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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Immigration*

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Environment; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for Homelessness;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

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Hon. Lorne Kusugak

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Community and Government Services;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation Commission*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3876
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3876
Point of Privilege.....	3954
Report of the Committee of the Whole	3962
Orders of the Day	3962

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 12, 20133876

B.

Bills

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee3877

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Family Services –
Consideration in Committee3900

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Justice – Consideration in
Committee.....3924

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Finance – Consideration
in Committee.....3952

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you, members. Before we proceed today, I would just like to inform all members that we don't have any pages today, so please be patient.

We will move on in our orders of the day. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go directly to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There being none. We will proceed to Item 19. Item 19 in our *Orders of the*

Day. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 47, 48, and 49 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I would like to ask members to remain in their seats. We will proceed directly to Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 47, 48, and 49. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the review of the following departments: Family Services, Justice, Finance, and Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we continue with our review of the main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that (interpretation ends) Premier Aariak (interpretation) and her officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Madam Premier. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Madam Premier, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members and Nunavummiut. We are pleased to be able to appear before you again. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Mr. Vandermeulen, and to my left is our Chief Negotiator for Devolution, David Akeagok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Welcome. We left off on page B-9. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, I had asked Madam Premier what the salary range was for the special advisor. I'm just wondering if she had

that figure for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Prior to allowing Madam Premier to respond, I would like to remind everyone where we were when we last had a break and I have an old list of names. Therefore, if you believe your name was on that list, I would like you to raise your hand so that we can write down a new list of names for this review. Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the member's question, we don't have the information at this time. Since this is a day-to-day operational issue, my officials look after the matter. With respect to the question, as well as his prior question, we have noted it and will provide a written response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the special advisor for negotiations, was this a political appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: If it wasn't a political appointment, was it at her, I guess

whatever you want to call it, privilege to appoint this person?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had already responded to that issue. If I were to say the proper term in English, it is called a “transfer assignment.” The position was transferred from the Devolution Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So when he was moved from a transfer assignment, this individual was moved into an indeterminate position. Did you follow the proper procedures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t run those. I will have my witness, Mr. Dan Vandermeulen, respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. I will have him respond. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the proper interdepartmental transfer agreement forms were completed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Don’t indeterminate positions in the government go through cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can allow my deputy to respond, I would like him to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular case, it was not a direct appointment; it was a transfer. When that transfer expires, he will return to his previous position. No, transfer assignments do not go through cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She also stated on Friday that the special advisor that she had chosen in Ottawa had extensive experience, some with the federal government. Could she explain what experience he had with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to what I remember, I didn’t say whether he had extensive experience with the federal government. I just said that he had working experience with the NWT and Nunavut governments. This is what I was talking about. I was saying that he

had experience in these territories.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The special advisor also had worked as the director for the official languages of the Government of Nunavut prior to being appointed to this position. It was also posted on the Pirurvik Centre website that this particular gentleman was a staff member and he had worked as a policy advisor of research for the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. So my question is: has this particular firm that he was working with done any work for EIA prior to his appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't run those issues. My Deputy Minister, Mr. Vandermeulen, works on this issue, so I will want him to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the contract file before me, so I am working from memory. I do remember that the centre provided Inuktitut training programs arranged through EIA for deputy ministers a number of years ago. I think it has also, from year to year, had contracts with the Department of Human

Resources for Inuktitut training as well.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was this run by the Integrity Commissioner in regard to having worked for the government prior that this was to be an appropriate appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Vandermeulen to answer the question if you will allow him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Integrity Commissioner rules on all matters related to MLAs and to, of course, ministers. The Integrity Commissioner does not rule on matters related to the public service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to now follow up on two issues that the Member for Pangnirtung had addressed with the Committee of the Whole when it adjourned on Friday.

The Premier had previously advised the Legislative Assembly that the government had established an Interdepartmental Nutrition North

Canada Subsidy Program Monitoring Committee. Can the Premier update us today as to what work this committee has undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking the question. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been working on this file and making preparations. You can get a better response from someone from his department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the Premier if she knows how many meetings the committee has had since its establishment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how many times they have met. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the committee produced any reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Makimaniq* is still being worked on by the Anti-Poverty Secretariat. Once they have done this work, he can ask those questions because I don't know what condition they are in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Premier be willing to table any reports produced by the committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be up to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if he wants to release those reports, if any. I'm sure that he can be asked that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How will this committee be involved with the recent announced plan to the government's plan to compile information in communities concerning food prices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any information at this point. The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation would know the answer and can be asked that question at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other issue raised on Friday by the Member of Pangnirtung concerned the issue of granting official observer status to the European Union at meetings of the Arctic Council. In April of 2009, the Premier publicly announced the Government of Nunavut's opposition to granting the EU observer status. On Friday, the Premier explained the process by which the Arctic Council makes decisions in this area, but she did not explain what the Government of Nunavut's current position is. Does the Government of Nunavut still oppose granting the EU observer status at the meetings of the Arctic Council, yes or no?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps firstly if I can do so, I would like to thank my colleague. During our fight to overturn the European Union's sealskin ban, the member was in full support at that time, which I am appreciative of. This also included the initiative to impose sanctions on the EU liquor manufacturers, to stop all liquor imports from the EU to Nunavut. We collaborated on these issues.

At that time, we were extremely busy trying to inform them of our position, specifically why we were in support of Nunavummiut to fight against the ban. We felt that this was part of the matter and that it would be better for us if they weren't party to it.

At this current time, we are in discussions. However, we haven't finalized our position as to what the Nunavut government's decision is with respect to the Arctic Council and our current status. It is Canada's turn to hold the chair and it is obvious that we will be able to work with our federal counterparts on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. We're on page B-9. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for appearing before the committee. I would like to get some information on this issue related to the devolution agreement process.

During our debate on this matter, we can quite easily obtain information from Canada's previous devolution agreements, both with provinces and territories. The provinces have had agreements for the (interpretation ends) last hundred years at least. (interpretation) The provinces have been transferred powers and in some cases, extended provincial boundaries as well as powers over royalties.

We can all recall that when Trudeau was the Prime Minister, he enacted legislation called the National Energy Program. This was initially opposed

vehemently by the western provinces, and it led to a west vs. east battle causing intergovernmental disagreements over how the non-renewable royalties would be accrued to the provinces. Whenever this legislation is mentioned, the western provinces still get upset.

Further, under the Mulroney government, the royalty rate was increased, resulting in more revenue. It allowed the provinces to administer this sector and it improved their situation. I just want this taken into consideration by our negotiators as we prepare for devolution negotiations, as it will affect not only Nunavut or the NWT, but all of Canada, at least in my estimation. We have to look at the situation as it has developed here in Canada.

Another matter we can mention is the case with Newfoundland. They were responsible for petroleum resources and although there wasn't much to administer initially, once the offshore petroleum resources were discovered, although they were situated deep offshore, since the federal government has offshore rights and oil was discovered, Newfoundland demanded all the royalties. Danny Williams, the Premier of Newfoundland at the time, negotiated these offshore royalty rates.

Can we keep these types of historic events in mind when it is our turn to negotiate these devolution issues? (interpretation ends) Our window (interpretation) can be an example. When it comes to a measly 50-50 royalty rate, I doubt I personally would sign off on it if I were the one who had to sign it, as the NWT government devolution agreement states. With such a low

royalty rate or even with 50 plus rates, I personally wouldn't even sign it.

(interpretation ends) I think we should negotiate for a better deal.

(interpretation) Can you include this in the list of items for consideration? Since Nunavut comprises a large part of Canada, can't we fight towards a larger share of the pie when it comes to royalties? We should be as immovable as a brick wall. When you read the devolution agreement that the NWT government signed off on, it is too little in my opinion.

Can the minister, along with her negotiators, consider looking at Canada as a whole when they are looking for examples? As an example, if we look to the mining development companies and the provinces, you can look at Saskatchewan and potash, as there is a very large deposit of that mineral. Saskatchewan pretty much has a monopoly on potash development and they get all the royalties. If we were to start off in that manner, it would be much preferable and not to rush into an agreement just for the sake of it. We should harden our position much as the provinces did. I would like to ask if this, indeed, is the case. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our colleague for providing such great issues to take into consideration. Additionally, discussions are underway on the negotiable items for placement onto the negotiating table. They are preparing their positions on various

issues that will be on the negotiating table.

With respect to the question of the replacement of the previous minister, who was it again? The federal government minister for AANDC, the previous Minister Duncan's position, where we held discussions with the department, Minister Valcourt is the successor minister. Since he is new, I couldn't recall his name. They have started sending their written reports called preliminary reports to the department and later on this spring, the final report will be submitted.

Furthermore, I can say that our colleagues to the west, both the Yukon and the NWT, have completed their devolution negotiations, as we just heard on the news two days ago about the successful completion of their talks. I congratulate the people and the NWT government for their success as they are on the verge of signing off on their agreement. Due to their paving the way in this area, we, the Territory of Nunavut, will be able to review their devolution agreement, although we aren't beholden to the same type of agreement simply because of the unique situation here in Nunavut. The same type of agreement wouldn't necessarily be applicable here since we want our own unique agreement.

If I am remiss in outlining these issues, then our Chief Negotiator for Devolution, Mr. Akeeagok, can elaborate on these issues as required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Akeeagok, did you

want to make some additions? Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was good to hear the comments from the member. In the year 2008, we signed off on a memorandum of understanding with NTI, the federal government, and our Nunavut government on the issue of petroleum resources and this is already public information. This set of negotiations will be quite difficult, which seems obvious, but again, this is another matter we will have to consider in light of our need to be prepared for these talks. It was quite interesting to listen to the member's comments in this respect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have another question. I believe we have to be very careful in monitoring that. Further, as our Premier, I want her to know that if she kept the MLAs informed about any progress, especially prior to signing on to the process, it would be much better.

If the whole devolution process is to proceed, it will require consideration of the fact that Nunavut has no road system nor do we have any access roads to these mineral deposits, especially to share in development costs. Prior to any production, they require huge amounts of capital to construct their infrastructure.

Today, we all know at this time that we only have one producing mine here in Nunavut. If this government receives royalties from this mine, which is low,

and we are to receive 50 percent of these royalties, then we can't even make plans for capital projects. So in our future, when the Nunavut government does get an agreement on royalties, in my opinion, we should receive more than 50 percent.

Here is my reason: our shipping season lasts only one season during the summer, perhaps to the extent of three or four months a year. Some communities have a five-month window, such as Iqaluit, which can perhaps reach that five-month period. However, most other communities are restricted to a three-month period for shipping goods for construction projects. We can only ship them via sealift vessels.

So I urge this government to commit to this process and to ensure that members are kept abreast of any developments so that the concepts we shared can be reviewed. Perhaps before we vote on this matter, it may behoove us to hold a special briefing session. I would like to hear more about this initiative. It is obvious that the administrators and the various bodies that may need to be transferred to Nunavut for this may be beneficial. We can find these matters out at any time. Can the Premier agree to hold a special briefing meeting on this matter prior to the end of this session? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comments and his question. We are planning it at this time in regard to devolution. It's being planned, including briefing the schools

to find out exactly what devolution is because our young people have to know about it. They are our future. We have been doing some briefing on devolution with the schools and the public as well. We have been giving out information regarding devolution. I could say that we will be briefing the members as well before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Further, since this is only one set of negotiations, it will be a very important issue for the federal government, especially the most important matter to us, which is our extreme environment. I can call our lands harsh and cold. The reason why I bring it up is to put it in the context of arctic sovereignty. With Inuit being at the forefront of arctic sovereignty for Canada, I believe that there should be a clause related to this issue. In my opinion, we should include some sort of arctic sovereignty protocol, but I'm unsure of how to word it in the agreement. (interpretation ends) It's unique (interpretation) and Inuit are in this harsh environment for this reason, the (interpretation ends) arctic sovereignty issue.

(interpretation) I will table a document if I were allowed to table a document, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) and my colleagues, ideas about arctic sovereignty. (interpretation) Senator Watt hosted a meeting in relation to this. Does (interpretation ends) arctic sovereignty (interpretation) provide Inuit with further rights or do only our governments have this type of right? The discussion on arctic sovereignty that I

participated in will be the subject of the document I will table. It is purely for speculative thinking, although it is not quite finished yet.

My colleague, whom I see regularly, has a card with a saying, (interpretation ends) “Arctic Sovereignty Includes Me.” Me too! (interpretation) Inuit live in a harsh environment with icecaps because without icecaps, we wouldn’t be living in such a harsh environment and our animals wouldn’t be what they are without the environment. Due to these reasons, can this issue be taken into consideration during this process, arctic sovereignty, and how we can include it in our discussions along with wording? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our arctic foundation is an extremely important matter, including the fact that Inuit have to be acknowledged for providing the foundation. As we have continued to maintain, Inuit are the reason why the Arctic is so important. (interpretation ends) It is the people when it comes to sovereignty. (interpretation) We continually state that as our position.

Those are very good ideas to consider as we prepare to start down the road towards devolution negotiations, which includes identifying issues for negotiations. Further, I urge and encourage my colleague to contact the staff either during or after our sessions to put forward his ideas to either Mr. Akeagok or to our department, to the administrators, especially to the

devolution staff. They should be able to ask further questions.

We also want to ensure members have the opportunity to voice their concerns or pass along their vision for this initiative. So we are open to that as this is a new development that we’re undertaking. This process will also take several years to complete, which seems obvious, as we won’t be able to complete it overnight. We will ensure that all members have that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to return to the matter of the devolution agreement as we may not have a chance once it is initiated. When speaking of royalties, we have to really be knowledgeable of and monitor that most of our royalties will accrue from mineral deposit development projects than petroleum royalties (interpretation ends) maybe for the next 50 years.

(interpretation) The reason for that is many so-called experts in the petroleum sector as well as exploration companies believe that a lot of petroleum resources lie in our territory. However, the experts’ published reports, especially the United States geologists, have stated that (interpretation ends) proven reserves, including all the Arctic nations, (interpretation) if those reserves were to be sold today, not 50 years from now, but today in this global market, it may last only three years. (interpretation ends) Ten times or more (interpretation) amounts of reserves need to be found

prior to us being able to sell the petroleum products.

In the NWT, there are proven reserves, such as at Norman Wells, along with natural gas deposits in the Beaufort Sea. Maybe for the NWT, a 50-50 split may be sufficient for their government, but here in Nunavut, I think it has to be a larger share due to our challenges. Perhaps the minister can conduct more research into these issues as to whether that is, indeed, the case. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, most of the comments are being noted, including the various opinions and ideas that members have relayed. As we prepare for this initiative, all of these issues will be taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. We're on page B-9. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back to the Government of Nunavut's Interdepartmental Nutrition North Canada Subsidy Program Monitoring Committee. It was my understanding that when the Premier announced this, it was within her department, under EIA, that was handling this. Could the minister clarify: are any employees within her department involved with the monitoring of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we started discussion on the Nutrition North program, I wanted information from the southern administrators of the program for foodstuffs originating from southern locales to the north. When the initial discussions started to take place, I wanted to find out exactly what type of program it was, its purpose, and that is why I also asked my senior staff to do some research on the issues that they were considering. At that time, the standing committee reviewing the program was struck, although many of their original staff left.

This review, which is separate from the program, will be something that the economic development and transportation department can speak to in their reports. However, I can ask my Deputy Minister, Mr. Vandermeulen, to elaborate briefly on it, as he has some background on it. Provided the Chairman is amenable to this request, I would like him to speak to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is an interdepartmental committee, to the best of my knowledge, and has members on it from a number of different committees. In the past, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has had representation, but most of the work is being brought together under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, in the explanation of what the committee was actually supposed to do, I think its mandate was to monitor the Nutrition North Canada Subsidy Program. Is that still the mandate of what the committee does when they meet? It sounds like it is just being shuffled off to Economic Development and Transportation under the Poverty Reduction Strategy and said, "Take care of it," with stuff that has been going on within the department.

What I would have thought was under EIA, it would be a better fit because you would be communicating directly with the federal government from your department, which does that on a regular basis, communicating. As Mr. Schell was pointing out, there are government officials who are working in Ottawa, who are close to Parliament Hill, who would actually be able to explain better what problems or successes we are having with the Nutrition North Canada Program.

