housing policy, in which the Department of Human Resources has since taken the lead.

I'm curious, since the department has taken the lead on that initiative, has the department looked into the average length of time that employees remain in staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this point. The department got this, and the bulk of it was to get this up and running as soon as possible, along with looking at the stock that's been at that level right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to recommend that the minister consider reviewing the length of time that employees remain in staff housing. I think that is a crucial matter that needs to be addressed. I'm aware that the Nunavut Housing Corporation steadily increases their staff housing portfolio every year, and I think that is a band-aid solution. I think it is a short-term solution to meeting our needs.

Given our reduction in rates of homeownership across the territory, I think the staff housing program has a role to play in that. Once employees get in staff housing, they won't get out unless they leave the territory or on a

small occasion maybe buy a house, maybe buy a condo, but very limited as numbers of homeownership has indicated. I think the solution is not buying more staff housing, but finding out ways to encourage or persuade employees to get out of staff housing through homeownership programs. I just want to point that out and just ask the minister if he would commit to consider looking into staff housing, the average length of time employees stay in staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the whole housing concept, I think there are a number of initiatives that are being taken place, to try and see how we can do this in terms of who gets what and that, and what we can make available and what we can afford. I think through that I think there's going to ways of attracting more people that are on staff housing into their homeownership. I think that's an ideal way, because, like the member mentioned, if you're in staff housing and you retire, then you have no place to go and that has taken place in our government and that's a real thing.

Our staff and our government have been challenged to look at how we can best figure out how to improve our housing situation in Nunavut. Staff housing is one, as the member mentioned, a temporary unit because it is tied to the employment. If you lose your job, you lose your house and that's a very scary thing, but there are options that we definitely can work towards.

To be specific towards on how to look at the length of time a person spends in

staff housing, that's not necessarily within our current review, but that's always at our forefront in terms of when we're looking at these different housing options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the department and the minister.

I don't have a lot of questions, but I do want to talk a little bit or ask in the area of this wellness office. This office has always been very important to me that it gets implemented. I see on page 52 the status that you say about the wellness office is that "The Employee Wellness Strategy is anticipated to be completed..." I'm wondering: are we going to see a copy of that strategy in the House anytime soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Yes, I guess you would anticipate I would ask my next question was to give me a time frame of when we can expect to see the strategy tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. I'll give my officials here some more work to do. I expect to table

it in the House in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. On page 53 of the business plan it also talks about "Two positions were filled within the division with three more anticipated..." What does that mean with the two in place now? Is the wellness office actually being used and is it in place that it's taking the complaints or dealing with staffing concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get a better idea of how this office is working? If I were somebody coming to the wellness office, what's the process? What needs to happen? What are the steps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Chairman, could I ask our Assistant Deputy Minister McMichael to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. McMichael.

Mr. McMichael: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The office is up and running, so we have several things that are in

place already. We're already conducting monthly wellness meetings with certain departments who experience challenges within the workplace, so we're trying to be proactive and getting on the front foot in terms of issues within the workplace.

We have also conducted some best practice reviews. I have a team that goes out and goes to various departments and we look at policies and procedures and how they're actually implemented in departments to make sure that we're putting a positive workplace in place.

We have also been doing workplace restoration. When we get engaged from client departments, if they have issues in the workplace, we can send someone that would work with the leadership team and the employees to put restoration in place.

We also have a return-to-work office. It used to fall under Employee Relations and we pulled it out of there and put it into Wellness. The reason for that is we don't want to mix the two together in terms of one is very different than the other, so we want to have a positive experience for return to work.

And then everyone is familiar with our Employee and Family Assistance Program. That was in place before, but we have put enhancements within that program to better align with the needs of our territory.

We have been trying to put all those things in place. We have also consulted with Culture and Heritage about how we move forward with the strategy and making sure it's aligned, so we have already engaged Culture and Heritage as well. We were delayed slightly in terms

of we wanted to go out and do focus groups, but with COVID, it has caused an impact for us. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much for your response. It's very informative. I'm really happy to hear that things are on the way now. It's something that has been near and dear to me for many of years as an MLA. I'm really happy to hear that this office is actually in place, that somebody can go to it.

My next question in regard to the office is: is this something that's automatic? If I'm a staff and I have an issue with maybe my supervisor, we're not getting along and things are just going from bad to worse, who first initiates that move that the wellness office is the one that you have to go to, or does it have to go through a lot of other things first before it gets to the wellness office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each department has their human resource division or staff. That's the first place that our staff typically go. When it needs to be elevated, it comes to the Department of Human Resources, and this is the wonderful part of having our alignment in terms of our two major programs. It allows for both assistant deputy ministers to discuss and figure out which way it should go. Would it be best dealt with through Employee Relations or with Wellness? That's through this and that's given a great initiative to be able to work very closely with those that are in need of help. (interpretation) I think I'll stop there,

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I guess I could say that as an MLA, I have been approached many times by staff because it is a hard place to really be as MLA because you don't see the other side; you're only being presented with one side. It's unfortunate that some people get to the point where they feel that the MLA is the person to go to because they have problems with their supervisor or the DM or ADM. I'm a little concerned that it has to go through that process.

If I was a staff and I'm having a problem with my deputy minister, I don't want to go through my deputy minister. I don't want to go through that because I would feel a little bit threatened. I would want to be able to have the opportunity and the chances that "You know what? I'm going to go to the wellness office because I feel that my needs are going to be better suited there and I don't feel threatened, I don't feel like my job is going to be threatened, I don't feel like I'm going to get retaliation," perhaps. I am a little concerned that there's a process that you have to go through your supervisor.

Looking at the model that the Yukon had that I really liked was that they had a table there that had different representatives. They have the Inuit representative. They have the DM representative. They have the union representative. People collectively looked at what was going on with the problem between the staff and the employer, and it just seemed to be a lot

less threatening and it seemed to be much more transparent.

I'm wondering if there's any thought going into this, like how a staff might feel having to go through the DM or ADM first before they could get to the wellness office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a reminder that we have translators that need to keep up. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to promote our wellness program as much as possible. This is one that I think, if we can get through this budget, it will allow in having staff to promote this and get it implemented. Human Resources is a central agency and its ability to go into the department and, let's say, if there is anything toxic in terms of the workplace or in terms of the staff, that's giving them the ability and the assurance to staff that feel that they have no place to go.

What we do encourage is that they work with their human resource person within the department and through that, I believe I mentioned it in this House is that there are at least four or five different ways that an employee can go and ask if there are any concerns with them, especially if they are concerned about their deputy minister. There is an avenue where staff can go to Human Resources or go and it will be assigned to get it investigated. There are four ways and there are outside, including our ethics officer, so there are different avenues that our staff can do either to complain or to seek help in terms of how

to resolve if there's any toxic workplace in any of our departments.

I hope that we get the budgets approved today. As been briefed by my staff, it's a wonderful opportunity to allow and insert a central agency that has a very positive attitude, bringing forward and talking at staff level to the senior management and look at everything that's there and once they come up with it, they're able to go and go through and have discussions with all staff and say, "Here are the steps that will be good if you want it in these places."

Anybody who is concerned, I would really like them to go through these processes. As the member mentioned, it often goes to the MLA and it should not necessarily go through the MLA. We care so much about our constituents that we get brought into these operational [issues] and I encourage, if any of you are approached, we do have disclosure forms for our staff, those that are concerned, have them sign and talk to me because I will not talk about staff unless they have consent that they want me or my deputy or my staff to talk about them because the privacy is paramount too. If you do have staff that are coming, I encourage you to talk to me. my door is always open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Let me give you an example, maybe, to see where this would fall. If somebody, let's say, worked for the government for a while and perhaps, for whatever reason, they couldn't work for a while and they had to go on leave, but their leave ran out and this person then had to go on leave

without pay, but couldn't go back to work for quite some months, and the housing came into jeopardy because that person couldn't pay for their housing rental anymore because they couldn't return to work, and then they're working with somebody to try to figure out a way of getting that person back to work, but in the meantime they're being threatened to be kicked out of their house, where would that person go to? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very hypothetical question that I don't want to put hypothetical answers in this House. If something similar like that is actually happening and the staff are approaching you, get them to fill that disclosure and have a discussion with me on it. There are avenues and I know that some of them are on long-term disability. There are different varieties that each of our staff are experiencing.

As I stated earlier, being in staff housing is a scary thing. If you lose your employment, then you lose your house and that's not the ideal situation, but it's one that does come from time to time. If there are those situations, please, as colleagues, let's go and have a discussion one on one. I don't want to discuss any specific HR [matter] within this House and I don't want to get into hypothetical answers in this House too also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Well, unfortunately sometimes we have to do it that way to try to get some ideas of

what the department is going to do about certain things.

Of course we have consent. Anybody who comes to talk to us, that's a given, we need those forms to be signed, otherwise we can't do our job either, but let's not pretend that everything is rosy because there are real issues, real issues, and I have been dealing with a lot of these issues. I know firsthand, talking with people one on one, of what's going on and I tell you, sometimes I wonder why the government can be so hard-headed and not feeling and just pushing policies or these are the rules without really looking at what that person is going through. I think that's why I gave you a hypothetical example because the government has staff and either it's their fault or it's not their fault, but they're going through some real tough times.

I feel at times, not all the time because sometimes I feel that the staff really made their own bed, but there are real times when the government really could have done more to help somebody, and I find that a lot of times when staff are going through a real difficulty health-wise and they can't come back to work, I think there are a lot of problems there with many about coming back to work and how they're treated and the length of time it takes to tell somebody what's going to happen to me. They're saying, "What's going to happen to me now?"

These are the kinds of issues that I do want to bring back to your attention because they are real, they really are, and as MLAs, we are often the last resort. It's hard for us too as MLAs because we can only see one side of it; we don't always see the other side. That's all I want to say. (interpretation)

It's just a comment. (interpretation ends)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, do you want to... ?

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. I thank the member for expressing this and it is true; it is not all rosy. We are dealing with human beings. There are 5,000 employees within our territory and not every one of them are exactly the same. The workplaces at times are very toxic. It's sad, as central agencies, where we have to step in sometimes and try to help with our very good public service that is around us.

I know we have policies and that, but it's an evolving one and having understanding of what's going through every of the employees, I think the assistant deputy minister will explain very well on this evolution of our Wellness Division is that the return-to-work place was at Employee Relations, where it deals with more confrontational than what are we going to do is more, "Okay, here are the policies, here are the rules, and you shall follow them," versus "Okay, you're out of a job. You're in staff housing. What are we going to do?"

That's the beauty of this Wellness Division that is taking place and it allows for our government to look at and try to address these...some of them are systemic. I agree it is not rosy, but it's one that I think through our wonderful staff that is around us, it is making a difference and I applaud our public service for being there for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I've just got one question, I think, as part of position development and staffing. I agree with Mr. Lightstone that I wish there could be more done with summer students, high school students, and whatnot and I have noticed the last few years that a lot of high school students, especially in grades 11 and 12, especially grade 12, some of them have one period a day in class.

I'm wondering if the department has looked at mentoring some of these students that want to get into civil servant positions or creating a position of some sort so that they can help prepare them for going away for schooling or courses they want to take, especially if it's a course that would lead them to a government type position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not formalized, but it is a practice that has been taking place and as more and more of our public service capacities get reached, they continue to look for staff and when there are staff, our policies and procedures also accommodate for flexible hours or if they can't be full time, then we have relief work or what we call true casual work where it allows for, for example, if any of the student did only have one class and they're able to work with our workforce, wonderful. Having been a summer student wanting to work for this government is a very rewarding thing and we would like to get it right at that level. I encourage any student that is in

that situation where it does have free time to try, go to our government offices and ask if there are any government positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, you have one question?

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you for recognizing me again, Mr. Chairman. My question to the minister is, yesterday I really heard that you only have 5,000 jobs and you need 10,000 jobs. My question to you as the minister: how about private businesses? Would your department be able to give private businesses some dollars to train the students? Let's say they are in an apprenticeship program and need their journeyman seal or they're coming straight out of grade 12. Would a private business be able to get a conditional grant or a grant of some kind? My final question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague for family services is very eager to sit in here and discuss that. Her department does those wonderful things and she is very eager to be sitting in this chair and promoting that. It is worthwhile. With our department, we're focused in terms of our government human resource, but there is another department, so I defer that to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Human Resource Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,560,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page D-5. Strategic Human Resource Management. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I apologize if I slow down or speed up. It's not me; it's the Internet, and you guys are doing the same thing from where I sit. (interpretation) I apologize for that.

(interpretation ends) I wanted to ask about the Down-payment Savings Matching Program, which is mentioned on page 41 of the business plan. When is the department planning to make a decision on whether they will introduce the Down-payment Savings Matching Program? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. Through you, sir, could I ask Ms. Kolola to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That particular program, the policy development or program development is led by our partners at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and then the Department of Finance and HR have a role in reviewing it and implementing it because it would be one that would be set up for employees who are interested in participating. The development of it, the first draft has already been done and from what I'm told, it would be one that can be finalized this spring. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Kolola. When is the earliest date that we could see this new program rolled out? Are we talking within this fiscal year upcoming or would it have to wait longer than that? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would wait until what has been produced in the spring in order to determine the timelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I can't wait to hear for something new on this homeownership front. We have been talking about this issue for years and right now, as Mr. Lightstone mentioned, if you're in a staff housing unit, a government employee gets a bigger subsidy than if they own their own home, if they're a homeowner. It seems really unfair to the staff who are homeowners as well as the staff who can't access a staff housing unit for whatever reason.

When it comes to that, \$400 a month homeownership...I forget the name; it escapes me right now. I apologize. In terms of adjusting that \$400 a month amount upwards, is that something that's on the table? Specifically within the next fiscal year, is that something that we could see happening? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member is testing me whether I know the department inside out. I don't know the department inside out yet, but if I recall, I think that \$400 homeowners' assistance is through the Department of Finance. I might be wrong, but if it is, it's a stand-alone program that's to help offset with the homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That \$400 a month is not fair, as I see it right now, to GN staff who are homeowners. Is that being discussed with the Department of Finance? Are there discussions in terms of enhancing that? It is something that's in the business plan in terms of making an enhancement in terms of housing for staff. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my deputy mentioned, there is a group of people that are working, including Finance and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Everything is on the table right now because we need to find solutions. It is one that is all part of an overall review. It's not specific to the Human Resources Department, but the Department of Human Resources does have input into that. Until that review is done and something new is offered, it's currently a government program that we offer to our homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This could be my last question, I'm not sure. It's come to my attention that in terms of forced sharing of staff housing units, there is what appears to be a greater incidence of forced sharing of government staff units in your decentralized communities, including Arviat and when compared to other communities, the major communities as they're listed Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

My question for the minister is: when you have staff being forced to share a unit, what is the impact on retention and recruitment? I would imagine that it's not a good thing to force you to share a unit, from HR's perspective. What is the impact? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I handle this last question, I just want to make a little clarification. I have been referencing that \$400 as homeowners; I should be mentioning that as a Government of Nunavut program. With that, through you, if I could ask Mr. McMichael to respond to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. McMichael, just a reminder that we have translators that need to keep up. Mr. McMichael.

Mr. McMichael: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. It would have an impact on our recruitment. The reason we do forced sharing in some communities is a lack of inventory, and it requires us then to do sharing. We are looking at it and trying

to mitigate the negative impacts. We're exploring, seeing how we can align individuals who are alike so that there's less conflict or potential for conflict when they're sharing. Examples would be in terms of smoking, non-smoking, and those types of things to make sure that we minimize the level of impact on the individual. We do let candidates know as part of the posting whether they would be sharing or not sharing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my last question is: why do we see that there's more forced sharing in these decentralized communities? I would hope to see that if this is a hardship for government employees, that it wouldn't be concentrated in some communities more than others. That's my last question. Why do we see it higher in these decentralized communities, as opposed to others? (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) That is my last question.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lack of inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2019 report that I read indicated that there are 30 Nunavut Inuit employees and 17 non-Inuit employees who went for training. I am asking how many Inuit today who are working and how many non-Inuit

have gone for educational leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Just wait; I will find the page.