With the way it sounds like, I don't know the department is handling it. It's not going to be expressed properly to the federal government because I don't know whether your department gave the mandate for Economic Development and Transportation to actually go to the federal government and tell Aboriginal Affairs that the program is working or not working. So if we could get some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time when Nutrition North was first introduced and discussions were underway, a committee was struck, which is now up and running. The Makimaniq Anti-poverty Secretariat is part of the economic development and transportation department and this program was introduced prior to their creation.

We didn't want to have a two-pronged approach, which is why there is only one administration responsible for the program. Furthermore, I have faith in their mandate and to ensure that the minister is capable of fulfilling their duty, we interact with various levels of government and hold discussions with our federal government counterparts.

If I were to be tasked by the members on this issue or if anyone wishes to use our offices, our door is always open and this includes the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation's door that is always open as well. We are always open to frank discussions with the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of devolution, I know Mr. Curley had spoken quite a bit and had some suggestions and whatnot. I'm just curious in terms of the Northwest Territories had the Prime Minister up signing yesterday, I believe it was. Is there a rough timeline as to what the Nunavut government is looking at in terms of having a signed devolution agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the negotiable items listed in the (interpretation ends) devolution protocol (interpretation) have to be completed as it lists the items up for negotiation. Once it has been completed and agreed to and if the federal government agrees to this protocol, then it can move forward.

Since this process is barely started, with the negotiations scheduled tentatively, I can't put a date as to when this process would be completed nor can anyone else put a definitive date on it. However, we can only assume that it will happen some time in our future, perhaps a decade. The NWT government took ten years to complete their negotiations. Therefore, I can't put a date as the completion date, although I am quite pleased that we have now started the devolution process for the first time here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, Mr. Curley had mentioned about the resource revenue funding from exploration and extraction of resources, whether it is oil or minerals across the territory. My understanding of devolution is it also requires something that would be the federal responsibility now that would be transferred to the territory, which actually would mean jobs, which federal jobs now would become territorial jobs. How many jobs are we talking about?

I'm sure the department has been doing research and trying to find out, like you said, what would be traded off, and then there would be some sort of an implementation process because it wouldn't be like overnight that jobs would be transferred. How many jobs are we talking about that the federal government has here in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I will ask Mr. Akeegok to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of how many positions there currently are within the federal government, I don't have the specifics. In terms of how many will be transferred that will be part of the negotiations, I don't want to give any expectations to this House as to how many will be in terms of negotiations and for negotiations.

For the current federal positions, I don't have it here specifically with me, but there are positions that are in the territory and there are positions that are outside of the territory. We have compiled all those and it is part of preparing for our negotiations. So it is one that I don't want to give this House false information or information that is incorrect, which is subject to change. I want to be very cautious on that as it is

subject for negotiation.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Akeagok. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
For the jobs that are outside of the
territory, once the negotiations happen,
would those jobs still be outside of the
territory and Nunavut residents would
move out of the territory to work there or
would they be transferred here within the
territory? I asked this mainly because it
could create a housing problem like we
already have within the territory. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam
Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time,
what we have done is we are planning
because they would be coming over here
and it would be better for them to work
here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Do you happen to have a number in
terms of what percentage of federal
government employees are
beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam
Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but

we don't have that information at this
time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Without that information, it's hard to ask
the next question. I guess I can rephrase
it in a sense. The Government of
Nunavut is working towards a
representative government which
possibly could be 85 percent. I think
we're trying to go for 52 percent. If the
numbers within the federal government
are quite low, then that actually might
skew the numbers in terms of the
representative workforce. Is that
something that your department is
looking at or thinking about? Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be
part of the negotiation process for
devolution. It's not happening right now
and I'm pretty sure we will have to be a
representative government down the
road. CanNor, which is a division in the
Canadian government, has put that into
place, which would be a good starting
point related to (interpretation ends)
internships, (interpretation) where
people work for a period of three or four
months as an intern. I can't recall the
exact time period, but it is basically an
internship program. Further down the
road as more of our residents complete
their education and our workforce
grows, this will improve. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, what is the status of the transboundary negotiations with First Nations groups in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, nothing has really happened on the transboundary issues with Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and they also have a meeting every so often. I will get Mr. Vandermeulen to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transboundary discussions that are taking place are primarily as a result of an out-of-court settlement between Canada and the Denesuline of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Those discussions are ongoing. We had observers as part of that process.

The difficulty in giving you any kind of update on the negotiations is that there are binding confidentiality agreements on everyone around it. So it is very difficult for us to give you a meaningful update on the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm having a little chuckle. With some of the answers we're getting, I was thinking that maybe there is a binding agreement not to answer any of the questions.

What I would like to know is: how long has this boundary issue been going on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been ongoing for quite some time, even before Nunavut came to be. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I will get Mr. Vandermeulen to make an additional response to the member. They have been doing negotiations on those issues even before Nunavut was created. Thank you.

Chairman: Madam Premier, (interpretation) I apologize as I was busy with something. Did you want one of your officials to respond? (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): I am fine with the response I just gave. They have been doing negotiations on transboundary issues even before Nunavut came to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I am sorry, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I had heard that Mr. Vandermeulen was going to give more of a reply.

I guess my next question would be if these transboundary issues were going

on, with some of the paperwork I was reading and researching, I think it was as far back as 1993. How did the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement get signed if these issues were not worked out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. I think it's because Article 40 was able to make the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the GN keeping residents in affected communities such as Arviat informed, how is the government doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Vandermeulen stated, this is not open to everyone. It is under a confidentiality agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that there was a meeting that happened in Arviat. Is that true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, NTI had a private meeting on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is that under the assumption that everybody who was at that meeting signed some piece of paper in terms of a confidentiality agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was NTI's project, so I'm not really sure that happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the negotiations and the conversations that are going on, does the Government of Nunavut stand to gain anything from these negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are in negotiations, if we have anything that we can contribute to them, we can try to help them out in their negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the last federal election, there were campaign promises about a Manitoba-Nunavut road. Will negotiations slow down the progress of the road? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not really sure whether that road will be affected or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister commit to providing us with information once she is allowed to provide us with that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't said that I wouldn't be giving any information. That's not the case. Whenever there has to be any information given, we will provide the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: I'm done, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page B-9. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the comments Mr. Curley made earlier, as regular members, if we were to be given some items that could be discussed in the devolution agreement, perhaps we could take a look at them first as regular members and probably put down what we want to see as well.

Mr. Elliott touched up on the Manitoba-Nunavut all-weather road. I thought that we would be getting a road soon. I just want to know what is happening with that. Can you give us some information as to where you are at on that road project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our colleague for his questions. With respect to communications and keeping the members informed about the negotiable items, I can commit to providing more information once the information is made available to us.

Further, with respect to the highway you asked about, the question would be better directed to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation as to the current status of the proposal and whether any talks have been initiated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is at this meeting, I would ask that he be allowed to respond as it would be good to hear about the status of this road. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let me ask Minister Taptuna if he can respond to the question.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The discussions are ongoing with Manitoba with our department. As the member is well aware, the cost of the project is well beyond this government's allotted budget. There are discussions that are happening at this time right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I noted that the minister stated that discussions are underway, but I would like to know what the GN position is with relation to this proposal. Are they in support of this proposed connection? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project seems to be a good one, at least from an outside perspective and we do support this proposal, but we have severe financial restrictions. We just don't have the funds for this proposal and, as the minister indicated, it would be an extremely expensive project. We would

be required to undertake long-term strategic planning if we were to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, I understand the reasoning behind the reticence of the government due to the exorbitant cost and our fiscal restrictions at this time. However, we have to plan for our future and look forward, especially as we lurch towards devolution discussions.

We can't be stuck in the mindset of "not seeing the forest for the trees" and can't be small-minded when we're discussing these issues. All matters that are related to transportation, petroleum resource development, and devolution are quite intricate and detailed. We have to keep that in mind when debating these issues.

The questions I had related to this matter are now complete, Mr. Chairman. I certainly hope that my last few comments are coming across. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, (interpretation) do you understand that? (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our colleague for those comments. It is an important matter, especially for the Kivalliq region and its communities that are proponents of this proposal. It has been mentioned by the mayors in the

region and has been a regional initiative debated for a number of years.

As the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation indicated, discussions were underway. It will take multiple discussions to move it towards the negotiation table and after everything is agreed to, they would have to put together a strategic plan.

However, at this point in time, our biggest obstacle is the lack of funding, albeit it forces us to work with different partners and governments to fulfill the dream. If only the governments were to undertake this, it could only be done in conjunction with the other jurisdictions as a shared project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize in advance if I misunderstood the matter. I don't see the Nunavut government getting a lot of money to get this project going. I think you will only ever going to say that we don't have enough money to start this project or other projects and I don't see anything innovative that is coming about. I'm not going to make another further comment on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I don't believe you want the response to that. We are on page B-9. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding arctic sovereignty that Mr. Curley touched up on earlier, I thank him and I support him.

I'm not sure how much power we have in Nunavut. Of course, we are Canadians and arctic sovereignty is part of it. Maybe we could have arctic policy in Nunavut and Canada.

With regard to the climate change in Nunavut, there are changes coming about and because of this change, it is obvious that the United States are starting to focus more and more into the arctic because of climate change. There is resource development that they are working very hard on. With globalization, they are keeping a close eye on the changes that are coming about. They are also looking at the Northwest Passage that is going to be used more and more some time in the future.

As the people of Nunavut, if we are not vocal enough, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, if we're reluctant to recognize that there is climate change as global warm-up, there will be more potential for shipping and darned big shipping companies to come up here and travel through the Arctic, mainly the Northwest Passage. Should we be concerned as Canadian citizens and Nunavummiut? Of course, we have to be concerned as a result.

(interpretation) We definitely have to be concerned about those issues that are coming about with global warming, climate change, and so on happening. There are going to be more and more ships coming around. (interpretation ends) We can no longer ignore the potential for other companies to come up here and use the north for their own resource development due to transforming of the climate change. Perhaps one day, if we don't do it, the

US may want to start arctic national wildlife reviews. I don't know, but I'll just throw it in there.

(interpretation) Again, there's the European Union that is concerned about our polar bears. Again, Tagak Curley went to the international conference on polar bears. We can look at alliances with those countries regarding the High Arctic or the Nunavut area and the Northwest Passage. If the Northwest Passage opens, we have to be concerned about the polar bears.

As Canadians and Nunavummiut, we are the ones who are most able to protect our wildlife. We are conservationists of our wildlife; we are concerned about our wildlife with the changing climate and with arctic sovereignty. Because Nunavut is our country, we want to be the protectors of our land and we are most able. Please help us if you are concerned about the polar bears. We can say that to the other countries. We have protocols, wildlife management regimes, and so on. I just wanted to make that comment.

We can't wait, we can't do it ourselves, but I would like to tell Madam Premier to have discussions with her federal counterparts, not just wait for other people, but to set up a policy on arctic sovereignty. We have to take the initiative and (interpretation ends) we can't be reluctant. (interpretation) I would like that to be understood. We are the ones who are most able to care for our wildlife. I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question,

and we all got that clear message. I will proceed. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to reiterate a couple of comments here from my colleagues and my esteemed colleague, Mr. Ningark. About three or four years ago, I made a brief statement as well in the House indicating that sovereignty in Canada, the north has a major role to play. Mr. Curley had also mentioned about the importance of our footprint in Canada as well as of our contributions.

Very briefly, I would like to thank Mr. Ningeongan as well for also addressing the issue of the Nunavut-Manitoba road. About a year ago, the Manitoba legislature invited Nunavut's Legislative Assembly members to formally recognize the Manitoba-Kivalliq relations that date back quite some time. Many have gone down south for medical purposes, education purposes, college, and training opportunities. So there is a formal setting when Manitoba and the Inuit of Nunavut and the Kivalliq were invited to have a formal ceremony to acknowledge the relations.

Mr. Chairman, aside from that, there were informal discussions on the side with some legislators in Manitoba indicating that the Nunavut-Manitoba road would greatly benefit transportation and partnerships within and between Manitoba and Nunavut, but also to enhance what the Province of Manitoba and the Territory of Nunavut can do to contribute to Canada. It would have major impacts in terms of transportation costs, reduction of transportation costs, and the ability for Nunavummiut to be able to drive down to Manitoba and also

have access to the rest of Canada like the rest of any other Canadians.

The major impact that was also kept in partnership is the idea of the partnership of resources and transportation of goods. I think the federal government, the Province of Manitoba, and the Territory of Nunavut should look at this further. I agree with Mr. Ningeongan as well the fact that we should actually plan on something like this in order to reduce the cost of living, in order for Nunavummiut to be able to have that same benefit and the rights and access to goods and services.

With that comment, I just wanted to ask for the record, Mr. Chairman. It's under B-9. As of today, what is the status of transboundary negotiations with First Nations groups in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba? How is the GN keeping residents in affected communities, such as Arviat, informed of the situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Before we get a response to that, I would like to remind everyone that we had already dealt with general comments, so if we can focus on the page-by-page review. We will start going forward. You had an opportunity for general comments. That's just a reminder. I would prefer that we just focus on the page-by-page-review so that we can move forward. With that out of the way, Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Manitoba-Nunavut road, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation was working on a

(interpretation ends) business case. (interpretation) It was tabled last year in the House, with a draft plan, which I am sure the members have had a chance to peruse. It outlines in the business case that it would cost approximately \$1.3 billion for this project our colleague referred to.

With respect to the second question, I believe we had already responded to that earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify that, for the record, I appreciate the response that was given.

Since we're under the heading of B-9, it specifically states, "...provides leadership and coordination for the management and development of strategies, policies and initiatives related to federal, provincial and territorial relations. It manages relationships with aboriginal, circumpolar, and international organizations," which is why I had to make that statement in regard to the sovereignty aspect, the Manitoba-Nunavut road, as well as relations between Nunavut and other First Nations, such as Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Thank you for the opportunity. It's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I appreciate all the comments. Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I want to speak in

Inuktitut, but in regard to some of the statements we heard, there seems to be an implication of the parliamentary rules. I will prefer to speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Although I appreciate any confidential agreements that are in place, whether it be with respect to labour agreements with the federal government or negotiating with any interest groups out there, I believe that all claims negotiations, yes, we all understand that they are confidential. I don't think a confidential agreement should prevent parliamentarians or politicians from asking questions or the press to ask questions about negotiations. Otherwise, it would be much like a dictatorship trying to reach a deal with somebody.

My question to the Premier is this: does the confidential agreement in place with respect to my part of the region, my hunting area in south Kivalliq, prevent me from asking questions about the progress and the nature of the negotiations as a politician, as an MLA for the Kivalliq region? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I appreciate all the comments that have been made. We are listening. They are comments that are coming from the heart and they are very important. Yes, anyone should have an opportunity to ask questions. At times, if we don't have the responses to your questions on hand or if they relate to issues under negotiations, then it falls under the umbrella of (interpretation ends) confidentiality. (interpretation) We don't always have

room to move when it is a confidentiality matter. That is why we can't table the information. However, we are always open to questions and we welcome any and all questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I thank the minister for the response. My question, then, is with respect to the sub-agreement or the possible amendments to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement which, in good faith, I think Nunavutmiut signed off over 15 years ago. My question is: when the negotiations conclude with the Denesuline and the federal government and NTI, will there be a sub-amendment or amendment to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and, if that is so, could the minister maybe consider briefing the MLAs as to what the status of it may be in the future? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no information on the proposed amendment referred to by the member. Further, if any changes occurred and if we had any updates to provide, I would be quite pleased to make those announcements as they arose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If an amendment is required to be made, Inuit will have to be kept abreast of that as our agreement

speaks to overlapping hunting rights and they can't be implicated in another agreement. Their hunting rights aren't fettered in Nunavut, these Denesuline from Manitoba.

We also have shared hunting rights in the southern parts of Nunavut, yet Inuit don't have the reciprocal rights within Manitoba as our aboriginal rights to hunt have been blocked. Due to that reason, it would have to be a new matter related to their quest for resource control as they may try to gain ownership of some lands within Nunavut. If that is the case, the Inuit of Kivalliq will need to be informed, as well as all MLAs whose constituencies may be affected. Can the Premier consider that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per the member's comments, if these issues will impact any Nunavummiut, particularly in the Kivalliq region, they have to be identified. If there are any issues required to be identified, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to that matter, I will stop there for now, as we will revisit it as progress is made in those discussions. Unfortunately, the minister responsible isn't present at the House, who we travelled with from Bangkok, Thailand, the Minister of Environment. I hear he is scheduled to arrive soon.