Here, as of January 31, 2021 to date, 29 staff have gone for education leave, 14 Inuit and 15 non-Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. How come non-Inuit workers and we hear that they have far superior education when they arrive, so I would like to ask if they too are sent out for educational leave and whether it is a long-term leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All staff in Nunavut government are eligible for this program, and we have agreed with that directive and we have committed to advancing their education, if they also wish to take it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question, Mr. Chairman related to the last plans listed from 2021-24 for the department, there was a statement about that on page 48. This funding for the Summer Student

Equity Employment Program is listed as being \$985,000 for that program.

I see that no changes or increases have been added to this program from 2020-21, which is the current fiscal year, and as well, the funds have not changed as of yet and no changes are anticipated for the upcoming three additional years.

Why are there no increases or changes to that important program? That is my final question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program has not changed at all, and this program has run quite efficiently and I like the program's continuation in the future.

I also anticipate and expect approval for this funding as this amount has already been planned out, and I would like it approved. The program funding has not changed for a while, however, each department also has additional funding for hiring more staff, and this additional funding is added to the funds.

They use the program and its policies to hire more summer students so that actual amount spent is actually quite higher than that amount, and this includes the ability to hire more summer students, and that is how this program kind of has two different pots of funds and it allows more leeway, and due to that, this program runs quite successfully.

I want to continue making use of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One area of praise which I would like to give the Department of Human Resources is the news release which was made on September 9, 2019, where the cabinet had issued a direction to foster Inuit employment across public service by substantially increasing the number of direct employment to long-term casuals.

I believe this is an excellent initiative because long-term casuals is an issue that has been brought up numerous occasions in the Assembly, so I would like to thank the department and the Government of Nunavut for that initiative, but another issue that has been raised is that casuals are not eligible for staff housing.

One area that I would like to seek clarification on through this direct appointment process: are these long-term casuals eligible for staff housing upon direct appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that response. That is great to hear.

In the annual report, it indicated that there was a total of 61 direct appointments in that fiscal year. I was just curious, how many of those direct appointments were allocated staff housing? And further, if the minister

would be able to elaborate on the process of providing staff housing to direct appointments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are going to need to do a bit more research on this, and if there are any, I'd be committed to reporting back to the House, or to the member in terms of, within those 61 positions, how many are in staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that response, that won't be necessary. Maybe the minister will be able to elaborate a bit further on the process of direct appointments, and how to get those long-term casuals who are direct appointed allocated staff housing.

Again, just to elaborate on the process, to provide staff housing to these long-term casuals who are direct appointed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask Mr. McMichael to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. McMichael.

Mr. McMichael: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The department, when they submit a direct appointment requests the housing with the submission. It is up to

the department to indicate they are seeking housing, and then it goes through that process in terms of direct appointment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have about 5,000 staff within the Nunavut government; of these, how many have been identified as being able to speak or are capable of speaking Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a good question, and I will try to properly respond to it. Currently, perhaps I will not answer directly, but as of January 21, 2021, 1,294 people requested Inuktitut upgrading. 672 people have already been evaluated, and 622 people remain that are yet to be evaluated. I would like to elaborate that the 672 individuals that have been evaluated, have been broken down into the four languages but that the exact details are not indicated here. It is indicated that it is out of the three languages but not into further detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2019-2020 government's annual report, it indicated that 437 employees had received an assessment under the Inuktitut language incentive policy. Now, does the Government of Nunavut have an estimate of the length of time Inuit

fluency can be attained? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate this and we prefer everyone be able to speak the language. However, with respect to the actual numbers, I don't have any numbers related to that query. We are not looking for that date at this time, as most training programs and educational programs are the ones where we have the data and we provide that information on our departmental reports, but with respect to speaking fluently in Inuktitut or not, it is something we do not collect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, due to the significant impacts COVID-19 has placed on us, as it started to affect programming by March of last year, as the COVID-19 restrictions were added and travel restrictions.

With respect to the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit* or language authority, do they have the ability to test for proficiency? Are there any tests conducted aside from the employees here in Iqaluit? Do you have any numbers related to the staff requiring a fluency test? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we have 622 employees who require more assessment testing. Since you asked about workers outside of

Iqaluit, I can only state that out of the 622 employees, only 73 are here in Iqaluit. The remainder of the employees requiring testing are from various decentralized communities in Nunavut, and they are still waiting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He partially answered my question, but I imagine more training is required to deal with COVID-19 delays that were supposed to go ahead, but were stopped. Are there still many employees who wish to receive Inuktitut language training or who wanted to be assessed in order to receive the language bonus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are 622 people requiring the language fluency assessment. They are still waiting for the assessment, but I want to reiterate here that this is not part of my mandate, however, it is under the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit* who is the primary body conducting the testing.

I was quite happy last month, as some employees attended a training course here, and the staff came from outside of Iqaluit, and they were being trained to make language assessments, so I expect that this overall number will start decreasing due to the fact that assessment can be conducted not just in Iqaluit, but also in the decentralized communities, so that part makes me proud and happy for the Inuit Language Authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final question here, and I thank the minister for providing clear answers, and he provided the numbers we were requesting from him.

This language bonus that is provided to staff, will the Department of HR be looking to conduct a review, as it is identified under section 1505 is the number listed. Since this doesn't seem to be updated since it was introduced in April 3, it has remained the same policy without any changes.

The purpose of this bonus is to reward employees who can speak more than one language or several languages that result in this language bonus for our employees, such as Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French which are identified. When will this policy be updated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was recently updated. For example, the things that needed to be studied for five years don't need to be studied anymore or reviewed anymore, and I'm glad about that. It's new, so it's going to be refreshed and we will be expecting comments from you on how it can be updated, which you usually do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Strategic Human Resource Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,658,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page D-3. Human Resources. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$28,218,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the review of the Department of Human Resources?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok, closing comments.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you very much, as usual, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues here, for approving this budget. We have a lot of work to do and we will try to work very hard to do them, and there are a lot of things that will benefit Inuit. Please come to our Department of Human Resources to get more information, if you need any more information.

I'm very glad to sit on this portfolio. Of our four officials here, three of them are Inuit. I apologize to the interpreters because I switch languages a lot. We speak in Inuktitut and suddenly speak in English, but we know we're doing a good job and I'm very proud of my officials here with me. As a minister, I can speak in Inuktitut and I'm able to work in Inuktitut. All of our staff in Nunavut, I thank you; you do real good work.

Thank you again to my colleagues here for approving this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister and your staff, for answering my colleagues' questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. We will take a five-minute break to set up for the next department.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:03 and resumed at 17:10*

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To your right, my left, is my Deputy Minister, Teresa Hughes, and to my right is Wendy Bens, Director of Corporate Services, and Gideonie Joamie, Assistant Deputy Minister.

Thank you, members and committee. I am very pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2021-22 main estimates and the 2021-24 business plan. The proposed departmental budget for 2021-22 is \$26,864,000.

The past year was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Despite these restrictions, the department approved \$7.1 million in grants and contributions funding and support to communities.

Working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada, Culture and Heritage established a tripartite Partnership Table on Language and Education to ensure a long-term collaborative approach to meeting our language and educational goals in Nunavut. The parties are working toward the development and delivery of an Inuit language specialist pilot project in collaboration with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College.

The department underwent a reorganization of the Official Languages Branch, creating a stand-alone Translations Bureau division within the department. This reorganization will allow the Official Languages Division to increase its focus on leading, implementing, and coordinating the requirements of the *Official Languages Act*, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and *Uqausivut 2.0*. This reorganization is also aimed at ensuring translations are managed more effectively. The Translations Bureau will collaborate with Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to improve the coordination of new terminology development and standardization. The proposed budget for the Official Languages Division in 2021-22 is \$7.2 million and for the Translations Bureau division it is \$4.8 million.

(interpretation ends) In 2020-21, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the

department and the Government of Canada were not able to commence negotiations on a new Canada-Nunavut Agreement on Languages. However, the department worked with our federal colleagues to extend the agreement for one year to allow for additional time to commence and finalize the negotiation of a new agreement. The one-year extension included \$5.1 million for Inuktitut and \$4.5 million for French. The department anticipates that a new multi-year agreement will be finalized shortly.

Culture and Heritage continues to oversee our extensive heritage collections, which include archives, ethnography, palaeontology, archaeology, natural history, and the fine arts. The department continues to work with the Winnipeg Art Gallery to offer collections management training to staff at the heritage facilities and local museums. This valued partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery, which includes the loaning and storage of our fine arts collection, is set to continue for another five years through a renewed memorandum of agreement. The proposed 2021-22 budget for the Heritage Division is \$6 million.

Culture and Heritage is ensuring that government programs, policies, and services are more effective and relevant through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementation efforts were delayed. However, the department established and filled the senior Iviqtipalliajut position, which supports implementation planning. Further, Culture and Heritage is supporting departments to create and fill their own Iviqtipalliajut advisor positions to better enable government-wide

coordination of Iviqtipalliajut. The proposed budget for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Division is \$1.3 million.

Culture and Heritage will work with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on the establishment of a new policy and legislation development process to ensure that government programs, policies, services, and legislation better reflect Inuit societal values.

The department continues to support the preservation and promotion of Inuit language, culture, and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Within our Elders and Youth Branch, the department is working with the communities to deliver various workshops that support and promote the revitalization of our language and culture. The proposed budget for 2021-22 for Elders and Youth is \$2.2 million.

I would also like to outline efforts the department made to address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020-21 we provided one-time additional funding to community libraries in the amount of \$501,000 and the community radios for \$330,000.

I am pleased to respond to any questions that the members and the committee may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2021-22 Main Estimates and 2021-24 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2021-22 operations and maintenance budget remains unchanged from its 2020-21 budget at \$26.86 million.

Mr. Chairman, a number of responsibilities under the Department of Culture and Heritage relate to the preservation, promotion and utilization of the Inuit language. This includes programs and policies related to language of work, territorial and federal language promotion funds, and the provision of language services within the public sector.

The committee recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on a number of related initiatives, including delaying the department's planned negotiations for the renewal of funding under the Canada-Nunavut General Agreement on the Promotion of French and Inuit Language. Although the one-year extension of the current agreement is certainly welcome, members encourage the minister in her efforts to work towards accessing additional federal funding to adequately support the territory's language-related objectives when these negotiations resume.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss her department's proposed 2021-22 budget, members were given to understand that the department has restructured its

Translations Bureau to a stand-alone division within the department. Members encourage the minister to work closely with her counterpart responsible for Nunavut Arctic College to strengthen opportunities for interpreter translation training and certification as well as gaining practical experience in the field.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Department of Culture and Heritage is to support the implementation of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The government's *Uqausivut 2.0* strategy, tabled in 2018, outlines a number of objectives with respect to Inuit language use in the fields of learning, work, the delivery of services, as well as the revitalization of Inuktitut. Members look forward to the Minister of Languages tabling up-to-date annual reports describing the government's progress in this strategy and its other language-related initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the government's Inuit Language Incentive program is an important initiative to increase the use of Inuktitut as the government's working language. Members encourage the Department of Culture and Heritage to coordinate fully with the Inuit Language Authority to ensure that the program is administered efficiently and effectively in all regions and for all dialects so that all GN employees have the opportunity to be assessed and be eligible for this incentive.

Following the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss her department's proposed 2021-22 budget, the committee was pleased to receive additional detail on the department's grants and contributions

funding as well as further information on the government's tripartite agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada. The standing committee fully supports the objectives of the Nunavut Partnership Table of Education and Language for further collaboration on language and education issues across Nunavut. The standing committee strongly encourages the department in its efforts to work with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College to deliver the Inuit Language Specialist Training Program in as many Nunavut communities as possible and address Nunavut's urgent need for qualified bilingual educators in our schools.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Culture and Heritage works with Nunavut's private sector to increase the provision of Inuktitut language services to the public and provides funding support to businesses for such initiatives as signage or language training. Members continue to encourage the minister to work with such entities as the Office of Nunavut's Languages Commissioner and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to ensure that standard writing conventions are being followed when language rights obligations are being met, especially in the area of signage.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the development and delivery of the government's archaeology, museums and archives policies, programs, and services. The department is also responsible for supporting community library services. Members encourage the minister in her efforts to work with communities to explore options for opening or re-

establishing libraries in those communities which do not currently have one. Members appreciate the department's initiative to address COVID-19 related issues by providing additional funding during the current 2020-21 fiscal year for community libraries and radio stations to enhance their services.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services in addition to dedicated grants and contributions packages, to support cultural activities as well as elders and youth groups across Nunavut. Members encourage the department to work with local organizations and radio stations to record and archive local oral histories as told by community residents over the local radio, as well as proceeding with the projects identified in its business plan, many of which have been postponed due to the pandemic situation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Main Estimates and 2021-24 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Are there any general comments? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, respecting the minister's opening comments, I felt it was interesting to listen to as funding will be needed, however, I don't know if it will suffice as it is hard to determine our future with the COVID-19 pandemic still delaying many initiatives.

Even if that is the case, the reason why I liked the wording being spoken, relates to our traditional practices, culture here as well as the language used to denote the need for protecting and preserving the Inuktitut dialects. The body is also present that can make these types of language specific decisions that will help to improve and preserve our language.

The protection of these languages and preservation of dialects, along with the reason for having the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit* or language authority has been listed as being involved in this aspect of languages, and I take great pride that the members sitting on the language authority represent several other communities, and are not all from a single community.

Now, in seeing the improvement and efficacy of this body, when can we anticipate the completion of the legislation that will help Inuit to draft up legislation that will be specific for Inuit here in this House? Does the committee chairperson or the ones who are in the positions of the chairmanship or co-chairmanship involved in the language terminology discussions? I am happy that this process is now easier for Inuit to be included, Mr. Chairman.

I have no other general comments at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to say that Culture and Heritage, from my understanding, played a role in securing more funds from the

Government of Canada to train teachers and language specialists.

I wanted to say I think that is a great announcement, that Pathfinder Agreement. I thank the department for their work and it is going to be very important for education in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you for securing those funds from the government for education. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to give praise to the Department of Culture and Heritage. The level of employment in the department is very high, the capacity is there, and more importantly, the level of Inuit employment in the Department of Culture and Heritage far exceeds the GN's average. I believe that has something to do with the level of Inuit employment in your senior management team. For example, the minister and all the officials here today are all Inuit, and that is something to praise and mention. You have really set the example for other departments to follow.

It goes far beyond just the Inuit employment numbers. You have high rates of Inuit employment with casual and relief staff, but more importantly, you have a significant amount of Inuit employees in transfer assignments. That shows a strong dedication to fostering your development of Inuit employees within the department.

I just wanted to start off by providing some compliments to the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Seeing none, we'll go to page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if Culture and Heritage was involved in the Pathfinder Agreement that will be used to train instructors. How were you involved in securing that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. The federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Department of Culture and Heritage were given a pot of money from the federal government. At the initial stage, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated made a request, and we did as well. Through collaboration, we submitted a joint request for \$42 million that is slated to be used over five years. There is \$34.5 million and \$7.3 million through NTI, but the Official Languages Division and our department were the first to make the initial submission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, minister. I have another question. On page 93 in the business plan, regarding the implementation in 2021-22: Could the minister inform us about what has been changed, what is being implemented...? (interpretation ends) I guess what I'm asking for are specific examples of what the Iviqtippalliajut Framework has managed to achieve in

terms of changes within the government, or is it still too early to give those examples? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit had concerns about culture and language within the government and as it was brought up as a concern. Just recently Shuvina Mike, who was the director of the IQ board, worked very hard to get Iviqtippalliajut implemented and how it can be accessible to the Nunavut government workforce.