It became quite obvious, Mr. Chairman, that our government which is under this Premier's leadership had very little information on polar bears or Inuit culture available based on the ignorance of other countries. Also, the polar bear experts with previous federal government field experience and their reports are being used by the animal rights activists, with the names banded about in the hallways whenever we would pass them. Due to this fact, it is clear that the Nunavut government's message is inadequate and that another message has to be conveyed as the government's message.

The person sitting besides you knows these facts and he was one of our strong advocates, as David was able to make a statement when the proposed amendment was tabled by the European Union. There were only three of us Inuit allowed to speak to the matter for the GN. I was the first person to speak, followed by David speaking to the proposed amendment while I spoke to the US proposal. Immediately after our speeches, the NGO representative was allowed to speak. Only four of us were allowed to state our positions, (interpretation ends) perhaps after 50 nations, maybe 40. (interpretation) It was only after these nations spoke that Terry Audla had his chance. He was amongst the last delegates to speak to the issue. He was second last.

What I am trying to convey here is the (interpretation ends) messaging. (interpretation) The world believes the polar bears can only live on the "ice." They have no idea polar bears use the land and water too. Therefore, the message that polar bears can only live on sea ice has taken root, which is why the

climate change theorists ask, “Where will the polar bears live when the ice is gone?”

Perhaps when the Minister of Environment returns, you can discuss the issues. We definitely have to restart our official message, especially from an IQ perspective. As Inuit, we have to get the international community to teach them Inuit traditional knowledge. We definitely have to thank the Canadian delegation for persevering during that meeting. It was obvious that Nunavut definitely has their work cut out for them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I didn’t hear a question. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Curley for going to that meeting in Bangkok; it was very useful.

Yesterday, Mr. Curley and I had a brief discussion outside of the House and we talked about very important issues. It is very obvious that for the next three years, we will have to properly plan as a government on wildlife and polar bear management. Once Mr. Arreak comes in at the end of this sitting, we will have to do a lot of work to prepare for what we are going to be doing on this issue in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Madam Premier, I asked that question because they are not completed yet. At the CITES meeting, there are 178 nations

and they have another six hours to go. They anticipate that there might be another vote on polar bears.

Can the Premier and her deputy find out as soon as possible if they are going to have another vote? There are a lot of representatives from external affairs. Could you ask them if they are having another vote? That would not be fair. There are a lot of animal rights activists out there. I’m not going to say who is there. They are anticipating them to put it back on the table.

Friday is the last day of their meeting, but it is almost Thursday there now. I just received an email not too long ago. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Aariak, I think Mr. Curley is asking if you could direct someone to look and see if they are anticipating another vote. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Curley. We do have Canadian representatives still there. The Canadian delegation is prepared and we are keeping our ears open on what is happening over there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. We are on Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,249,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will then go back to B-3. I hope you are on the same page in English. B-3. Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,907,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that we have concluded the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Aariak, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you very much and thank you for your questions. They do help us a lot as people of Nunavut and gives us challenges and planning for the future because Nunavut is growing. Thank you very much for your questions.

I would also like to thank the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs staff for their hard work. I'm especially thankful to Mr. Vandermeulen and Mr. Akeegok for being here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Since we have concluded EIA and before we move to the Department of Family Services, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. At this time, we will take a 20-minute break while we plan for the next department.

Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:02 and resumed at 15:27*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We will begin our review of the Department of Family Services. I would like to ask Minister Peterson to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Minister Peterson.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to discuss the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services.

The new Department of Family Services organizational design brings together many elements of the social safety net to better enable seamless delivery of support to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services will provide a range of programs and services to support self-reliance in an environment focused on providing protection to our most vulnerable. The various programs and services begin with a foundation of assistance to provide necessities to those who cannot provide for themselves while promoting self-reliance by providing access to an integrated system of supports for career training, post-secondary education, and trades.

The Poverty Reduction Secretariat, the homelessness file, and the Family Violence Strategy will also be incorporated. These initiatives will help link programs and services currently operating independently. We will continue to involve communities in decision-making about their future in order to assist individuals and families to improve health and well-being while gaining the skills to be self-sufficient. This collaborative approach is essential to the success of the Department of Family Services.

In the coming months, consultations will continue with all affected departments to identify areas where it will be important to have formal agreements in place to specify how organizations will work together to complete the transition. The new department must create a vision for integrated programs and services that will balance the government's regulatory obligations and its supportive functions in an effective and efficient way. That work will benefit from the consultative initiatives that have already been completed, such as the social services review and various anti-poverty initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, in order to have the department operational on April 1, we have put forward a budget of \$112.9 million for the 2013-14 fiscal year, which includes 174.6 position years. This budget reflects:

- An increase of \$1.7 million to address the budget shortfall from 2011-12 in the Social Assistance Program;
- An internal reallocation from FANS to establish the adult learning and

training supports funding program; and

- An increase to the residential care budget of \$2,049,000.

Of course, the final details of the budget will be subject to approval by the legislature in this sitting.

There are great expectations for the new department, but I do not expect major changes immediately. As with any new organization, there will be setbacks, but the time spent effectively planning for a future with integrated and supportive programs and services will be well worth it.

The Department of Family Services looks forward to building a strong team of professionals and continuing work that has been done by our colleagues over the years. I am eager to work with the committee and my colleagues to improve services for those most vulnerable, building capacity, and enhancing education and skills training opportunities in our territory.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before we proceed, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

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

Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Sandy Teiman, Acting Deputy Minister for the Department of Family Services. To my left is David Kolot from Corporate Services for the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have any opening comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services.

The 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services is approximately \$113 million and represents the combined budgets of a number of divisions which were formerly based within other departments and have been transferred to the newly created department.

The Department of Family Services begins its mandate on April 1, 2013. The standing committee has expressed some concern regarding the transition of service delivery to one department from several others and encourages the minister in his efforts to ensure that no clients or personnel 'fall through the cracks.' Members encourage Department of Family Services' officials to work

closely with their counterparts in the departments of Education, Health, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Economic Development and Transportation, Human Resources, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the overall intent of creating the new Department of Family Services is to provide an integrated system which will deliver programs and services in support of the social safety net concept. Not only will it provide protection for the most vulnerable in our society, but it is also intended to focus on promoting self-reliance and improving standards of living.

As with any new initiative, some setbacks in implementing this revised approach to service delivery are to be expected. However, given that the department will be responsible for several very sensitive and critical service areas, such as child welfare, poverty reduction, income assistance, and career development, to name a few, members stress the need to closely monitor progress in all areas from the outset. Effective communications with the public will also be key to a successful transition.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly encourages the minister and his officials to coordinate service delivery and the transition of the various aspects of service delivery between all departments. In addition, frontline workers, such as social workers, income assistance workers, and career development officers, must receive every available support and adequate resources to carry out their

responsibilities. Committee members again encourage the government to use the positions of community-based government liaison officers (GLOs) to provide assistance to community residents in accessing services and support from the appropriate departments as well as in communicating policies and procedures related to service delivery for the public.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services will have the responsibility for delivering income assistance programs, which are directed towards assisting families and adult individuals to meet their basic needs. This program is intended as a program of last resort, and members have noted with concern a recent increase in the demand for benefits. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to roll out the new income assistance electronic case management system across all of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services will administer a number of programs and resources related to adult and post-secondary learning, including the delivery of the Financial [Assistance] for Nunavut Students (FANS) program. Members note that the Department of Education will also continue to play a role in policy and direction of the FANS program and other adult learning opportunities and members again stress the need for communication and coordination between departments.

Members have noted that upcoming changes to the FANS program may result in changes to funding sources available to adult learners and were

pleased to learn that alternative funding sources are being identified for individuals who may no longer be eligible under FANS.

Mr. Chairman, while the standing committee supports the government's intention to create a "one-window" service delivery model, members also encourage the minister and his officials to provide additional support to distinct social groups, including elders societies, youth initiatives, men's groups, and the like, which seek to address specific issues affecting them.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Before we get to the page-by-page review, are there any general comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials. This item on page 2 that is listed in the second bullet as the FANS program, I can't grasp the concept as it is written here. It states that the Department of Education will provide direction and preparation of the policies to guide this program, yet it is to be transferred to the new Department of Family Services. The transfer of this program to this department raises a question which I will ask when we get to the page-by-page review. I just want the officials to be aware that this will require further clarification, as I want to hear the reasoning behind this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Please ensure you noted that and are aware that you will be queried on this issue when we reach that item. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. From time to time, we are reminded by the Office of the Auditor General of what we should be doing. It's merely an opinion, but I think we all should note and remember that these are serious opinions and we should try and address them whenever we have the resources to meet that.

According to the tabled document of the Auditor General's report, 21 – 3(3), tabled on March 8, 2011, here is one on page 2 noted by the Auditor General, "What We Found." In that, it states, and I quote, "The Department of Health and Social Services is not adequately meeting its key responsibilities for the protection and well-being of the children, youth, and their families." I think this new Department of Family Services is there to address that and I, as the Member for Akulliq, consisting of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, welcome this very much.

I think we have a task to ensure that every member of society, mainly Nunavut, should live in their homes where they feel safe, comfortable, loved, and be part of the community. I am glad that this new department is to serve the needs of our most vulnerable members of society. This will address that to a degree, but we have to ensure that... .

Again, when the Auditor General makes a report, the Auditor General stated in

one of her reports that we need resources and social workers in each and every community. If we want this department to address the needs of children, youth, and their family, we have to make sure that we have the resources necessary to make sure that these things that we talk about today are addressed at the local community level.

That's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We are under general comments. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the opening comments the minister made, in the second paragraph, Mr. Ningark had pointed out "providing protection to our most vulnerable." The next sentence states, Mr. Chairman, "a foundation of assistance to provide necessities to those who cannot provide for themselves while promoting self reliance..." In the third paragraph, the third sentence reads, "We will continue to involve communities in decision-making about their future in order to assist individuals and families to improve health and well-being while gaining the skills to be self-sufficient."

It should also be addressed that it is well known, as the minister is aware, he deals with the most sensitive and vulnerable of the departments in Nunavut that affects everybody's lives. As well, no doubt that he had mentioned about effectively planning for the future programs and services. I just want to point out that no doubt, there is a need for qualified family services counsellors and a need for bilingual counsellors as well.

With the high number of young men in the judicial system, amongst the highest in the country per ratio, though the PYs and recruiting are ongoing, it should also be noted that perhaps integrating male counsellors are needed as well to provide the diversity and also that affect the community at various levels the most. Just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. We are under general comments. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Minister Peterson and your officials, Mr. Kolot and Ms. Teiman. I am familiar with them as I have seen them many times in past reviews, but they seemed to have been transferred to the new department.

Mr. Chairman, when this new Department of Family Services was first brought up as an idea, it became obvious that some members would have a problem completing the review, even if it was to take a year due to the upcoming election. This department and its mandate is good preparation for the future, especially how our people will be affected.

I tend to return to my own electorate when I think of the issues here, as they have expectations of certain improvements to the provision of government services and I take that responsibility seriously. One of the biggest concerns voiced, which I personally share, is that the government now has a big problem. All policies, directives, and decisions are made from the top and trickle downwards to the people. As an example, our people are directed to undertake certain things. If

they don't follow these directives, then the people are told that their children will be apprehended. That is just an example.

With traditional Inuit principles, it should be coming from the bottom up, from what the people expect, from what our families expect, since we have to try to listen to their concerns. We have to listen to what their wishes are in that regard, especially as it relates to legislation and policies. We have to try to incorporate Inuit values into them. To date, we are fettered by this approach. It would better serve our people if we changed this when dealing with the new Department of Family Services.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I will have another question in regard to social services. Why can't we hire traditional social service workers? Are there problems under policies? Are we being restricted by the government from hiring Inuit to include Inuit societal values? This has been ignored to date. That being the case, I have some great expectations. We will try to have some expectations so the policies and regulations include Inuit societal values. Also some of social services like probation officers should be given some further consideration, whether social services should be delivered by probation officers.

The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is important and they also try to use that to correct the problems within the families. How come this was ignored? So those are going to be my concerns. I will be asking questions on it. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is not included under Family Services. It's being retained by the Department of Justice. Is

it supporting the goals of Family Services?

These are just comments for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. They will probably be prepared for your questioning. Are there still any general comments? If there are none, we're going to go to the Branch Summary.

I'm not going to be using the Inuktitut version because the page numbers are incorrect. I'm going to be referring to the English version.

We're going to start off with D-4. Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me have a question first of all because we're trying to undertake new initiatives. I believe there are 170 PYs. That seems to be the case when they integrated various departments, according to the minister's opening comments. Did you have to cut jobs in order to incorporate the new department or did you have to add additional PYs or did you have to reduce staff members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, what we did is simply moved PYs from other department to create the new department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): In your opening remarks, some of my colleagues had mentioned earlier that we will not be able to monitor it after the new department is up and running for over a year due to the general election. Maybe since this is a brand-new department, they will experience growing pains, which seems rather obvious to me. With respect to these potential problems, if they were to surface during the fiscal year 2013-14, they may require amendments based on these problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always said in briefings and comments here and there that the new department will start on April 1, 2013. It's not going to resolve all of our issues overnight. There will be an opportunity some time for the new department and all officials to work together to review the programs and review the service delivery to the communities. I anticipate there are going to be issues, but like we always do in government and working through the Legislative Assembly, we work towards finding solutions to any issues that come up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,456,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will continue to page D-5. Branch Summary. Family Services. Children and Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$50,330,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page D-6. Family Services. Branch Summary. Income Assistance. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Income Assistance Program provides various levels of financial support to individuals and families in need, as well as providing programs to encourage self-reliance.

I understand that the amount of social assistance payments are calculated by taking into consideration the different kinds of financial resources which clients may have and that some sources of money are considered as income in those calculations and some sources aren't.

In looking through the Social Assistance Regulations, I see that money received as child tax benefits under the *Income Tax Act* is not included in the monthly income and neither is the working income tax benefits provided under the *Income Tax Act*.

Can the minister clarify whether or not income tax refunds are considered as a source of income and whether an individual's social assistance payments are deducted accordingly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the questions. The answers are yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a client provides their income tax refund to the income support worker, how much is a client allowed before his income becomes a deductible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Chairman, it is under the income and, therefore, there is no deduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Mr. Chairman, it could be argued that deducting income tax refunds from social assistance payments is posing yet another barrier to individuals who are trying to find work or earn money to help support themselves and their families. Can the minister explain why income tax refunds are considered as income for social assistance clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we're going to get into a detailed area here, I'm going to have my Acting Deputy Minister, Sandy Teiman, respond to the questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently income tax refunds are considered unearned income and, therefore, there is no deduction, so it's taken dollar for dollar off social assistance. If a client can prove that they have spent it on household furniture, equipment, or major clothing supplies, then we can rejig the assessment that way, but we have a legal opinion that it is considered unearned income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since 1999, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has allowed income assistance clients to keep \$500 of their income tax refund before any deductions from their income assistance payments. More recently, in October of 2012, the Province of British Columbia stopped deducting income tax refunds from income assistance payments.

Would the minister consider making changes to Nunavut's assistance regulations and allow clients who are trying to work to keep their funds without having their social assistance payments affected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. It's something we could consider we look at, but I have to warn the members that it could cost a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on this selfsame page, I have some questions or rather, a request for clarification since Nunavummiut need clarity, particularly my own comprehension of the Income Assistance Program.

Mr. Chairman, firstly I want to ask this question so that I will also be quite clear in my understanding. We are all aware that the purpose of this program is primarily for food purchases, the income support funds. How or is there any guidelines set out to guide purchases for its intended purpose? That will be my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood Mr. Enook correctly, the response would be that it's the individual's right to spend the money as they please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): If I receive income assistance, is it my

understanding that nobody can tell me what I should or shouldn't spend it? Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, it would be very difficult for the department or income support officials to police the way recipients spend their money once it's issued. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that a concern by the department? As an MLA, it has been explained to me and I have been told that perhaps the income assistance payments are being abused. Has any consideration ever been given? For example, given that these are public funds provided by our government, I believe they can dictate how these funds are to be used for. (interpretation ends) I think it is their right. (interpretation) I believe they have that discretion since it is public funds from the government. Has the bureaucracy ever reconsidered this matter in light of possible solutions or alternatives that can resolve this? Has this even been taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for that question. Of course, we're always concerned about the funds that are issued

and we want them to be used for the purposes intended.

Mr. Chairman, in approximately 90 percent of the cases, cheques for income support are issued to stores to purchase food. The other 10 percent would be for clothing, electricity, and housing. I don't know how people are converting income assistance into cash. I hear anecdotal stories of how they do it. Again, it's very difficult for us to police. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Peterson mentioned that it is very difficult to police it. That was my understanding. So are we just going to ignore the present status quo? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for his question. I understand his concern, but we do have to respect that people are responsible and they will apply for income support, and then they will use it for the purposes intended; food for themselves, their families, their kids, clothing, and pay their bills. We have to respect that. Again, as I said, it's very difficult for us to police, but I understand Mr. Enook's concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister

for stating that he understands my concern. I would prefer that my concerns not just be understood, but resolved.

With respect to children, many elected officials state that they are the most important facets of proper stewardship. On the other hand, although I maintain that position, I believe it also applies to our beloved elders. The elders are subject to abuse. Even though our elders are our biggest foundation, we seem powerless to prevent their abuse. Some individuals, after abusing their income support payments, turn to their elders trying to obtain more funds from them. I thank Mr. Minister for understanding this matter. I will assume that since he implicitly stated he understood my concerns, this matter will be subject to further review.

This isn't a question, Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me to proceed. Another matter I want to ask a question about for my own understanding as well as for my fellow Nunavummiut is that in Nunavut, we are under duress due to this extreme housing shortage. Let me first ask this question. Due to the lack of housing, several families sometimes occupy the same housing unit. Here I talk about extended families. Can these separate families all qualify for income support if none of the parents work, whether there are two or three families within that same unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comments and questions. I would just like to respond to his earlier comments.

Yes, we know there are many issues out there. We have all heard of elder abuse and other issues out there that are affecting our elders in the communities. Again, it is one of the intentions of this new department is that we can focus on those areas and get it out from social services and income support into one department where we can have complete focus on our families, communities, and children. It's good to hear these comments and it's good to discuss it.

With respect to income support payments, each person is considered an individual and they can apply for income support if they live in the same house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the hon. minister for his answer. During Mr. Tapardjuk's commentary, I agreed with what he stated. We all have expectations at this point in time related to this newly created department, first for its newness and secondly, to ensure that these issues are given prior consideration. Awesome! That is good to hear. If we debate these issues now, then it may allow them some time before real problems arise to deal with them as they would have already been considered previously.

This issue which I want to now ask about is based on this reasoning. It is my understanding that after a six-month period, families or members of a family can also be provided assistance with sundry items, such as furniture, beds, or a chest. Am I correct in my comprehension of this policy? Is this true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand Mr. Enook correctly, if they are the renter of the house, they could apply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me pose this next question. A person who isn't the head of the house or the renter won't ever be able to rent a house due to the immense housing shortage we are experiencing. Given this situation, can't we at least look at the case of that person requesting a bed or is that bureaucratically impossible? This person has to be stuck with sleeping on the floor since they aren't the renter of the unit or head of the household. Is that how I understand the situation to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Income Support Program would consider that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear Minister Peterson's answer, so if you can ask him to repeat it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends)

Minister Peterson, can you repeat your response, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. My answer was that we would consider that and it has been done. I'm going to add to that answer. We have done it before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't have too many questions to ask. However, as legislators, we are often informed throughout our workday by many people. The reason why I raised these questions was because I wasn't sure whether they would be included. I wonder whether they could be taken into consideration. I will stop there for now. I thank Minister Peterson for his responses and for outlining those to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I think this is just a comment and not a question. I don't think Mr. Curley had any time, so I'm going to get him to speak first, followed by Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions that I would like to ask because I do have some concerns with respect to income support. They are in regard to housing. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, another minister, a member of the cabinet, has indicated that the rental scale will soon be made public, perhaps

by the end of this summer. In view of that, the minister has indicated that there will likely be positive changes with respect to leasehold, who actually is leasing the unit, and the one leasing the unit will primarily be paying the lease on the house, not so much those sleeping overnight during the week or the month or the years.

In view of that, I would expect the minister for social services has also consulted with the minister responsible for housing in terms of improving what is the income of the elderly or the vulnerable individuals who may be dependent on social income or income support.

Having said that, could the minister clearly present this committee exactly what will remain on clawback provisions when considering income of those who are dependent on income support? Will it be arts and crafts sales subject to clawbacks? Will it be a bingo windfall or lottery windfall? I'm sure you have a list of those that I don't have. Could you outline them for us, please. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Fortunately, my acting deputy minister has many years of experience in the income support area and she would like to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are three types of income in the

Income Support Program. There's the wages that are deducted and there's allowances on those, so the first \$200 of somebody's earned income as a single and \$400 as a family member, families are allowed to keep that. There are about 23 to 25 different types of unearned income in the current regulations which are always under review. Things like the national child's tax benefit are considered unearned income and things like that, and then there's the exempted income, which is the Canada child tax benefit. So that's how it's set out in the current regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My question leads to another intrigue on my part. That's really quite a complicated process for a small community's housing association's official to try and figure out what is or should be included in the tax stuff. Do you guys do quite a bit of training for these individuals or do you provide them financial assistance to try and help you out and figure out what should be clawed back and this sort of thing in view of the fact that it's really quite complex? It involves the tax system. Maybe the minister can explain further exactly how they are trained. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question and clarification. We would be training our income support workers and they would be doing the work, working with the clients in the communities. It

wouldn't be the housing corporation people doing that or the local housing organizations. That would be income support workers undertaking all of that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the minister for his response. I have further questions on another subject that also has to do with those dependent on income support for survival, mainly to buy food and clothing for the children. I believe these are the people that we call vulnerable members of our communities that the government has been quite strongly indicating that they do need to be paid attention and supported.

I also know that those members of our communities are much more affected with respect to substance abuse within the family circle. I wonder what kind of preventative initiatives the government has that whatever little income the family members are getting from Income Support is not spent unwisely and financially because of those members of the family who are addicted to substance abuse. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Again, as I had replied in an earlier question, we don't police how people spend their money. It's very difficult. Most of the payments or cheques are issued for food, clothing, and electricity, but we don't actually have a mechanism where we can actually be with the people and see how

they spend their money, if they have any money to spend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The information that we have as MLAs occasionally is that it is quite expensive to maintain a habit of addictions if you have more than one person addicted. Many times, those family members who are dependent on income support do have more than one individual who is dependent on substance abuse to maintain their habit. It is really up to the family whether or not the family member wants to maintain support to those members who are addicted. In most cases, they are known because they are also involved in other families' problems.

So the government really has no hands-on or no advice for those members who may be really spending more money on maintaining substance abuse. Is that what I understood the minister to say? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the comment and question. Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Curley will see that when the new Department of Family Services comes into being on April 1, we will have other components that will be able to assist the families. We have the Social Services side, which will be able to assist families who have family members who are experiencing difficulties. There will be counsellors.

We will be working very closely with the Department of Health. We're going to make sure that happens. There are MOUs being put in place or will be put in place. There will be support in the communities for the families and for individuals who are struggling with addictions and for families who have relatives who are struggling with addictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I understand the minister. I did understand the minister say that it's very difficult to control the independence of those members who do receive income support as to how they spend their money. I wonder if the minister can elaborate a bit on why he excludes the possible option that he has to at least allow 50 percent or more of the income support to be directed towards food by way of vouchers directly with the local suppliers. Why is that so complicated? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. I think, again, it comes down to we have to respect the people that they are going to be responsible and that they will spend the money on the food and clothing that the income support is intended for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the reason I mentioned that as one

example is that there are many family members, primarily individuals, who are provided with the cheques, who are not the authorities within the homes. When you have addicted individuals, these individuals who have addictions normally take control of the finances within that [family].

It's much like the drug lords. I heard a true story from somebody we know that she was afraid to purchase a mop and pan that was desperately needed in order to keep the house clean. The house is pretty clean, but they were afraid to buy that because the money would immediately be grabbed once it's cashed.

The minister has indicated to us that they can't do anything about advising family members and allow responsible spending for food that children desperately need. When will the minister start representing children instead of those who are addicted in the families? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Curley is aware of a specific case where people are getting cash and spending it on drugs or alcohol, as I have said, I would like know if he can give me some more details privately.

As I indicated earlier, most of the income support cheques are issued to the stores. The recipient gets a credit and then they purchase the food with income support. We don't write cheques to people and they get cash and then they can go spend it on everything else. The cheques are issued to the vendors and

then they can purchase the food or clothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the offer, Mr. Chairman, but the minister gets paid to enforce regulations, not me. The minister's staff is charged with responsibilities provided by this Assembly to do their jobs. My job is to raise cases that are happening that the vulnerable in Nunavut must be fairly represented and treated, as the mandate of the government says. We are here to make your department more accountable and to represent Nunavutmiut. For me, for you to completely try and reverse cases, there may be many examples. The information is out there.

We're trying to make sure that the families are benefiting from income support, not those who are addicted. Is there likelihood that we can reduce the amount of leakage of income support getting to those who are addicted and getting them more into supporting children? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Curley's comments. We would all like accountability. We would like accountability from top to bottom. We hope the recipients of income support are being accountable as well because it is a fund of last resort, and food and clothing is very important to life in Nunavut. We always hear that there isn't enough food and clothing in Nunavut,

especially for our kids. We want to make sure it gets to our kids.

Again, being in a new department, we have many opportunities going forward to review what works and what doesn't work. If the MLAs are aware of or any of my colleagues as ministers are aware of specific instances where there are abuses occurring, our officials should be made aware of it and we can look into it. If there is a way to close some loopholes and improve accountability, then we are very willing to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was going to be Mr. Rumbolt. I have one question. How long is it before you review social assistance? The response, (interpretation ends) if it could be simple, precise, and prudent.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for his question. Mr. Chairman, it will likely be within the next year and we will do a review. We're going to look at it, with all the great work that has been done on the poverty consultations that are underway. Hopefully the debates on the legislation will give us a lot of good information and we will be able to do a more in-depth review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to my line of questioning earlier for a minute. The last question I asked was whether this government would be willing to follow suit that other governments have used across the country with helping income support recipients hold onto more of their income tax money. In the minister's reply, he stated that it could cost this government a lot of money. I'm just wondering if the minister has any idea how much this would cost the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I haven't done any calculations. Just based on what I know from those other jurisdictions, I know it could be very expensive to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anybody who is receiving income support probably doesn't get huge income tax refunds. Personally, I don't see it being that great of an expense. So I'm wondering if the minister is willing to commit to looking into how much it would cost this government to allow income support recipients to keep more of their income tax refunds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'll ask my friend, the finance minister, if he can assist me to do that. I think it's worthwhile to maybe take a look at it and get that kind of information.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I appreciate that you work well with other ministers. It is appreciated. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his commitment. I know income support is a means for trying to help people out for a while until they can get back on their feet and get out and get a job, but there are constituents in our communities that could be considered long-term income support recipients.

One example is full-time hunters. They provide food, not only for their families, but for their communities. After they provide food, they end up with the furs and the skins of the animals and they prepare and sell them for extra money, not so much for the food, but to repair and buy hunting equipment so that they can continue hunting for their families and community. When they make extra money from the sale of skins, their income support is reduced or they don't get any income support at all for that particular month.

Can the minister explain why full-time hunters are penalized for making extra money while on income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'll ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the member's question, to be frank, we don't often hear about the additional income that people make on the sale of furs and skins. It's a voluntary process to report income. We do not penalize anyone for the hunting equipment, the gas, and the bullets. If anybody buys that type of equipment, that's not charged against their social assistance, but it is considered income if somebody sells something and it is part of the program and it is in the regulations. So in order to allow hunters to keep that money, we would have to make a regulation change and then go to FMB to allow the additional funding in the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, I just want to make sure I heard Ms. Teiman right. If a person sells their skins and if they use that money to buy hunting equipment, whether it be gas, snowmobiles, or whatever, are you

saying that they're entitled to keep that money and it's not deducted from their income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Teiman will clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. It's the same for anybody who wants furniture and equipment as well. If they receive income tax, we work with the family. If they buy a big-ticket item that normally they wouldn't be able to get any other way, we wouldn't charge that against their social assistance and it would be part of the productive choice program.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Teiman for that information because I think there are a lot of clients out there who are probably not aware of that. Most people come to me with this exact thing that I'm saying about not being able to keep their money because they go out and they sell a couple of polar bear skins and they try to buy a new snowmobile, but then they go to income support and they can't get any income support for that particular month. So I'll take that information back to my community for the benefit of the hunters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) I

believe that was just a comment. Moving on. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to kind of elaborate a little bit more on the question that Mr. Curley had asked in regard to accountability on the income support monies there. I think we're all aware and you have probably seen in your own community where clients will go buy groceries, it will be a cheque made out to one of the suppliers, and they will buy a bunch of packs of cigarettes and they stand outside the front of the store selling cigarettes for \$10 a pack.

I know of another example where a client will go in and buy \$600 worth of groceries because the [cheques] are made out to the store and then the next day, return \$150 worth of groceries and get cash for it. So I think one of the big issues is we should be informing the retail outlets that they shouldn't be doing this, that if the client is not happy with the food they bought, they could be able to exchange it, but I don't think they should be getting cash for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Did you want to make a comment on that? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell for the comment. Again, as I replied to Mr. Curley, if MLAs or ministers or anybody is aware of these types of situations in the communities or wherever they are, then we encourage you to let our income support workers or other officials know, and then we can look into it and follow up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Moving on. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) In regard to income support, I think we have to do something about it in all the Nunavut communities because all the communities should be operating the same way. It is supposed to be helping the less fortunate, but it's putting them in a worse state. These are for food and other items that the family should have, but it has been putting them down.

For example, if an individual is on income support for a long period of time, it seems to push them toward committing crimes, not just in my community but in other communities as well. They get income support to help the less fortunate, but in turn, they make it into cash and use it for other things. I just wanted to add to the comments made by one of the members in my community.

In the new department, you have a lot of work to do and you listed them down. We talk about income support recipients and it states that income support should be used to make families better before they can go on their own while looking for employment. Are there any changes that are proposed if something like this fails? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for his comments and concerns. Again, we're integrating different components of other departments into the new department. There will be income support, career

development, and social workers. We're hopeful that within the department, they will all work together.

We don't want a department where people will just rely on income support. We want to encourage them to speak to our career development officers to seek out training opportunities and educational opportunities. That is our hope. It is very ambitious, but we think that if they can come together in one department, a "one-stop-shop" so to speak, we can help people get off income support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response to my question. (interpretation ends) Do you anticipate bringing forward proposed legislation to change the *Social Assistance Act* in the near future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Oshutapik's question, we anticipate that it will be about a year. Hopefully the information, research, and reports that are coming out through the poverty consultations will assist us in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you. I heard that response, but I wanted

to ask it again. (interpretation ends) The income assistance electronic delivery system has been in development for some time now. What is the current status in deploying the new system to the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for his question. The current plan is to roll out the new system to all communities within the next 18 to 24 months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation end) The business plan indicates your intention to cross out possible changes to have income deductions for income assistance clients. Can you describe what kind of changes you are considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Mr. Chairman, again, that will be part of the ongoing consultation in the next year leading up to new legislation or amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last

question to the minister. The government has stated that they might be changing the income support legislation. Can you clarify how those changes will affect service delivery under the Income Assistance Program? They will change the rent scale for public housing. How is it going to change the Income Support Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't anticipate that the new rent scale program will impact on the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Page D-6. Family Services. Branch Summary. Income Assistance. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make a comment as well. Mr. Curley touched up on it and Mr. Schell touched up on income assistance being abused, people going hungry, and people buying alcohol and drugs.

For example, an individual with a skidoo and Honda wanted to buy bullets and gas, so he went over to the Northern Store. Some people do abuse their income assistance, sometimes the hunters who want to buy gas. I wonder if this can be rectified. If a person gets \$300 a month from income support and even though he wants to get some extra money to buy gas to go out hunting, sometimes it's not possible for them to do that. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I didn't hear a question. We are on page D-6. Family Services. Branch Summary. Income Assistance. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$43,942,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Did I miss you, Mr. Schell? Sorry. (interpretation) Moving on to the next page. Page D-7. Branch Summary. Family Services. Career Development. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the Department of Family Services will take over the delivery of the FANS program, the Department of Education will remain responsible for its policy development and governance. Following the report on the FANS program tabled last November, it appears that a number of students will no longer be eligible for FANS.