There's the Iviqtippalliajut implementation commission and there are three, one from the Department of Finance, one from the Department of Family Services, and one from the Department of Health, that now have advisors and we hopefully will get one in each of the government departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main did say that was his last question. Next name on my list: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) My question had brought up Uqausivut and contribution of \$2.2 million and it's going to be used for different programs and also prioritize what will be made available. My question is, in the Kitikmeot there are only very few who use the Inuinnaqtun language. Are they a priority for 2021-22? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please wait while we look into it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the comments in regard to the Kitikmeot, it is one of the main concerns in our department because of course it is of a concern. We have worked with the (interpretation ends) Kitikmeot Heritage Society. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a totally different subject, one of the priorities in your department is to “Initiate the planning to review the *Library Act*.” What is in the *Library Act* that requires review? (interpretation ends) My last question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment is for the *Library Act*, as it has required these amendments for quite some time now since it was drafted up in 1988, when the GNWT still retains that original *Library Act* and it is still in force. This grandfathered legislation needs to be amended to ensure it reflects our reality so this will slowly be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, I’m just a Chairman not Speaker.

>>Laughter

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Welcome minister and staff, (interpretation) and I forgot my reading glasses so my eyes are really tired out. My only question on this issue, Mr. Chairman, is related to Member Main’s question about requesting funding from the federal government, and that you partnered with NTI on it?

NTI has about \$7.5 million that they received from the federal government, so I wonder if the Department of Culture and Heritage was able to request any part of that funding. Do you receive any funding assistance from them for the work you do? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they have their own application they submitted for their own work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may end up being a single question, or it may increase depending on the response that I receive. Our colleague from Arviat North-Whale Cove asked a similar question, however, he asked about language preparations.

I want to ask about the coordination efforts to deal with the three main languages used here within Nunavut, which are English, French and Inuktitut.

Earlier, when discussions were held on this issue, someone mentioned the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit* who deals with developing new terminology and they have a committee. Will there be direction provided for this to move forward or is this still undergoing planning work at this time? What is the status of this work, and I wanted to understand, therefore I asked the question to get a response, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. I will start off with the three different regions where we all have similar dialects such as Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. This forms the basis in how it is dealt with, depending on our dialect or region.

As well, the Inuit Language Authority provides an essential service to this government, and especially to the Department of Culture and Heritage, in strengthening the preservation and how better to incorporate into government operations as they provide solutions.

Further, the committee members are largely from Nunavut, with representatives from the Baffin, as they would have members from Kitikmeot and Kivalliq elders. They try to include all members when appointing members from all three regions within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, with the Inuit

language developing growth, or right as we hope to increase the usage, as it seems that we can see the end goal, although it will be slow slogging obviously.

As it evolves and is getting implemented by the departments and how to direct it further, and we anticipate that it might get easier at least from my perspective. I am thinking of the Inuit language or even the English or French languages. When an Inuk first starts working, they are using the different languages at work.

When a different language is used to draft laws and legislation, that language will be the strongest and used for the legislation. This is just the way it has turned out, and I think it might show up in front of us as a bill using Inuktitut, as this bill has been sought after for quite a while by earlier MLAs, and I wanted to speak to that, and I don't have too many other comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: It was just a comment. Next name on my list: Mr. Kaernerk

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials, welcome.

Now, I want to ask about the *Iviqtippalliajut* advisors who are listed in page 91 of your business plan, and you wanted to make it a priority for 2021-22. It states that the Department of Human Resources will be your partner on Inuit culture and language. As well, are these the initial positions where these advisors will be part of that group? Have you worked with the Department of Human

Resources on language and culture?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the government departments there are posters on display. They have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Day and they have directions and they come there also. There are eight (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values (interpretation) and that is pointed out, *Aajiiqatigiingniq*, *Qanuqtuurniq*, and the rest of the values written down. We use these values and in our collaboration with our partner the Department of Human Resources. This is where they identify the resources that may be needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting for the light. Thank you for elaborating on Human Resources as to how they look into Inuit language. How about culture and heritage, and do you keep numbers on how many uses Inuktitut? How many people are waiting that have to be tested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When an employee wants to determine their Inuit language fluency within the office, this used to trigger the bilingual bonus, but it has been slightly changed.

To date, there are 672 employees who have been tested. In January 2021, there

were 1,021 requests from employees and 672 employees tested as of today. (interpretation ends) 46 on level one, 454 on level two and a 150 at level three and 19 are pending for results.

(interpretation) That is where the results are standing now, but in terms of future visitation to which decentralized communities by these testers are also listed down in the document as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I should be Speaker now.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you for giving me those numbers. This will be my last question. I have some questions, but I want to give others a chance. In your opening comments you stated that the funding you're requesting in 2021 for elders and youth, \$2.2 million. Is it sufficient or is it too small? Does it need to be increased? What's your position on that as the Department of Culture and Heritage when you're going to be dealing with all of Nunavut? That will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different applications on what will be used for elders and what will be used for youth. In total there were 240 applications and 215 have been approved. With COVID-19, not all the communities had applications, but 92 percent were

approved and that's where we stand right now. The funding that is made available to Nunavut is used very well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

The previous minister tabled the following on November 4, 2018 which was *Iviqtippalliajut: In the Process of Falling into Place*. On No. 10 of the English version, it was identified, although I personally haven't seen the figures as I just following the written documentation.

The ministers and their different deputy ministers who work out of different departments were going to be tasked to properly implement the document, as well as to make their foundation based on Inuit beliefs and Inuit knowledge, so let me ask this question. What will your foundation be for this review? What are you going to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke earlier to that issue when I mentioned the IQ or *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* committee, along with the coordinators who develop these plans. They use that as the foundation, and if the person is a public servant, it still requires a five-year plan to develop their work related to government employees' language, as there are

different criteria that is used here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): I was trying to ask about this wording in English, perhaps I did not translate it properly, or perhaps I didn't distinguish it so I apologize. It says:

(interpretation ends) What criteria will be used to assist departmental progress in this area? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe I'll have Ms. Hughes respond to that a bit more in detail. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can repeat your question, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am actually translating directly from the English documentation, so I apologize for causing her to misunderstand along with her officials.

(interpretation ends) The *Iviqtippalliajut* document tabled by the former minister on November 1, 2018 indicates on page 10 of the English, that the deputy heads of departments will be responsible for ensuring that the workplace is built on a foundation of Inuit society values. What criteria will be used to assess

departmental progress in this area?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you. If it is okay with you, Ms. Hughes can elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as deputy ministers, we meet regularly on these issues, and how Inuit culture can be incorporated into government operations and to determine if it is indeed being incorporated.

I am part of that committee, which deals with Inuit culture and they also have an Inuinnaqtun committee composed of deputy ministers. We will continue to review this issue, and when the position was being created for the senior *Iviqtippalliajut* advisor, we collaborated with Human Resources.

We created that position, along with the duties and responsibilities. As well, the employees who will draft up these policies work with the different departments along with HR, Health, Justice and I believe most positions have been hired. When all of the positions are filled, they will become advisors.

Through this process, there will also be a group tasked to undertake the work, and it is called *Tuttarviit* committee, and this committee will have representatives from all regions and departments, and they will be called the *Iviqtippalliajut* advisors. We anticipate that when all positions are hired, they will hold a

meeting based on their directives they receive from the Deputy Ministers. This is also going through that other committee called *Inuunivut* committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She partially spoke to this question I wanted to ask her further on. The position listed as the senior *Iviqtippalliajut* advisor position is one I cannot really differentiate in Inuktitut, so I apologize about that.