How will your department work with the Department of Education officials to ensure that no student falls through the cracks when it comes to accessing funding for educational and training opportunities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Mr. Chairman, Family Services and the Department of Education are working very closely together and collaboratively, recognizing that this is an important area. We don't

anticipate that anybody will fall through the cracks. There is another program, the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program that they may be eligible for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I take it then that the minister is confident that this new approach will not hinder in the new family services department to take on the responsibility without having the provision to have policy development or the governance of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, we are working very closely together. We're sharing resources and we will be developing a memorandum of understanding to ensure that the information is shared and that there will be no disruption or concerns with individuals applying for training programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the minister just mentioned that he will be able to share the MOU so that members can also be up to par on the agreements. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I know it's quite a challenge. I don't consider these new programs or new services or whatever. They have been going on. If there is a notion here that they're trying to get us to believe that this is all new stuff, let's not fall into that trap.

My question is simple: who qualifies for the FANS program? What are the conditions that prevent a student from Nunavut getting FANS assistance? Does it depend on the social system or social status? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to Mr. Curley's earlier comment, there is a new program, Adult Learning and Training Supports. That is new.

With respect to who qualifies, the Department of Education has been working with a number of post-secondary institutions, including Nunavut Arctic College, where they have a post-secondary education designation policy which they use to determine which programs offered by organizations are deemed to be post-secondary education for the purpose of funding under the FANS program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the response. Can the minister clearly

explain exactly what it means? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Peterson, what does it mean?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It means that they have to be taking 60 percent of their programs from post-secondary education institutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Does that mean that there is no point in applying for financial assistance right from entering into an educational level? Did you say that they have to have completed a certain amount within a year or the whole duration of the semester? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask my deputy minister, if we're going to get into the real technical details here, perhaps she can help Mr. Curley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask for a repeat of the question, please.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley, please repeat your question.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My last question was the result of the minister's response, which I'm sure the deputy

minister understood what it was. They have to accomplish a certain amount of courses that they're attending or attended or succeeded. I don't know. If that is the case, then to me, it doesn't appear to make any sense for the student to apply right from the beginning when they enter into a program. When should they apply? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Students should apply right off the bat if they know that they are attending any type of schooling. In the 2013-14 year, we will have a list of designated programs that are post-secondary and a list that will be considered under the new Adult Learning and Training Supports.

Regardless of where they go to their schooling, they should apply right away because it will be a one-stop shop. So if someone applies for FANS and it's not FANS eligible, then that application will go to the career development officers and they may be eligible to be funded under the Adult Learning and Training Supports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I also referred to the social status of the applicants. Is that also a factor, meaning in the last fiscal year, they made a lot of money, because their income taxes and statuses are normally allowed to be included in there? Why would that be the case? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understand Mr. Curley's question. I'll ask my deputy to take a crack at answering it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Teiman.

Ms. Teiman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. FANS is a program that goes through an eligibility process. So it's mainly for individuals who are coming out of high school and adults who may be coming from the social assistance side of the equation.

If somebody who was employed wanted to go to school, they would normally apply through the programs that are available through their employment. For instance, if a GN employee is applying for education, they would go through the educational programs, educational leave through the various departments that they work in, and/or the programs administered through the Department of HR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I think it's difficult to follow exactly how and what works within the FANS program. I know the new program will be a learning curve for all of us.

In terms of FANS itself, which I believe you now administer, as well as trades students, they're required to submit a record of employment and if they don't have it, they don't qualify. So to me, social status is one of the big factors. That means if you're making a lot of money in the previous year, then it will

show through your record of employment. That has an impact.

I had one student who said, "I'm not going to qualify. I'm not going to get anything because submitting my record of employment is delayed. The previous employer couldn't get it organized. So I'm just going to hang up." Those individuals who fall into that trap for not getting the appropriate records don't qualify. Am I correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, we're going to have to take that question as notice and get some details to respond to Mr. Curley's concern and to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The question really is the social status of an individual is a factor. It is primarily one that I want cleared up because it involves having a financial record from previous employers and all those factors. So to me, does it say to the committee, "Yes, the social status of an individual is a factor in getting either a percentage of this allowable or not?" So it would help us to understand exactly how the whole program works, not only for me, but for Nunavutmiut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I believe that was more of a clarification and we anxiously wait to get information back. We are on page D-7. We are at (interpretation) Family Services. Branch

Summary. Career Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$13,246,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page D-3. Department Summary. Family Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$112,974,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that we have concluded with the main estimates for the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you have any closing remarks, I give you the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to express my appreciation and thanks to all our officials who have worked very hard on pulling all this together for this new department, especially, of course, my Acting Deputy Minister, Sandy Teiman. She had to step up to the plate when our Deputy Minister, Aluki Rojas, was injured during Christmas. We certainly extend our best wishes to Aluki for a speedy recovery and come back to the new department. I would like to thank, of course, David Kolot. He has done a lot of work. He has a real technical binder. I have never seen that type of binder before; it's very detailed.

Of course, all of our officials in all of the departments across the government where we got all the programs and PYs from, I would like to thank all of our employees out there. They're kind of worried that their jobs are at stake and where they will end up and all that sort of thing.

I hear a lot of good comments from people across Nunavut in all the communities about this new department. I look forward to the new department starting April 1 and going out there to serve all the families in the communities and improving life in the communities.

I thank you all for your support and encouragement over the last two years to get to this point. Thank you for your good questions today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. As the new department is in operation, we would like to say that we want it to be successful. Thank you, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

At this time, I will just continue on to the Department of Justice. I would like to ask Minister Shewchuk to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Good day, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to be before you and your committee this afternoon. I am pleased

to appear before the committee to present the Department of Justice's main estimates for operations and maintenance for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

I will introduce my witnesses when they are with me here today, Mr. Chairman.

A total amount of \$100,439,000 is being allocated for the operations of the Department of Justice in the coming fiscal year. This represents an \$8,354,000 increase from the previous fiscal year. This increase is attributed to additional funds required by the RCMP to cover guard costs at the Iqaluit detachment, pay increases, and additional contractual obligations as a result of the new 20-year contract between the Department of Justice and Public Safety Canada for RCMP policing services.

In addition, more funding is required for the contribution agreement between the Department of Justice and the Legal Services Board to meet the growing demand for legal services for all Nunavummiut. The new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union also requires the Department of Justice to have additional funding to cover those pay increases.

A review of our business plan shows that in addition to the continued provision of critical services, the department has many goals for the coming year.

The RCMP will continue to seek out Inuit recruits to the RCMP who are able to speak Inuktitut to better provide policing services in our communities.

Our Court Services Division is currently working on the training and equipping of

Nunavut sheriffs to ensure Nunavutmiut are safe when they attend the court, and our Community Justice Division is working hard on a number of crime reduction initiatives.

The new Rankin Inlet Healing Facility opened its doors earlier this year. The facility will help ease some of the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre and provide programming to inmates to help them keep out of custody and in their communities. Corrections is also continuing to find solutions to ease the pressure on the Baffin Correctional Centre.

The department believes that these efforts and objectives set out in the business plan will improve [access] to justice and public safety for all Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I am pleased to answer any questions from you or your committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, I have the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Norman Tarnow, and on my left, I have Christine Bens, Director of Corporate Services for Justice. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Justice.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the department's organizational structure remains unchanged from 2012-13. Its proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget of \$100,439,000 has increased by approximately 9.1 percent since the introduction of the department's 2012-13 main estimates.

The standing committee also notes that the total number of positions in the department has increased from 330.0 PYs in 2012-13 to 336.0 PYs in 2013-14. The government's June 2012 quarterly employment report indicated

that approximately 30 percent of the department's positions were vacant at that time.

Mr. Chairman, given the nature of Department of Justice's mandate, it is important that the department set an example for the government with respect to meeting its statutory requirements for the tabling of annual reports, especially reports that are of significant interest to the public. These include annual reports under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, the *Victims of Crime Act*, and the *Human Rights Act*. The standing committee looks forward to such annual reports being tabled in a more timely manner.

In 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011, No. 3*. This contained \$2.5 million in supplementary funding to address the Legal Services Board's "projected year-end budget shortfall."

The department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates indicate that the amount of annual funding provided to the Legal Services Board will increase from \$8,307,000 in 2012-13 to \$10,064,000 in 2013-14. This is an increase of approximately 21 percent. Information provided to the standing committee by the minister indicates that this increase is primarily due to such initiatives as the hiring of four additional criminal lawyers and an increase in the budget for the Court Worker Program.

The standing committee notes the minister's efforts to work with his provincial and territorial counterparts to lobby the federal government to fund a greater proportion of the costs of criminal and civil legal aid and notes the

contents of the January 26, 2012 and November 6, 2012 communiqués issued by federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of justice concerning this issue.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that work has been ongoing to "Investigate independent society status for LSB" and to "Conduct a comprehensive structural/operational review" of its operations.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that the Legal Services Board is developing a new Criminal Financial Eligibility Policy and a new Civil Financial Eligibility Policy. Members urge the minister to formally table in the Legislative Assembly any new policies approved by the Legal Services Board.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed 2013-14 budget for the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal is \$804,000. Its budget for 2012-13 was \$795,000. On June 7, 2012, the Minister of Justice tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly titled "Strengthening the Nunavut Human Rights System." The report presented 18 formal recommendations concerning the operations of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal and the *Human Rights Act* itself.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly have frequently expressed concern and frustration that the final reports produced by such reviews are not tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. The standing committee urges the minister to ensure that these items are tabled in the

House in a timely manner so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the opportunity to consider their conclusions and recommendations.

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that the "Recommendations of the review are being studied at this time." The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, it is a tragic fact that Nunavut suffers from a high rate of violent crime. A recent report from Statistics Canada titled "Criminal Victimization in the Territories" illustrates the extent to which residents of the north are victimized by crime.

The Government of Nunavut's *Tamapta* Action Plan states that "During this mandate, the Government of Nunavut will develop a comprehensive Crime Prevention Strategy based on Inuit societal values and involving Nunavummiut in efforts to reduce the need for intervention by the justice system." However, the extent to which progress has been achieved by the government in developing this strategy remains unclear and the standing committee encourages the minister to provide a detailed update in the Legislative Assembly on the status of this initiative.

The standing committee also notes the importance of cooperation between partners, including the Department of Justice, in the development of the government's *Ilagiitsiarniq* Family Violence Prevention Strategy.

On March 9, 2011, the 2010-11 shared directional statement between the Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's "V" Division was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The document included a number of priorities for action in the areas of communication, communities at risk, and crime reduction and prevention. The standing committee urges the minister to table in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis the shared directional statement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's "V" Division.

The standing committee notes that the department's budget for the government's policing services contract with Public Safety Canada for the provision of RCMP policing services in the territory is increasing from \$29,606,000 in 2012-13 to \$34,185,000 in 2013-14. Information provided to the standing committee by the minister indicates that this increase is primarily due to such factors as the GN's obligations with respect to RCMP detachment [properties]. The standing committee notes that a national Summit on the Economics of Policing was held in January of this year.

Mr. Chairman, members have raised the ongoing issue of communication difficulties between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the public whom it serves. Members note that section 3 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that organizations shall communicate with the public in the Inuit language when delivering essential services such as "emergency, rescue or similarly urgent services." The standing committee notes that one of the department's priorities for 2013-14 is to

"Continue efforts to increase capacity to communicate in the Inuit language within the RCMP in 'V' Division..."

The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship between the government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers. The standing committee also continues to encourage the minister to review the idea of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to address the issue of assets acquired through the proceeds of crime.

Mr. Chairman, one of the department's priorities in its 2010-11 business plan was to "Develop options for a Healthy Relationships Court in Nunavut, incorporating advice and consultations with the Clyde River Family Justice Centre and Nunavut Community Justice Committees generally." However, the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that "A request for funding from the Federal Government was denied. A healthy relationships proposal is being considered but implementation will require funding." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this initiative, including clarification concerning such matters as the extent to which its decisions will have the force of law.

Last year, the standing committee again noted with concern that the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicated that "no additional resources have been identified by either Corrections or Community Justice towards the reintegration of offenders after incarceration." The standing committee recognizes that effective

programs for inmates and persons on probation are an essential element of reducing the rate at which reoffending occurs.

The standing committee notes that the government's official announcement concerning the recent opening of the new correctional healing centre in Rankin Inlet indicated that "inmates will participate in community-based programs as part of their rehabilitation plans."

The standing committee also notes that two of the department's priorities for 2013-14 are to "Evaluate programs and operation of the correctional Rankin Inlet Healing Facility following the first year" and to "Continue developing a plan for a medium to long-term solution to increase capacity for inmates in Nunavut, including planning to repatriate all Nunavut inmates housed outside of Nunavut."

Information provided to the standing committee by the minister indicates that the Government of Nunavut's current memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Northwest Territories for the placement of inmates in NWT correctional facilities will expire on March 31, 2014. There is an option for automatic renewal of the MOU for an additional three years up to March 31, 2017.

Mr. Chairman, an ongoing concern for members has been the issue of probation services in Nunavut. At its sitting of October 27, 2011, the Legislative Assembly was informed by the Minister of Justice that "there are over a thousand individuals on probation" in Nunavut.

The standing committee notes that although the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that "Community Corrections has been working at establishing a 'stand alone' probation service for Nunavut." It also indicates that "The biggest challenge is in securing office space and housing in several targeted communities."

In June of 2009, the Department of Justice issued a request for proposals for an evaluation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. A report was subsequently prepared by the Genesis Group and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2011. This report made a number of recommendations. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that it is "currently working to develop a Family Abuse Intervention Act Policy as well as updating current procedures."

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2013-14 is to assist community justice committees to "increase their ability to receive more cases diverted from the formal Criminal Justice system." The standing committee encourages the minister to provide additional detail concerning the specific initiatives that will be undertaken by the department to achieve this goal.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Justice made formal statements in the Legislative Assembly at its sittings of March 6, 2012 and October 31, 2012 concerning the issue of support for victims of crime. In his statements, he indicated that the federal government had approved approximately \$1.3

million in funding over five years to allow the Department of Justice to provide travel assistance to the families of victims of homicide and other serious crimes so that they can travel to court hearings.

The standing committee urges the minister to ensure that clear information concerning this support is made available to Nunavummiut. The standing committee also urges the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's actual expenditures under this program.

The standing committee also notes that the department's 2010-11 and 2011-12 annual reports under the *Victims of Crime Act* indicate that approximately \$160,000 was provided over two years for community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. We will now open the floor for general comments. You can ask your questions during the page-by-page review. I now open the floor for general comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to make a comment on the administration of the Department of Justice in general. I appreciate the minister appearing before us today and his officials, deputy minister and finance representatives.

It's always a pleasure to deal with a very important department that affects pretty much all Nunavutmiut, particularly those who are involved in law enforcement officials, law infractions, and so on.

In terms of my understanding, the Department of Justice pretty much functions like the Department of Justice in provinces and so on. If there are any exclusions that have not been developed in the Nunavut territory, maybe the minister can volunteer to explain what other functions of the federal services have not been devolved to Nunavut. I think it would help the committee to help the minister in fighting for certain areas that the feds may not have developed.

One area that I can definitely help the minister with is what I have read in *The Globe and Mail* yesterday or two days ago. My time really hasn't kicked in yet after a 12-hour difference and a 30-hour travel the other day from Bangkok to Canada until we settled down in Ottawa.

So I read in the newspaper that we're not very present in project management with respect to RCMP facilities. Now having transferred the criminal law services from the feds to the NWT or the Nunavut government, why would they continue to have a project management role for infrastructure of the federal buildings?

Now that you can administer criminal justice issues, why not transfer all that work, the infrastructure projects along with some funding to the Nunavut government so that there won't be any major problems with projects like the RCMP headquarters, an \$18 million

project that is possibly in real danger of collapsing, in my view.

Above all that, *The Globe and Mail* indicated in previous other stories that there is an RCMP investigation going on. That really doesn't work well for the public, the RCMP occupying the building to be investigating the construction project management, whether or not there may have been illegal activity. The story indicates that the new technology that they're using was either maliciously or purposely damaged for reasons that we don't know yet.