It states here that for 2020-21, the business plan mentions that the positions will be filled after that process. Has the position be filled now? And the person in that role is that person an Eskimo, as that may be easier to understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position and they started the job in the month of August. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. In the minister's 2021-22 business plan, it mentions that they will collaborate with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in English on a new government-wide policy and legislative development process to ensure that Inuit societal values are reflected. What is the current status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my last question.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date this is still under review how we can include this in *Iviqtippalliajut* program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-5. Let's wait a few minutes. Thank you. Mr. Main, message for you: we still see you on our TV screen, but we have lost our Internet connection here at the table. You will need to raise your hands if you wish to ask questions. I do have you down asking questions for this page, next page. Thank you. Official Languages. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm scared to ask. I'm just going to ask this one question. The Language Implementation Fund, \$5.7 million, what is the process for Culture and Heritage, how do they decide how to divide that \$5.7 million within different departments and agencies? That's my only question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to Inuktitut, \$2.1 million, Inuit Uqausivut under the policies based on the review, they are

divided up where the funds are allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main said that was his only question. Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On number 15 Official Language Regulations and in 27 the protection of Inuit language regulations it mentions that the Minister of Official Languages will on an annual basis will give a report how the government is progressing with implementation on the policy. This was for the 2014-15 in June 14, 2018 was then reviewed. In the current report on the official languages and for the Inuit Language Protection Act when will that report be released, that's my question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The annual report that I release will be released soon. I believe there are four will be released this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question here. Today as Inuit we work hard for the protection of our Inuktitut, but within Nunavut we have three languages. My question is: what Act is in place for English, French, or Inuktitut if they wanted to be utilized in any community? What is the status of that? That is my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot really respond to that. However, we have three official languages of Inuktitut, English, and French.

In retrospect, government employees are assessed. A question was asked earlier on the Inuktitut proficiency and whether your Inuktitut proficiency is being assessed based on their first language and that is utilized. If you're a Kivalliq resident, a Kivalliq employee would be doing the assessment and likewise in the Kitikmeot. You would be assessed based on what language you use. I'm just using that as an example.

Perhaps I didn't really respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good response. I was asking that as a question. As an example, if you speak French, if a community wanted to have French lessons or courses or use it for assessment, what action would take place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For training purposes, we are able to work with that. However, if they are available in learning centres or in a school, yes, you would have those instructions. We're not actually doing the teaching, but we make them available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only two questions. On November 2, 2020 the former Minister of Culture and Heritage announced changes to the Official Languages Division of the department, including the creation of a new Language Act implementation section. When will the language workshops be undertaken? If it's not happening now, when would that be undertaken to increase awareness of Inuktitut obligations in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, we don't provide instruction, but we provide funding for instruction if it was requested in a community, perhaps through learning centres or be included under education. Even those who are non-profits are also able to request the funds to provide the instruction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess what I was trying to say is when the new Language Acts implementation section on that was created, and I guess I was trying to say: when will the language workshops be undertaken to increase awareness of our language obligations in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the request, we try and find ways to have programs and services, and we try and provide those services based on the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. With the government trying to move forward on language, how many government employees wish to learn to speak Inuktitut by instruction? Do you have numbers broken down by region? Do you have numbers for the instruction that has been given to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The assessments that are given by Human Resources.... Mr. Chairman, perhaps Ms. Hughes can give a better response to the question if you don't mind.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you are talking about the Inuit language instruction for government employees. Yes. With that, the requests are given. I don't have the exact figures on how many requests are made through Human Resources, but Inuktitut requests are given to us. Based on our agreements, we are working towards that and we will have much better figures as to how many make the request and how many more need instruction, whether it is in Inuktitut or

French. If I didn't respond properly to the question, I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we will be apologizing to each other. This is for your benefit. It is great to see that the language issue will now be implemented and I thoroughly encourage you in the Baffin, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq. Let us strengthen Inuit language and culture. For the benefit of unilingual Nunavut elders, I want to further encourage you to continue with this progress. This is just a comment. Thank you giving me time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. We are on Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,232,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-6. Translation Bureau. Questions. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been following the developments of the language and things like that, and I wouldn't mind spending all night on this topic, but Mr. Chairman, I only have one question about this.

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit committee is made up of members from different communities. When they are talking, we generally understand what they are saying, and the board in English. If the person understands

English, or if it is an elder, even if it is an elder, I think some of the elders understand better in English. What thoughts are there by this department's on this matter? That is why I am... I would like to know, that is why I am asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand it correctly, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit board for three years, I believe they serve a three year term, and after the three year term is up, the Minister or the Department of Culture and Heritage asked the communities to come up with some names and they are given a certain amount of time to get the names with a closing date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So they are chosen by the communities, or in the communities. What I am trying to say it, people who live, who are live, who are from different communities cannot understand each other, it is a different dialect if you do not, if you are not from the same community. I would like to understand what this means. I am sorry, but I did not understand all of that.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit board, it is true they deal with different, oh they consist of different people from different communities. It is set up. They agree on

a mandate and they come to an understanding amongst each other even though our dialects are different, they are able to work together to consider things. I hope I answered the question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the minister answered me. Even though they come from different communities, even in...it is going to become more apparent that it is being used even though it is weak right now, it is going to get stronger and more apparent. It is not a question, it is a general comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a comment. Next name on my list: Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question and my question is how do the staff of the department's translation bureau collaborate and coordinate with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to develop new terminology and ensure standardization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They follow the plan and what are they called again? The translation bureau they work together on plans that had been made. If I did not answer this correctly, Ms. Hughes can add to it. What Mr. Qirngnuq just said they have...they set up their priorities and then they work on whatever priorities that they have made and

usually it's what the government asked them to work on first as a priority. So they work together to set that up. I don't think I really answered Ms. Towtongie's question properly. She can elaborate on the question if she wants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you. For example at the grassroots level marijuana is known as a rock *ujaraq*. When it came back to us from the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. It came back as *surunnaqtuq*, something that destroys you. I'm wondering how the staff of the department works with the translation bureau to develop new terminology and ensure standardization. Mr. Chairman, my final question.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you I'd like Ms. Hughes to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit they have the right to tell us what they want implemented. They can do that. For marijuana for example it was chosen by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to use that term on what term would be the best for cannabis and they selected it. They told us that is the term you're going to use for example as well for COVID-19, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit board looked at it and they picked the best term that they figured for it and told us this is the term

you are going to use. That is how they are set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The last name on this page, Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll speak in English so that the member for Taloyoak can understand it his question (interpretation ends) What are some of the challenges in developing and formalizing standardized Inuktitut terminology for use within Nunavut's education system? (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you I would like Ms. Hughes to explain that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question is about on how we standardize terminologies. Yes?

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, for example, we were notified that Nunavut will eventually come up with one standardized language or writing system. For example, sugar, *siuraujaaqtut*, would have one terminology in Inuktitut. How hard is it? What are some of the challenges in developing and formalizing the standardized Inuktitut

terminology for the education system?
Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the question now. Having one Inuktitut writing system plan started with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami talking about it and then they talked about standardizing the Inuktitut language, but the Inuit language authority had also looked at this and had discussions and we are still waiting to get Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, huh? To see whether they can be standardized in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague said he could spend all night this, I do not think I can do that.

>> *Laughter*

This will be my final question, Mr. Chairman. In the English, it states that (interpretation ends) "...one of the departmental priorities for 2021-22 listed in the draft business plan is to review the translation policy." What are some of the current challenges to provide quality translations in an efficient manner?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank you for asking an excellent question. It is

quite difficult and the interpreter students while they are creating new terminology that do not have a translation in Inuktitut and they are being utilized in meets and they have to brainstorm to come up with a standard word. Looking at the old Inuktitut terminology and today's worlds, those are some of the challenges that we have on, from going from English to Inuktitut and there are already...always brainstorming to come up with most accurate English translations, or Inuktitut translations.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The translators and the Inuit Language Authority work together to create standard terminology; for example, the term chairperson in Inuktitut is *iksivautaq* and *sivuliqtivut* is the Premier. They have daily meetings to make sure that the documents like the business plans are following the standardized terminology in Inuktitut and they are proofread.