I think the minister must explain whether or not he is updated by the federal government on all these matters. I think they are of interest to our public because they do have an impact on running the programs and RCMP services to Nunavutmiut. So it's sort of more like a foreign conspiracy theory that is going on out there that the Nunavut government should be well briefed by the federal government on exactly what's happening with the RCMP facility. If the minister is not aware of what's going on, maybe he can tell this committee why he is not aware or not have been briefed by RCMP officials in Ottawa.

So that is my brief statement on the opening comments. Even though it's easy to say that we don't have an official role in the infrastructure or project management of the RCMP or federal facilities, I think it's still our business to put our nose in and say, "Why are these things allowed to happen?" Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley, for your general comments. Moving on. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2, as indicated by Minister Shewchuk, they would like to increase the number of Inuktitut-speaking people in the RCMP. I think that most of the special constables in the communities all speak Inuktitut, but they were also very capable of building igloos, driving dog teams, and so on. I am very pleased to hear that they will be hiring Inuktitut-speaking employees, especially in the smaller and larger communities.

I'm sure that some who can't speak Inuktitut would like to make some announcements in the smaller communities and communicate with the local population. I am sure they would like to talk with the people who commit crimes, but there is a communication gap between the personnel and the public. They have to use interpreters or get someone on the phone who can speak Inuktitut.

It's not only for the policing division. They're here to provide a service in all Nunavut communities. To protect and serve is their first and foremost mandate and responsibility. There are the elders again who would like to see services provided in Inuktitut. I fully support the idea of hiring more Inuktitut-speaking personnel in both the larger and smaller communities, not only in the policing field, but also in all the aspects of legal services that are provided up here.

Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Are there any more general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk, Mr. Tarnow, Ms. Bens, and other officials in the Gallery.

Along the lines of my colleagues, in the opening statements on page 2, paragraph 4, you mentioned continuing to seek out Inuit recruitment. I am very glad to see in the opening comments that this was addressed as it will continue to seek out Inuit recruitment, which will bridge essential services to communities, alleviating potential misunderstandings, and ensure adequate due process.

All policing services and the department is quite aware that it must enhance in all areas, such as cultural sensitivity, the Canadian Constitution, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, just to ensure that the adequate processes are in place. It's very encouraging to see that there is an action plan to always continue on bridging services.

That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. I'm glad that we're able to see you again in front of us. Before I go to my question in regard to the justice department, first of all, I think we're all proud that in Rankin Inlet, there is a new healing facility in operation.

We often speculate on how we can vacate the correctional centres. When you're a business owner, you always want more revenue to come in for them to be available. We have to look at it the other way because it's too expensive. When there are too many inmates, the correctional service budget gets strained.

If we're going to be looking for solutions and the criminals who are committing crime is increasing and the services of the RCMP are not increasing, we should try to ensure that we put an end to the high crime rate. Right now, the Government of Nunavut is trying too hard to try to come up with some more funding instead of trying to think of preventative measures.

The Department of Justice has to ensure how they can reduce the funding to look after inmates. Currently, it seems they are more focused on providing more funding for the RCMP services. It seems the emphasis is on increasing the funding, not on crime prevention. That seems kind of obvious.

I understand it is a complex matter. However, with the implementation of the new legislation related to family in crisis, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, once the system has become familiar with the legislation, it can alleviate some of the issues we face with Inuit because that was the purpose for them

Mr. Chairman, this other matter that I have been thinking about, I can't recall the exact term, perhaps community justice committees or justices of the peace. I can't recall, but Inuit have to get started on this. Let me first comment on this matter.

Ever since Nunavut was agreed to, Inuit had to start by ownership of their lands, resources, and their territory. Justice should be included in this ownership quest. Since it causes problems for Inuit, we ought to be looking for solutions to this alienation. When we look to outsiders for solutions, all we get are more pressing problems since they aren't relevant. We, Inuit, must be in agreement. Since we still have many problems existing in Nunavut, we have to try to revise and resolve these problematic issues and that has to be at the forefront of our thinking.

When we get to the page-by-page review, I will obviously have some questions, but those are what I had questioned so the officials will be prepared when I raise them and the responses will be to the point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. We're on page E-4. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$15,340,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister Shewchuk, the Department of Justice, and I had a great exchange on November 1, 2012 in regard to the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal. It is a privilege to follow up with some additional questions in regard to the directorate. As a process, I would like to ask. You tabled the 2009-2010 and 2010-11 annual reports of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal in the Legislative Assembly on October 30 of last year. Has the tribunal submitted its 2011-12 annual report to your office and, if not, what reasons may there be for a tribunal delay in regard to

its submission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Yes, they have provided us information for that report and that will be tabled probably during the next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year on June 7, you tabled the report titled "Strengthening the Nunavut Human Rights System." The report made a number of recommendations concerning the Human Rights Tribunal in Nunavut and the *Human Rights Act* itself. Your department's business plan indicates that "The recommendations of the review are being studied at this time." When will the government provide a formal response to the report and recommendations? Will you commit to tabling the response in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for his question. As he well knows, we have had great discussion. We have talked about this in the House. It is very true that there has been a detailed report with 18 recommendations about the Human Rights Tribunal and the structure of the tribunal.

First and foremost, the No. 1 most important priority is to have a human rights commission set up under the Human Rights Tribunal so that it operates properly. Now, that is going to take some time and consultation to have that done. It will not be done during the mandate of this government and will be the responsibility of the next government to take that over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We are on page E-4. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) The person who was going to speak apparently left the House. I have several questions and I know that I probably won't get answers right away for some of them. I want answers to the questions that I asked earlier.

I commented on the fact that the RCMP headquarters and the people who made the foundation are trying to keep the lots frozen. The coolants were not working properly. They should ensure that it's frozen all the time. The permafrost is melting and they're not using proven technology. Apparently, they built quite a few buildings in the north. However, the Nunavut government buildings usually don't sink when one year has elapsed. For that reason, I believe that the Nunavut government does better in the construction of its buildings than the federal government.

Can the minister tell us whether he has been kept informed and how they can rectify the problem of the RCMP foundation melting if it can be rectified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before Minister Shewchuk responds, let me remind you that the Speaker has allowed us extended hours. We will conclude when we wish to do so. This is just a reminder so that we will all be aware. (interpretation ends) Minister Shewchuk, please.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. I will comment not only to this question but to his opening remarks. He brought up many issues there.

First of all, he is absolutely correct in saying that in Nunavut, our major obligations and authorities are not very much different than other jurisdictions across Canada. The one major responsibility that was not devolved to us is the court prosecution services, which stays with the federal Crown. So that's an important issue and that pretty much is the only issue.

In regard to the RCMP, first of all, everybody knows that we have an agreement signed with the RCMP. There were previous agreements up until the one that we had just signed for a renewal of 20 years. In that previous agreement, we had no responsibility for RCMP infrastructure. In the new agreement, we do. We are going to be part and parcel of any development or planning with the RCMP, but also with that comes a cost to us too of our 70-30 percent share. So the structure has changed.

In regard to the RCMP headquarters here and the issues that are taking place, the Government of Nunavut has no obligation in that at all, which is a good thing. That's between the RCMP and people who constructed the building. I

must say that I am in constant contact with the commanding officer of the RCMP here on almost a weekly basis. So we do keep in touch and we're being kept informed on all happenings with the RCMP.

With this building, he has given us information that it's not a major structural issue that's happening there. The building is operating, it will continue to operate, and that the fix of the problem will happen this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I have further questions with respect to two parts, really. The first one is I understand that there's an investigation going on with the one who designed the foundation of this building. So my question is if you're up to speed on this thing. If so, could you explain to the committee exactly why the investigation is needed and, if so, who initiated the investigation? The RCMP itself or the Department of Justice of the Nunavut government? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'm unaware completely of any investigation going on and the RCMP would probably indicate that to me if we had any ties to it as the Government of Nunavut. If there is an investigation going on, it was probably requested by the RCMP or Public Works of Canada that would have been involved in that, but I, as the Minister of Justice, and the Government of Nunavut

have no knowledge of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Prior to moving along with our review, I wish to remind you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials that if you're going to be talking amongst each other, you should mute your microphone. We can hear your entire discussion when the microphone is on. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Perhaps if the minister understands my question, can he inform us about this article that ran in *The Globe and Mail* in two parts? In the older case, the story stated that there was an ongoing investigation of some project managers, (interpretation ends) the Department of Public Works and the Government of Canada. (interpretation) Once the minister has researched this story, I wonder if he would be able to provide the background that was the basis for this story. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a briefing note from the RCMP I'll read here. It doesn't refer to the investigation, but it does refer to this: the current situation, interim measures have been taken to stabilize the facility. The RCMP is working with Public Works, government, and Service Canada to retain the services of an independent consultant and engineering firm specializing in arctic construction on permafrost to provide recommendations

to permanently stabilize the foundation. That's what I have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will stop at this point regarding that matter. We were informed that once further details are known, they will be provided to the members. I'm sure we can understand the situation.

However, this other question I want to ask relates to another matter within the Department of Justice. It is obvious they advise other departments on legal issues, in other words, legal advice. Further, am I correct in my understanding that the Department of Justice advises all departments with respect to their Nunavut Land Claims Agreement obligations? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That brings up another question related to the agreement, specifically based on my understanding of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Under Article 24, it speaks to government contracts. Which department has the onus to abide by the NLCA, specifically the provisions of Article 24?

First of all, based on our understanding, legislation such as the *Financial Administration Act* and all government agencies are bound under the provisions of Article 24. Further, in the definitions, it states that the NWT Power Corporation is exempted from this article and it stops there. With respect to any offshoots of this exempted body, it is silent. In my opinion, it implies that the Qulliq Energy Corporation isn't exempt from this article. Based on this situation, has your department provided any legal advice as to whether Article 24 is binding to the Qulliq Energy Corporation? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Deputy Minister Tarnow answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have provided advice to that effect, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tarnow. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think it's important because we, as committee members, have not been able to get clear information from the responsible minister whether or not Article 24 applies to Qulliq Energy when RFPs and tenders are put out and whether or not the NNI Policy applies. It's still a moving target. They claim to signal to us that it is optional.

I think the legal wording of that agreement is that it's not optional. It is either binding or not binding. There are no grey areas that are supposed to be exercised by officials in the government when dealing with Article 24. Having said that, what advice have you provided to the government departments as to whether or not it's binding? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Tarnow answer that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our advice is that it is binding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tarnow. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that response. I believe the article is really quite clear because it has constitutional status and so forth. I have read the article. I was part of the negotiations, actually, when dealing with that and it was the NWT Power Corporation at that time that was exempted, but it was not grandfathered. We made it clear that it should not be grandfathered so that there would never be a grey area subject for agencies not to abide by Article 24.

Having said that, I would like to thank the minister for indicating that. That will make my job a lot easier when dealing with some of the ministers. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I don't think that was a question. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if I'm not mistaken, we are on page E-4. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask this short question to the minister. I wasn't sure I quite comprehended the previous response.

The Nunavut government and the RCMP have an agreement that outlines their shared plans for the upcoming year. In 2010-11, a short report was tabled entitled (interpretation ends) "Shared Directional Statement." (interpretation) It outlines what the plans are for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years. I think I misunderstood when you mentioned the 2012-13 shared directional statement. Has it been presented between the RCMP and your department? Can I get clarification on that, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a shared directional statement signed by both parties that was signed in November 2012 for a two-year term, a shared directional statement with the RCMP that was tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification on that. Will you be presenting the shared directional statement and tabling it in the House? Were there any

problems involved as to any advice given? Under the first shared directional statement, will we be getting a report? Will someone be reporting on the first agreement? Was it adequate? Do you need to amend it? I want clarification on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the first shared directional statement, I believe it was for a term of one year. I am not aware if there was a report or an analysis done on the results of what was accomplished during the vision of that statement. This shared directional statement is just for a period of two years, I believe. Something that we would consider is analyzing it after the term to see what accomplishments were made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. No wonder. It should be our expectation because these agreements are followed. We have to ensure there is an analysis of whether it was being followed. If it didn't work, then it can be removed.

The *Tamapta* Action Plan states that during this mandate, the Government of Nunavut will develop a comprehensive Crime Prevention Strategy based on Inuit societal values and involving Nunavummiut in the efforts to reduce the need for intervention by the justice system. As of today, what is the status of the Crime Prevention Strategy? When will the MLAs be shown the Crime

Prevention Strategy that is based on Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a second here to get the briefing note on this.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I think Mr. Tapardjuk highlights something that we all know is very important, and that's crime prevention. We have all spoken to it already and he has passionately in his opening remarks. We want to reduce the number of people who are going into corrections and we want to get rid of them, not put them in there. It all relates back to crime prevention.

There are very many people, groups, and Inuit societal values that are incorporated into this strategy. That is including community justice committees, elder committees, the RCMP, wellness people in communities, and there's a whole dynamic group of people who are involved in this.

The Crime Prevention Strategy is moving along. There are three elements to its framework which the Department of Justice sees as long-, medium-, and short-term phases in the overall framework. The first part, the long-term part, is looking at youth and gang prevention and crimes around youth. The medium term is the Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy. The short-term goal is community-specific targeted interventions in communities. It is going to be rolled out like this.

In the short term and immediate, the number one goal right now is to work with communities to target specific interventions where crime is taking place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): My question was: when will the MLAs be shown the Crime Prevention Strategy? I want an answer, Mr. Chairman. When do you anticipate tabling it, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, for Mr. Tapardjuk's sake, I'm going to bring a different witness to the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the committee agree to bring in another witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): In regard to the minister's comment, I just wanted him to rephrase. I know it's not directed at me, but (interpretation ends) it's not for my sake; it's for Nunavummiut. If you can retract your thing there. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, he was addressing his response to me. If he can retract his comments and just refer to the people of Nunavut, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure. Maybe there should be a ruling on this. What I did say is I said, "For Mr. Tapardjuk's sake, I would bring another witness to the table." Maybe I should reword that and I will retract it. I will say that if you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, to bring in another witness to the table for the betterment of information for all Nunavutmiut, I will do that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I believe I heard the committee agree to bring in another witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Shewchuk's witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness on my left is Rebekah Williams, ADM of Justice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Williams, welcome. Mr. Tapardjuk, can you please rephrase your question. Now that Ms. Williams is seated, we would prefer that so she can respond. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. As MLAs, we are provided with clear direction of our government from the reports of the departmental officials. I appreciate that for their openness in that regard. However, when all we get are reports outlining the action items related to strategies, such as the Crime Prevention Strategy with its associated

funding requests, I imagine that these approved funds have already been expended for that purpose, the (interpretation ends) Crime Prevention Strategy.

(interpretation) The question I had was this: what date are you anticipating tabling this information in the Legislative Assembly so that regular MLAs will also understand the strategy and be party to these expectations? That was my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. I am very confident that my ADM can answer that question fully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you. Firstly, I can make this statement. As per the minister's previous statement, there are three main priorities we are focusing on within the Crime Prevention Strategy that we would apply to prevent crime in Nunavut.

The first priority which we are trying to implement is collaborating with the federal government on the strategy with associated funding requests to identify short-term priorities. We can state that in the three- to six-month period upcoming, we will be working with our federal counterparts. It can only be extended through a written request or proposal.

We are targeting communities with the

highest crime rates and they will be our first priority.

Further, the second priority relates to another crime prevention initiative. Just recently, a youth conference was organized to take place in Clyde River, with a training workshop, including a brainstorming session related to crime prevention amongst youth in Nunavut. These would be radio-based and this initiative has consumed a substantial amount of funding. Fortunately, we have been able to provide additional funding from our operational funding.

With respect to the Nunavut-wide strategy that members have been asking to be implemented to lower our crime rates here in Nunavut, we're working towards this goal. We also have researchers available to sniff out, analyze, and determine what the indicators are for youth crime and what the reasons are for why youth commit crime. That is the crux of that report. Prior to the end of this government's term, we hope to have that report completed and we hope to have it tabled to this government before that time. What I can state at this time is that we are targeting this spring or summer to release the report in its entirety.

These are the three priorities we have focused on, although we deal with other matters on a daily basis in your communities, especially the community justice outreach committees to whom we provide funding specific to crime prevention. That is ongoing work within our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. That was understandable. Actually, with the expectations resulting from the minister and his statements regarding strategies and associated funding requests, we get reports about these initiatives. However, we never get told dates about when the strategies would be started and why. I wanted to understand the reasoning as it can lead to expectations.

Mr. Chairman, one of the priorities for 2013-14 outlined on page 35 in the business plan is they will “Continue to provide and expand training to Justices of the Peace” and they will consider the idea of special constables. Can the minister report to this House exactly what type of additional training they are envisioning? Do you have new justices of the peaces or do the incumbents already practicing require further training due to their lack of training? What exactly is inferred by this statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent by that wording in the business plan during those years is it is to continue and expand training to justices of the peace. As we have now, there are four levels of justices of the peace. The intention is to keep on training existing and new justices of the peace that we have to bring them up in the scale of levels so that they can deal with more issues in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Is the number of JPs in Nunavut adequate or are you going to do some brainstorming? Funding is involved, so I would like to know what work will be undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present state, I think they are adequate, but there are always justices of the peace that are leaving and coming and not wanting to be justices of the peace anymore. So there is constant training going on. As the population does grow in the territory, there always will be demands for justices of the peace and I could see into the future the increase in demand growing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) It’s on page E-4. \$15,340,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,185,000. (interpretation) It’s on page E-5. Do you agree? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): With respect to policing services under law enforcement, within the main estimates

under the heading “Public Safety Canada,” it speaks to policing services funding in Nunavut. It states that an increase is coming. The current budget is \$29,606,000, but for fiscal year 2012-13, it is listed at \$34,185,000. In the fiscal year 2013-14, there is an increase of approximately 15 percent in the proposed budget, which is rather a large increase in the year-to-year expenditures. Do I understand that the numbers of RCMP officers has increased? What is the reason for this increase, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the increase, as Mr. Tapardjuk says, is around 20 percent. What this accounts for and it is an amount of \$4.57 million that the total is for, I can break it down into the numbers and the costs. The guard cost, Iqaluit detachment, is \$209,000; pay increases are \$234,000; inflation is \$160,000; property is \$2.2 million; funding-related relief unit credit for travel is \$782,000; carbine purchase is \$367,000; extraordinary event costs are \$333,000; other new contract obligations are \$26,000; and the provost unit, the guard travelling unit is \$208,000. It totals up to \$4.5 million or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would want to see the actual figures, but what was the \$2.2 million that you mentioned for? Can you clarify that, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2.2 million is for property. So that is our obligation under the new contract and all property that the RCMP owns across the territory that we are involved in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,185,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Under E-6. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,441,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Under E-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Justice. Registration and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,511,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on page E-7? Under Court Services, there is an additional 40.0 PYs in 2011-12 and I think there is an additional 8 PYs for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Have those PYs under the Court Services Division been allocated? There is an increase under that fiscal year. I want clarification. Does the number of positions in the

Court Services Division increase from 40 PYs in 2011 to 48 PYs in the 2012-13 fiscal year? Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I heard correctly, the member is asking if there was an extra allocation of eight PYs under Court Services. That allocation was last year. Those positions aren't filled yet, but I think that allocation happened last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): My question was if these positions were filled. If not, what is the problem with not filling these positions? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Five of the eight positions are filled. There are three vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. (interpretation) On page E-7. (interpretation ends) Justice. Registration and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,511,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): On E-8. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$32,145,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,817,000. (interpretation) Do you agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I had to go for a break here. I would like to ask the Chair to move back to E-8. If I could, I have very important questions on corrections.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Curley. Is it my understanding that you wish to return to page E-8? Are the members agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We now return to E-8. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the minister this question. We were at the opening of the healing facility in Rankin Inlet and I appreciate his attendance for this opening. Many elders in Rankin Inlet appreciated that event. Further, your deputy minister along with the ADM has been instrumental in the completion of this project. However, I would like an update on the status of the facility. Can the minister provide a short update on what has transpired up to now to this committee? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Minister Shewchuk, please.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for being at the grand opening there. It was a very special occasion and a special event in Rankin Inlet. I think, as I have said before, what you really saw there was a whole community involvement in the facility and how everybody contributed to it working.

Things are going quite well there. We've had some growing pains. We've had some staff issues and staff vacancies, but I'm very happy to say that in the last couple of weeks or so, we have now, out of 45 staff there, 42 are filled, so there are only three vacancies left, which is a very good accomplishment. We now do have 17 offenders in the facility. Out of our 28 caseworkers, I can tell you that 16 are beneficiaries and actually all 28 of them are from Nunavut, from the north, so that's a very good thing happening there too.

The facility is up and running fully. We're learning from it every day, but we are going to integrate inmates on a slow basis so that everybody has a chance to actually learn their jobs as we're going here too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for that update, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Our colleague, the MLA for Amittuq, made a statement about decreasing the number of inmates and if that is possible, we want those numbers to decrease, especially the inmates moving to that

facility. However, at this time, with those numbers of inmates and with the existing overcrowding issue at BCC, we happened to be present when the transfers occurred. I also heard from the public that they thought there were now 17 inmates. How many inmates are now at that facility? Can the minister elaborate on that to this committee? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 17 at present, but I do understand here and we're having the same concern too that we have to relieve what we have here happening in Iqaluit and we will be moving inmates in there at a slower pace, though. I think what is important too is that you have to consider the staff that is working there and ensure that they're comfortable, confident, and know how to do their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I have a further question related to his comment on the staffing process, particularly those employees working at that facility relating more to actual guard positions. Can the minister elaborate whether or not his department has a plan to hire more locals in the administration and management positions? I ask whether or not a plan exists to that end for financial positions from the communities. Can you revise your plan to accommodate this request? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for that question. I think a long-term plan of the facility is to target all beneficiaries to work there and, actually, to develop them in their career plans so that they do become the supervisors of this facility in the long term. Yes, I will say that we have looked at a couple of profiles of positions there that we will be targeting beneficiaries for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister's commitment, but we do need a plan of action. When you look at all the government senior positions there, the middle managers and senior executive members in the government are quite always a low priority. It should be stepped up.

When I was a young man growing up, I was reminded 100 times a day that I had potential. That was the language of the day. Finally, I wrote a commentary and had it published that I can continue to be told that I have a lot of potential. "This guy has the potential to speak in Inuktitut." Unless someone acts on it, he will remain having potential for a lifetime. I said that someone has to take action in order to take advantage of this potential. That's how I was trained as a hunter. My dad finally couldn't just keep saying that I had potential. He had to let me go. That is the kind of action that you have to take.

In Rankin Inlet, if we have the facility, we have the civil service, and these individuals who are in the public service in Rankin Inlet who have the ability to take control of finance. Thereby, you don't have to waste time moving expenses and trying to see if they qualify after six months time and maybe replace them two or three times before you finally settle on one.

So I would like a much more detailed commitment from the minister if he would commit to an action plan to hire more senior levels of staffing. It's not something new in terms of administrative senior financial responsibility in management as well as finance. Could you do that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can do that. I know that we have had this discussion already with all our corrections staff and J.P., the director. Our goal in this facility is to mentor people. We first have to know how they're working and if they do have those capabilities. A lot probably do, but we need to understand them first before we mentor them in those positions. That is a long-term plan of this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think you can make it a short- and long-term plan. I did receive one of the emails that says, "You applied, but you didn't even get a chance to get an interview." Why is that allowed? The way to find out whether or not the capability, ability, or the capacity

to do the work is there is by interviewing those who apply. Can the minister commit to interviewing local applicants if they do apply? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I absolutely can commit to that and that will be the process we follow. Any positions that are vacant there and if the people have the skills for those positions, they absolutely will be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I understand the position for chief warden is now vacant at that place. Will that position be put out to competition? If so, when? If not, why not? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to update the member and the House on that position, we have sought and contracted a long-term northern employee who worked in the NWT and Nunavut to carry us over until that, absolutely, position will go out in an open competition and there will be a bulletin for. In the interim, we have hired a previous warden with warden experience on contract until we get that position filled. That should be in the near future, in the next six to eight months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm ending my questions for now, but I had a question on E-7 too, a short one. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Before we go back and while we are in the process of proceeding, I will give Ms. Ugyuk an opportunity to ask questions on page E-8. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In June of 2012, you informed the Legislative Assembly that the memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Northwest Territories for the housing of Nunavut inmates in the NWT facilities will be in place until the fiscal year-end of 2014. On what date does the current agreement expire and does your department plan to renew the agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that the agreement has expired and it will be continued. I think we say that it's going to 2017 and it will be renewed at that point in time too. I can assure the member that I have been on speaking terms with the minister from the Northwest Territories and there is no concern about us housing inmates in the NWT if we need to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of your department's priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year was to "Continue assuming full responsibility for Community Supervision, in placing Community Corrections Officers (CCO) in all communities thus ending the reliance on Health and Social Services to provide these services in certain communities." Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that "This is still ongoing. The biggest challenge is in securing office space and housing in several targeted communities. Community Corrections and Community and Government Services are working closely to address these issues." Which communities are being targeted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have quite a list here. I think the question was which communities are being targeted for probation officers. By my list, they would be Kugaaruk, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Kimmirut, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As of today, approximately how many residents of the territory are currently on probation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the number is approximately 1,700.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that "Social Services still provide some services in communities where there are no Community Corrections officers." In which communities is the Department of Health and Social Services still providing probation services? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, to provide the member and the House with very precise, clear, and accurate answers, I would ask to bring another witness to the table.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Does the committee agree to bring in another witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort one witness out and another witness in.

Thank you. While we wait for the witness to appear at the table, I would like to remind you that we're on an item that was already approved. We will keep that in mind.

Ms. Ugyuk, perhaps you can rephrase your question so that you can get a proper response. Before you do that, Minister Shewchuk, for the record, please introduce your new witness. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce J.P. Deroy, Director of Corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that "Social Services still provide some services in communities where there are no Community Corrections officers." In which communities is the Department of Health and Social Services still providing probation services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Deroy answer that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Deroy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From February 1, 2013, this year, Social Services is no longer in the business of providing probation services across Nunavut. The Department of Justice Corrections has fully assumed responsibility for these services.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Deroy. We will leave that one for

now. We're on page E-9, but our colleague, Mr. Curley, is asking you, even though E-7 has been approved, to go back to that page. Mr. Curley, am I correct in stating that you would like to go back to page E-7? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you getting tired? I didn't hear a nay. Mr. Curley, you're allowed to back to the page that was approved. Do you have a question on page E-7? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I do. I appreciate that I have been given the opportunity, but we still haven't approved the main estimates, so that is fine by me. This matter deals with a fairly important one that a constituent conveyed to me just recently, although I can't divulge the details.

I want to ask a process-related question. When a person is identified as being deceased, with our residents passing away in various ways, some die by drowning, but that is only an example I am citing. The only person to make that distinction would be the chief coroner under this department. The chief coroner, whom I know, is doing an outstanding job and I hope he stays in our community in that capacity as that is my preference.

This issue that I'm asking about is one where I wonder if I can get assistance from either the minister or his deputies. When the coroner makes the determination of the cause of death, what happens if the family members feel that wasn't the cause of death? What avenues do the grieving family members

have to try to change that determination?
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Tarnow answer that question.

Chairman: Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Often, the bodies are sent to Ottawa for a pathologist to determine what the death is when it's not apparent to the coroner. That's how the coroner determines the cause of death. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tarnow. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the response. I know it is complex. Sometimes there is obviously a debate within the family whether or not the cause of death, either criminal or natural, was self-inflicted.

In one recent conversation that I was asked to listen to, there is a belief that, actually, the result of the coroner a few years back was not proper. I really didn't know what the process should be to try and get justice into the whole thing. They believed it was criminal, but it was determined that it was not the case. I mean the result was really quite different. I won't tell you what it was.

In my earlier preamble, I said, "What is the process for trying to get clarification on what the exact result or cause of death may have been?" They believe it to be criminal in that case, but they

didn't know what to do with it nor did I. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let DM Tarnow respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a case where there is concern that a death was as a result of a criminal activity, the RCMP, in the case of Nunavut, are the people who you need to get in touch with, especially if there's some evidence that has come to light over time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We were done with E-8, so I would like to go to page E-9. We can now go to page E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) You tabled the 2009-2010 annual report under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* on November 5, 2012. When will you table the 2010-11 and 2011-12 annual reports in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I'm sorry, Ms. Ugyuk, we were having some technical difficulties, but I would like to ask you to repeat your question because I don't think everyone heard it. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) You tabled the 2009-2010 annual report

under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* on November 5, 2012. When will you table the 2010-11 and 2011-12 annual reports to the Legislative Assembly?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will commit to tabling those documents in the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that it is "currently working to develop a *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Policy as well as updating current procedures." As of today, what is the status of this initiative and when will the new policy be approved by cabinet and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the status is that this has not moved much in the last while and the information and tabling of any documents under this would not be done until the new government is in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In March of 2012, you sent correspondence to the standing committee which

indicated that the Department of Justice has formed a *Family Abuse Intervention Act* working group comprised of the senior judge, director of community justice, director of court services, and the senior justice of the peace, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* justice of the peace, the civil registrar, the law clerk, and the representative of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. How many meetings has this working group held and what specific decisions has it taken to improve the administration of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. I believe this committee has had one meeting and very little progress has been done. It has been working more on the terms of reference and what they're going to be looking at into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that "Community Justice Committee activity reporting and reporting requirements are under review...to better reflect the work that is being done at the community level." As of today, what specific changes to the activity and reporting requirements are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say that the community justice committees in all communities are very important to us, and I know this first hand from just recently meeting with my community in Arviat.

I think there always have to be reviews going on the committees and input from them on what they need us and the Department of Justice's support for. I don't believe that there has been an in-depth review on what the needs are of community justice. We will continue to do this, but at this point, I know it has been reflected and told to us that justice committees need more support and actually need more financial support than anything to carry out their business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): This will be my last question, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities 2013-14 is to assist community justice committees to increase their ability to receive more cases diverted from the formal criminal justice system. What specific action does your department plan to take? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the intent. Community justice committees would

like to help more people in the communities. I think the major action that we could do as the Department of Justice is give them more support and financial support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We are on page E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,817,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to page E-3. Page E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$100,439,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that the Department of Justice has been completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, Minister Shewchuk, if you have any closing remarks. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and your committee for the very good and in-depth questions.

I would like to thank my witnesses here with me today. There are a couple in the back who have been hand-signalling me instructions and then answers to questions. Stephen Mansell is the

Director of Policy and Planning and Chris Stewart, Manager of Capital Projects. They are sitting in the Gallery.

I would like to say that I, as the Minister of Justice, and I think it was highlighted here today that the priority for justice is, absolutely, crime prevention. We need to try and keep our youth and young people out of crime and out of our facilities that we have. We need to offer them more in communities. It has been talked about around the table that we need more recreation facilities for them. We need more for them to do. We, along with the government, communities, and parents, are all part of the picture of crime prevention. I think we can all work a little harder and create better programming for our children.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. It has been a pleasure being here. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. At this time, we will continue with the Committee of the Whole. Before we begin with another department, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister Shewchuk.

(interpretation) We are going on to the Department of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson, to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Minister Peterson.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to discuss the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, the business plan now incorporates human resource functions transferred to the Department of Finance. The Training and Development Division and the GN-wide responsibility for Inuit employment planning have been moved to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs while the Corporate Services Division has been moved to the new Department of Family Services. All other functions, including the regional offices, are merging with the Department of Finance.

Several initiatives related to human resources will progress over the course of the three-year planning period, including: work on a GN-wide Human Resources Strategy; further amendments to the *Public Services Act*; and the development of the framework – manuals, policies, and guidelines necessary to delegate staffing functions to departments once the capacity to take on added responsibility is achieved.

Mr. Chairman, decision-making will be guided by five basic fiscal principles that will form the basis of our fiscal management strategy. These principles are: forward looking in our planning, realistic in our budgeting, responsible in our spending, transparent in our reporting, and accountable for our decisions.

One of the key financial priorities for this year will be to work with corporate services divisions from all departments to select a budgeting or forecasting tool

that can be implemented across the GN. We're also developing an enterprise risk management policy. The new policy will formalize the risk identification and mitigation activities already taking place in departments.

Mr. Chairman, for the second year in a row, we have met the statutory requirements for tabling of our public accounts. This indicates significant progress in our efforts to strengthen financial management across the Government of Nunavut. In the coming year, we plan to build on that progress with additional work to strengthen financial controls and electronic workflow.