We will be looking at the departmental plans and at times there are inconsistencies in the terms that are being used, so we have a translation policy that is applied government-wide, or the Inuit Cultural Institute standardized terminology is required to be used within the government departments and they are scrutinized to make sure that those standards are used. We review and make changes and we will be making changes to the translation policy to reflect as such.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Again as

members of the House, there are some words...we use different terminology for different departments so we are...terms that we use in the House are slightly different and we hope to make is standard so we use the same term for a department. That is for now and I think we will have to move on to a different page.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Translation Bureau. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,789,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-7. Heritage. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I just have a question. I know Chesterfield Inlet has already built a heritage centre but my question is; your department completed its digitization into the computers of the government's fine art collection, '21-22. Who will have access to these files once this process is complete? Final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be available on our website. Once they have been digitized, we will be able to then put it on the webpage and they will be made available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: I know they are getting available, but I want to know who will

have access to them. Can I? Can anyone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can access them through the Culture and Heritage website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Welcome, minister. You are doing very well in your department. I have a question regarding old buildings, or old campsites that may have a real value in history. How would a community go about getting help from your department? Let's say they want to keep... Maybe an old building has a lot of history and maybe it is an eyesore or it might be a danger to the community, so the community has basically just boarded it up and it is just sitting there and rotting, or whatever it is.

How can your department help in that area, whether it be an old camp site that maybe had whalers there and had history and maybe it is an area that could be built up to show the history of the area, or maybe a building that is owned. How do you go about doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a community would like to restore a site, they would approach the hamlet council as they usually have committees that deal with different

subjects, and then they would get additional information from Culture and Heritage about what to do next. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Is there a set budget for this kind of thing per community or per project? Would the department come up with the money to do this if the hamlet wanted to do it? Then the hamlet on behalf of the community wrote to the department saying “We want restore this old building.” I think there is some talk about the old stone church that was demolished; things like that that maybe could have been saved. Is there a budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven’t identified a line for those types of projects, but if you should require some help... . We don’t get very many submissions about restoring old buildings or site, but we could provide help. We could also find out where we can access funds or what next steps would be taken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next name on my list: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions regarding heritage. I think the amount for grants and contributions is depleted very quickly. The communities have a lot of heritage sites and old camp sites all over Nunavut.

They should be provided funds to restore them and make a project for communities that would like a heritage building. With the grants and contributions I think they are depleted right away because the amount is very small. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, minister. There are funds available to the communities for heritage sites or restoration. There are different funding pots available. There are funds for heritage facilities, culture and heritage, archeological sites and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m from Coral Harbour and it is quite a large island. You can go quite far on a four wheeler or all-terrain vehicles all the way to the other side where there are whaling sites, and there are a lot of archeological sites. If anyone should like to go see the whaling sites, is it possible to access funds from your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it would be the same process as the response I gave the first question. You can submit a request, then we would look at the format and see what it is directed for. You can make a submission or go through your hamlet council and decide how to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much money can they request if they were interested in doing such a project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is okay with you I would like to ask Ms. Hughes to respond to your question. Ms. Bens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. That would fall under our capital budget, and our capital budget for Vote 2 is \$500,000, and under our grants and contributions for Vote 2, there is no maximum. You can get up to \$500,000, but we get several applications for that particular budget and we have a committee that reviews and scores and evaluates the projects and that is how we determine who will receive the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. My final question is what maximum amount of contribution you have made into an organization that have applied for this funding? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): If it's okay with you, I

would like to refer the question to Ms. Bens.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've given \$400,000 to the community of Chesterfield Inlet for their community culture centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have a couple questions. First of all I really appreciate the work done by Public Library Services. I think having a public library is very important. I wish that every community could have one. My question is on heritage. There are all these different pots of funding including public library services. Has the department considered preparing a...? I don't know if it would be an annual report or a summary of activities type document for people to keep track of the work that's been done. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be fall on grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The information that's available through the grants and contributions report is very limited. It is one line and it will say

department, project, dollar amount. I guess what I'm trying to say is that this is very interesting work and these are interesting projects and initiatives that are being funded by the department and so I am asking if the Minister or the department has considered putting together a summary of activities or an annual report type document to promote the heritage projects and funding that the department has available. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Culture and Heritage have asked on how we can be more visible. They don't necessarily have an annual report, but we can do it by demand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. If it's going to be considered I would be happy with it myself. They do very interesting projects and provide funding. My last question is, (interpretation ends) on page 99 it mentions there's now expanded internet access and digital services in community libraries. It mentions over 2,000 courses through the online learning data base. What types of courses are they and how many people are accessing them roughly? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't keep track of them.

However, we can look into that and provide a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes? No. Sorry. The next name on my list: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. With COVID-19, different things have been done within Nunavut. With the department, we are going to get one-time funding with community libraries to improve communications through the Internet. We have a community library in my community. Perhaps with improvements, or is it through new computers or have you brought printers or to be more visible to the community, the community library so that the library can be utilized more by the community? Has the funding been used for that type of help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report is not done yet. Around Christmastime, Culture and Heritage had provided more funding to the communities with community libraries and local radio so that Inuktitut can be used more. This was given to the communities by Culture and Heritage on how exactly the libraries address. Can anyone elaborate on community library operations? That's where I was trying to get at. Maybe I'm not clear enough; if somebody can elaborate on it. Thank you.

Chairman: Are you done, Mr. Qamaniq? Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. My colleague for Aivilik on Member for Aivilik's question on the \$500,000 made available. Is that only for one year or can you apply for the following year. I would like to understand. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like Mr. Akeeagok's question. Nine libraries were given assistance in Nunavut and that is where that is. We provided more funding to local radios. Internet connection for computers and for furniture or for doing some minor work is how it was used by libraries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was not answered. I think she responded to a different question. My question is related to the question asked by my colleague from Aivilik. One community can apply for \$500,000 to my understanding. Is that a onetime grant, or can they reapply the following year for a longer term? I want to understand that, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, I did not elaborate. Yes, I finally understand his question properly. It is application based. The applications are reviewed on whether they are approved or not, they can reapply on a different year. It is

application based, that is how it is reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Heritage. Total Operations and Maintained to be voted, \$6,025,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-8, Elders and Youth. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials. The department budgets \$800,000 for grants and contributions for elders and youth programs, in initiatives across Nunavut, how does the department prioritize how these funds are allocated, and what steps are taken to evaluate the success of those projects or initiatives which receive funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community....when they are reviewing community applications whether it is for language, or culture, or is more towards youth, or is towards elders? Depends on what the application is for, that is how they are reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Do you generally run out of money, like is there proposals that are submitted, but cannot be reviewed because there is no more money to give out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Bens is going to elaborate on that on how applications are categorized. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. So if a recipient applies for funding under elders and youth, say for a contribution agreement for elders initiative and if that pot of money is no longer available, sometimes what we will do is we will redirect that application under Heritage which has, sometimes a higher budget, and if we do not receive enough applications under that funding, we will redirect some of that funding to the Heritage division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My last question, I think. What consideration has been given to increasing the amount of funding provided for elders and youth programs initiatives across Nunavut?

(interpretation) My question basing a lot of youth, we are all aware that commit suicide. If they were to be council by elders between Monday and Wednesday I think they would hear about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and they would provide safe advice. That is why I am asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a really good question. The hamlet and non-profit organization or an individual can apply for funding from Culture and Heritage on the protection of language or if they are more towards culture. Whether it is for youth, it would be the same. We would try to look at the applications equally on providing more well-being within our language or culture.

That is how communities... . Some communities seem to have more applications and there are more applications from some communities and in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot and if there is not enough applications, staff members would visit communities to inform the communities that these types of programs are application-based. We try to look at applications equally. We really want to see applications at Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Incidentally, that \$400,00 went to very good use. Chesterfield Inlet has been forgotten since we became Nunavut in 1999. That was the first time that the community of Chesterfield Inlet got that type of funding and the building is up. Thank you.

Just saying that, I have just one question: how does the department collect, publish, and make available the results of its oral history projects that are funded through this division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hughes can provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of childrearing is an example, elders or Inuit as how Inuit reared their children, and that is one of those that have been published and others, but I also know that those that have been recorded, we can put them out and we try and at the moment we are trying to look at ways to expose the recordings. There are many recordings that have taken place of Inuit stories. They are just stored at the moment.