Mr. Chairman, once again, I want to thank all the task force members for their work and for making sure that consultations took place in all communities for the liquor task force. We will look at all recommendations and carefully consider how to proceed with amendments to our legislation.

The Territorial Formula Financing (TFF) Agreement is up for renewal in 2014. At the December 2012 finance ministers' meeting, Minister Flaherty assured the territories that any adjustments to TFF will be revenue neutral.

In 2013-14, the Department of Finance will continue to work towards the Government of Nunavut's Return to Balance. We expect to be in a surplus position at the end of this year and we are budgeting a surplus position for the following year.

Mr. Chairman, I will now turn to a brief overview of the department's budget.

Finance has five core lines of business: Directorate, Policy, Planning and Financial Management, Internal Audit Services, Comptrollership, and the Centrally Administered Funds.

For 2013-14, the Department of Finance has been allocated \$82.8 million in operations and maintenance expenditures. This is significantly higher than the \$63.2 million allocated in 2012-13, but now includes portions of the main estimates transferred from the Department of Human Resources.

The major components of the department's budget are:

- \$31.5 million for compensation and benefits;
- \$51.3 million for centrally administered programs, including:
 - \$5.7 million for other operations and maintenance costs in the department;
 - \$19.3 million for government-wide employee benefits, such as dental premiums, workers' compensation premiums, and employee medical travel;
 - \$10.2 million for lease costs of the Legislative Assembly building and other office buildings constructed by the Nunavut Construction Corporation prior to April 1, 1999;
 - \$9.0 million for energy subsidies and contributions;
 - \$5.0 million for Government of Nunavut's insurance premiums; and
 - \$2.1 million for the Nunavut Child Benefit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have any opening comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Curley: A point of privilege. I was going to ask a question.

Chairman: Mr. Curley, question to whom? (interpretation) Wait a moment. Switch the mic to Mr. Curley.

Point of Privilege

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, my question to you was: when is the “report progress,” as a privilege of a member, qualified to be said? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley, I was actually going to see if anybody would want to report progress after Mr. Elliott’s comments, but it’s your privilege.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, yes, I understand the case to be that, but there was a direction from your staff that that wasn’t the case and it infringes on my privilege as an MLA. I will allow Mr. Elliott to proceed. I still have my hand up and I think it’s important that you advise your staff not to interfere with the rights of MLAs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I will take that advisement. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to read the opening comments for the department. I admit they are quite long. One of the advantages is always, since there is one department fewer when they’re combining both the departments of Finance and HR, you don’t have to listen to me twice; you only have to listen to me once. So if everybody wants to sit back and relax, it could be a bedtime story.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to deliver opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Finance.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The department’s new organizational structure, proposed 2013-14 main estimates, and proposed 2013-16 business plan reflect the transfer of certain functions and personnel from the Department of Human Resources, which is scheduled to be dissolved as of April 1, 2013.

The standing committee notes that the department’s proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget of \$82.77 million is 6.4 percent higher than the department’s restated 2012-13 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 207.0

PYs in 2012-13 to 267.0 PYs in 2013-14.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has overarching responsibility is the size of the public service.

The number of positions in the government has increased steadily in recent years. The government's proposed 2013-14 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 4,137 positions in the government's departments and major Crown corporations and agencies. However, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that there were 955 vacant positions across the government as of June 30, 2012. It is important that the Financial Management Board be mindful of the need to control growth in the government at a time when departments and Crown agencies face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies.

It is also important to note that almost one-third of the government's total spending is on compensation and benefits for its own workforce. Every dollar that is allocated for the creation of new government positions is a dollar less that is available for other priorities, such as providing increased financial assistance for students to pursue post-secondary education or constructing new infrastructure in our communities, including health centres and schools.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance also provides support to the

government's Public Agencies Council, which has a number of important oversight responsibilities in relation to the governance of Crown corporations and agencies. The Minister of Finance serves as the Chairperson of the Public Agencies Council.

The 2009-2010 annual activities report of the Public Agencies Council was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 10, 2010. However, its 2010-11 and 2011-12 annual activities reports have not yet been tabled. Ministerial letters of expectation to the GN's five largest Crown corporations and agencies for the 2012-13 fiscal year were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 6, 2012. Responses to the letters of expectation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2012.

Last year, the standing committee held hearings on the 2012 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Procurement of Goods and Services*.

The standing committee again repeats its call for the Public Agencies Council to ensure that the annual contracting, leasing and procurement reports of all of the government's Crown corporations and agencies are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner.

The standing committee also looks forward to the government taking action concerning its recommendation that the Public Agencies Council provide clear direction to the Qulliq Energy Corporation concerning the application of the NNI Policy to the corporation's contracting and procurement activities.

Mr. Chairman, the timeliness of the tabling of the government's annual public accounts has been an issue of ongoing concern. The standing committee applauds the government for having backdoor tabled its 2011-12 Public Accounts in December of 2012. This marked the second time since the creation of Nunavut that the public accounts have been tabled in compliance with section 74 of the *Financial Administration Act*, which requires that they be tabled on or before December 31 following the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the 2009 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly noted that "the underlying cause of the government's lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions."

The government's most recent annual reports on departmental procurement activities indicate that the Department of Finance has awarded a significant number of contracts to external entities to assist in the preparation of the annual public accounts. For example, the 2011-12 annual procurement report lists three contracts in this area with a total value of approximately \$470,000.

The Department of Finance's business plan indicates that one of its ongoing goals is to "Continue to expand a professional training regime to enhance the financial expertise of the territory at all levels." The standing committee supports initiatives to provide educational and training opportunities for GN employees, especially

beneficiary employees, to pursue financial management and accounting courses that can lead to professional certification.

The standing committee notes that on October 27, 2010, the minister tabled a status report on the GN's action plan in response to the 2009 report of the Auditor General and the standing committee's own recommendations.

The department's business plan indicates that "The 5-year Strengthening Financial Management project ends March 31, 2013." The standing committee encourages the minister to table a final report on this initiative in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee also looks forward to the minister providing regular quarterly reports to the standing committee on capital adjustments, as required by Directive 302 in the Financial Administration Manual.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised a number of concerns regarding the issue of liquor management, which falls under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Finance. Responsibility for support to the Liquor Licensing Board was transferred to the Department of Justice in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance tabled the final report of the Nunavut *Liquor Act* Review Task Force in the Legislative Assembly on November 2, 2012. The department's business plan indicates that "a GN response is being developed" to the report of the task force and that one of the department's

priorities for 2013-14 is to “develop proposals to change the *Liquor Act*.”

The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship between the department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers. The standing committee also encourages the ministers of Finance and Justice to pursue the idea of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to address the issue of assets acquired through the proceeds of crime, which includes bootlegging.

In March of 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion calling on the Nunavut Liquor Commission to stop purchasing alcohol products originating in the European Union until such time as the issue of the EU’s ban on the import of seal products is resolved to Nunavut’s satisfaction. The standing committee applauds the minister for having instructed the Nunavut Liquor Commission to respect the will of the House and encourages the minister to table in the Legislative Assembly a list of the products that the commission actually purchased during the 2012 resupply.

On November 5, 2012, the Minister of Finance tabled the annual government-wide report on grants and contributions made by all departments during the 2011-12 fiscal year. The standing committee applauds the minister for tabling these important reports and looks forward to future years’ reports being tabled in an equally timely manner.

Between the 2004-05 and 2011-12 fiscal years, the government spent over \$2.2

billion in grants and contributions. The standing committee recommends that the minister, in his capacity as the chairperson of the Financial Management Board, consider the establishment of a government-wide framework for measuring and evaluating the results of the government’s grants and contributions expenditures.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion on the issue of the federal Northern Residents Deduction. The motion called on the Government of Canada to increase the residency portion of the Northern Residents Deduction and to ensure that the residency portion be adjusted on an annual basis to an inflation index that reflects the cost of living in Canada’s Arctic. The 2008 federal budget announced a 10 percent increase in the residency component of the deduction.

On June 27, 2012, the three territorial Premiers issued a joint news release following the annual Northern Premiers’ Forum which stated in part that “Premiers called on the federal government to increase the deduction and index it against the cost of living in the territories.” The standing committee encourages the minister to pursue further enhancements to this benefit with his federal counterpart.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$9.05 million in funding for the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program. On a government-wide basis, the GN plans to spend approximately \$36.7 million on utility costs during the 2013-14 fiscal year.

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an affordable energy fund came into force. Its purpose is to “subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable.” According to the Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, this fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance. However, the department’s business plan does not make any reference to the Affordable Energy Fund. The standing committee recommends that the department’s future business plans provide significantly more detail on its activities in this area.

On September 17, 2008, the Government of Nunavut’s new Public-Private Partnership Policy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The policy states that the GN “believes that a cooperative approach to building infrastructure through public-private partnerships can be an appropriate, efficient and effective use of Nunavut’s resources to deliver services.”

The government’s current Public-Private Partnership Policy expires on March 31, 2013. During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, he indicated that no major changes to the P3 Policy were anticipated. The standing committee urges the minister to table a copy of the government’s renewed P3 Policy during the upcoming spring 2013 sitting of the House.

On October 26, 2010, the Premier tabled in the Legislative Assembly a document titled “Refined Direction from Cabinet Retreat 2010.” The document stated that

one of the GN’s priorities is to “explore financial partnerships (P3s and others) for major capital projects.”

The standing committee notes that the proposed 2013-16 business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that “CGS continues to explore all opportunities for infrastructure funding – including Public-Private Partnerships (P3). A P3 model was applied to the Iqaluit Airport project and a similar model is presently being investigated by CGS to address solid waste infrastructure for all communities. The feasibility of P3 for other infrastructure initiatives will continue to be examined.”

Mr. Chairman, I would note that the concept of P3 approaches to hydroelectric development has also been discussed in recent years.

The standing committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that the government’s departments and Crown agencies have a coordinated approach to P3 initiatives and notes the role of the Department of Finance as a central agency in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, amendments were passed to the territorial *Payroll Tax Act* in 2006 to increase the GN’s payroll tax rate to 2 percent. The government raised \$22,017,000 in payroll tax revenues during the 2011-12 fiscal year. However, it is not clear what percentage of payroll tax revenues is raised from the government’s own employees and what percentage is raised from workers in other levels of government and the private sector. The standing committee again recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual

report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the *Payroll Tax Act* to account for such issues.

The Department of Finance is responsible for administering the territorial *Tobacco Tax Act*. Amendments to the *Tobacco Tax Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly in February 2012. The government raised \$13,860,000 in 2011-12 from tobacco taxes. Nunavut's tobacco taxes are among the highest in the country.

However, given the inelastic nature of demand for tobacco products, it is unclear if increases in tobacco taxes have actually had any impact on reducing smoking rates in Nunavut. This is an issue that would benefit from evaluation by the Department of Finance and the Department of Health. The standing committee is also aware that the potential health benefits of increasing tobacco taxes must be balanced with the risk of creating a black market for illegal tobacco products as a consequence of excessive tax increases.

The Minister of Finance's 2012 Budget Address stated in part that the government "will increase the tax on tobacco products to further support our campaign against their use. We will raise the tax by 4 cents per cigarette, or \$1 per pack of 25. The tax on loose tobacco will rise from 14 cents per gram to 20 cents per gram. Based on current consumption, these measures will produce additional revenue next year of \$3 million. We will use a portion of these new revenues for smoking prevention and cessation programs." The standing committee urges the minister to table information in the Legislative

Assembly concerning the actual amounts that have been allocated for smoking prevention and cessation programs.

The Department of Finance is responsible for administering the government's Fuel Tax Rebate Program. The 2010-11 annual report on the administration of this program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 7, 2012. The 2011-12 annual report has not yet been tabled.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated at the beginning of my opening comments, the Department of Finance is assuming a number of functions and responsibilities that were previously exercised by the Department of Human Resources, which will be dissolved as of April 1, 2013. Other functions are being transferred to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee's report on its review of the 2010 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut* was presented to the House on March 2, 2011. The standing committee's report made a number of observations and recommendations concerning such issues as the government's hiring process, centralization of the human resources management function, and the government's Article 23 obligations. The government's response to the standing committee's report was tabled on October 18, 2011. The government tabled a separate status report on September 28, 2011 concerning its action [plan] to address the report of the Auditor General. The themes and issues

that emerged from this review continue to be important.

The standing committee stresses the importance of timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of key departmental documents, including the government's Public Service Annual Report and its quarterly Inuit employment reports.

The 2010-11 Public Service Annual Report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until June 5, 2012. As of February 28, 2013, the 2011-12 Public Service Annual Report had not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly, even though the fiscal year ended almost 12 months ago. As of February 28, 2013, the most recent quarterly Inuit employment report to be [available] on the government's website was for June 2012.

Mr. Chairman, the *Public Service Act* was inherited by Nunavut upon division. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2013-2014 is to "Implement changes to the *Public Service Act*." The standing committee looks forward to the legislation including provisions that address the issue of whistle-blower protection for employees who report wrongdoing in the workplace.

The standing committee also encourages the minister to consider the idea of providing for binding arbitration in the collective bargaining process. The standing committee recognizes that appropriate consultations with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers Association would need to take place regarding this issue.

The standing committee notes that a Code of Values and Ethics for the Public Service has been posted to the government's website. The standing committee urges the minister to ensure that the next Public Service Annual Report contains detailed information concerning the enforcement of the code.

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that three of its priorities for 2013-14 are to "develop a government-wide Human Resources Strategy" in partnership with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, "Implement long-term objectives of the Human Resources Action Plan to address concerns identified in the Auditor General's 2010 report on human resources capacity," and "Develop options for devolving staffing to departments."

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the government. According to the government's quarterly employment reports, a total of 977 beneficiaries were employed by the GN in June of 2002. By June of 2012, that number had increased to 1,607. This constituted an increase of approximately 65 percent over the course of a decade. On average, the government gained approximately 53 new Inuit employees each year.

It is important for the government to develop aggressive, realistic, and achievable timetables for achieving full representativeness across all occupational categories in the government, which is commonly understood to mean a public service that is composed of 85 percent beneficiary

employees. This is a significant challenge.

The government's employment statistics from its June 2012 quarterly report, which is the most recent report to be available on the department's website, indicates that there were a total of 4,160 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies. 3,205 of these positions were filled, of which 1,607 were filled by beneficiaries. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 1,928 new beneficiary employees to achieve full representativeness.

The standing committee notes that the government's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that its current government-wide Inuit Employment Plan target is 52 percent Inuit employment by March 31, 2014.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also notes that the government's Priority Hiring Policy was revised in 2011 and will be in place until June 30, 2014. The policy provides that Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given position have priority over other candidates.

Mr. Chairman, the impact of the availability and affordability of staff housing on the recruitment and retention of employees has been an ongoing issue. In 2008, the government announced a rollback of staff housing rents to [January] 2007 levels. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue and notes that one of the department's priorities for 2013-14 is to "Finalize

changes to the Staff Housing Policy." The standing committee urges the minister to table a copy of the revised policy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. The standing committee also encourages the minister to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Department of Finance and the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding administration of the government's Staff Housing Policy.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to strongly support the government's Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 1,800 students, 75 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001.

In recognition of the fact that many of our territory's smaller communities do not have a significant Government of Nunavut presence, the standing committee continues to urge the minister to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large Government of Nunavut presence.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Oh, Mr. Rumbolt.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I admit it has been a long day. (interpretation) There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Prior to rising to make my report, if I can make a short statement since today has been a long day, we have completed quite a lot on our plate and we have made progress, which I am quite pleased with. However, our staff, particularly the table officers sitting next to me, as well as the Sergeant-at-Arms, are the people I especially am grateful to since we have no pages. They have provided this service on top of their duties. As the Chair, they are indispensable to me, particularly today, so I thank them.

I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 49 and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of meetings tomorrow: at half past nine, a meeting of the Management and Services Board in the Tuktu Boardroom and at eleven o'clock in the morning, a meeting of the Full Caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 13:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 47
 - Bill 48
 - Bill 49
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. As the Chair of the Committee of the Whole thanked the staff, I think there are a couple of groups of staff that he didn't thank and I would like to say it was a long day and thank the interpreters and technical staff as well. It has been a long day for them as well.

So with that, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:47*