We will want to put it out there so people can learn it and we have talked about perhaps if we can put them on the website, but it might be quite expensive in that regard. We are considering ways or options to put them out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie, are you done? Thank you. Next name: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department's 2021-24 business plan, in the budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, if COVID-19 does not hamper the program, or if the budget outline cannot be expended due to the pandemic, will the funds be moved to the 2021-22 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When funds are not expended and when there's a lack of applications for the funds the staff look into what can be done and they also revert back to applications that have been denied funding and we try and utilize the funds but we do not carry them over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. We also have programs where recordings are made of Inuit history, stories and are funded from your department. These are used for peoples' benefits or are they there for people can access the recordings. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): The applications are made available for all communities, for all learning schools, libraries and these funds are for that, for those purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question, here in your department the committees have looked into estimates of 2020 and have been identified and in total the proposed for requests have been identified. Where in your department do you make priorities? (interpretation ends) How does the department prioritize which requests will be funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it was mentioned earlier the assessment team prioritize or identify what will be approved or need further consideration and during that process right now.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted \$2,208,000 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-9 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Questions. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may be a question or not. Since the beginning of implementation of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* based on the plans, I'm asking the question on this as it was mentioned earlier. This is a start and language is one of the starters and it probably will make a difference for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and Inuit laws are also included here.

When will we start realizing Inuit laws being reflected in the Government of Nunavut? I ask this question because when you look at written and non-written policies, they are basically the same when you understand both. When will we realize that here in the House? It is impossible to say when, but you have expectations, at least in my view. It is not so much of a question; it is more of a comment. Perhaps it will be discussed further or someone may have to add more to this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just a comment. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture and Heritage meetings and team have meetings and the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is the advisory ground and they deal with the government departments, and based on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, they work in ways to work together in respect to recordings oral history and also provide support to centres and that these continue to be moved forward based on the directions given. Perhaps that does not answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I have two questions. The first question is the priorities for the department for 2020-21 was to produce *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* resources. What kinds of resources were produced? How are they distributed and used within the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add to what we have put together through Inuit Culture Advisory Group, Inuit laws were put together by elders from Igloolik and it was published through the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit giving it support and Inuit laws that were published what was established. Perhaps Ms. Hughes can

elaborate a little further on this issue.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Nakashuk gave a correct respond to that. There are two that were published on Inuit laws and they were distributed to the communities and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* meeting this was discussed I believe back in 2019. In that meeting, and just recently the minister announced them and are available on our website and people are able to access them and read them on the website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about in elders *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, or sometimes we call elders and we speak of elders with knowledge, we have to make sure it is traditional holder with the ability to transmit culture and practices.

(interpretation ends) In English we have to be very careful and critical at times, and when we speak of elders with knowledge, we have to make sure it is traditional knowledge holder with the ability to transmit culture and practices.

In saying that, I didn't understand what *ikiaqqivik* means, I don't know what it means, but however, one of the departments priorities is for Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* Katimajiit to hold *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* cultural sessions.

I don't know what the criteria will be. I know some elders, in fact one elder told me they haven't used their minds for a

long time, therefore they have no knowledge of how to transmit, and one of the appointees recently to me is a youth I don't know how he would hold *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, but who will be participating in these sessions and what is the expected outcome? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* Katimajiit are elected by their communities, we do not appoint them. They are selected by the communities. They come up with nominations, the community comes up with nominations and they were renewed recently, they are renewed every three years. The board members are given an opportunity to continue with their board status or they pick someone else. We have not put any ages in them. If an elder is recognized by a community we follow that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for your response. I will give an analogy. This is just a comment. When Inuit go to school, they are at grade twelve, but in reality the maturity of that individual, I am talking the emotional maturity is not at grade twelve, the level. So when the community selects an elder, and I noticed in one of the appointees he is not recognized as an elder in his community. I know that for a fact, but he is still on this committee.

Just a comment, in the future I believe as a government, we have to put criteria

into appointments if they are going to deal with Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* values with the experience within their community. Not the educational aspect of it, the experience of having being recognized as traditional knowledge holder. Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now it was just stated, this was probably done in 2019 where the Inuit laws were published, now for students, are they being taught, to students now these old Inuit laws and what grades are they being taught in? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The compiled material in 2019 are being utilized in the work place, the eight principals and within schools, they are included as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So how many Iviqtipalliajut Coordinators that are Inuit are there? In the different government departments that are working now like today (interpretation ends) How many Iviqtipalliajut Coordinators positions in Government of Nunavut's departments have been filled to date? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The coordinators there are three of them. They are advisors now. There is one on Finance, one in Family Services and one in the Department of Health. They have staff that do that now and we're going to be getting 14 more coordinators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the very clear responses. I still have one question. I'll just have one more question to give my colleagues more time.

Chairman: I guess he stopped there. Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the very last part of your plan in your priorities for 2020-21 to create jobs continue to access the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program within the Department of Culture and Heritage. Now apparently in Iqaluit there are career fairs. I'm not sure how to call it in Inuktitut. To try to get a good future, can this be spread out to the other communities like Hall Beach and Igloolik, the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and how the Sivuliqtiksat Program, are you planning to do anything like that? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, they have worked real hard to get it

recognized in Nunavut and the Iviqtipalliajut Implementation Advisory positions were created out of that to see how else we can promote these things like culture, language and to be actually used in the workplace and not just said to be used in the workplace and what else the government can do to do that. Those jobs would be created for that purpose. The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit has recognized this need and there have been requests for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I believe you when you say that. Our language and culture cannot be just used by the government. It should be like actually used in Nunavut. Inuit assume that the government would be running in Inuktitut. Thank you for explaining that.

I would like to move on to something else. In your business plan page 103 (interpretation ends) Continuing the review of job descriptions to remove over inflated requirements such as education, work experience and language. (interpretation) What have you done on that regard? What has the Department of Culture and Heritage done on the regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're on different page or we have different page numbers? It's on page 103. Ours is on a different page. Which priority is the Member referring to? Thank you. Sorry.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you. My apologies. In the Inuit employment plans, I was referring to that under page 103. Do you understand now? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member repeat the question? I am sorry, Mr. Kaerner. I just want to understand the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Clarification, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No need to apologize, it is my fault. It states here, (interpretation ends) "Continue the review of job descriptions to remove overinflated requirements such as education, work experience and language" (interpretation) in the Inuit Employment Plan. Does that make sense now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the Member is referring to, we work with the Department of Human Resources to set that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Qamaniq asked this question earlier on page 100, on priorities 2021-22 you want to develop a guideline on how to use *Iviqtipalliajut*

and you also stated that they have hired people so will these have different responsibilities, these *Iviqtippalliajut* coordinators? Will there be one for health for example, and another one for Human Resources? How will that...how have you planed this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the *Iviqtippalliajut* (interpretation ends) advisory positions, (interpretation) they are all going to be the same responsibilities. It is working on policies and guidelines even though they are from different department, their job basically will be the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that clearly. This will be my final question. In your priorities that you are planning, (interpretation ends) plan and deliver a retreat for *Iviqtippalliajut* advisors and *Turaaqtavut*. (interpretation) Are they going to be going to Sanirajak? That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That meeting was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have not... it has not been decided as to where it will be held yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) We are on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page F-3. Culture and Heritage, Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,864,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the review of the Department of Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk, closing comments?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for my officials who work real hard and the staff that are no here, they work real hard too to make sure our language and culture are kept up there and the elder committees and the language bureau, many people do very hard work and good work and I thank all of them.

All the plans that are being made are going to go ahead and we want to keep growing and we want to keep growing as a department. There are many things that people expect about our culture and languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Nakashuk and staff. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Mr. Netser.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kaerner.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for 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 58
 - Bill 59

- Bill 60
- Bill 61
- Bill 62
- Bill 63
- Bill 64

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Friday, March 12, at 9
a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:30*

