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**DAY 43**

**Thursday, March 12, 2015**

**Pages 2422 – 2484**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Monica Ell**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy*

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

**Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)  
*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickee, Mr. David Joanase, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) as well as the interpreters and staff. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Item 2.  
(interpretation) Ministers' Statements.  
Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 127 – 4(2):**  
**Technical Professional Studies**  
**Scholarships Awarded**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) It is my pleasure to rise in the House today to announce our second round of recipients of the 2014-15 Technical Professional Studies Scholarship.

The Technical Professional Studies Scholarships are awarded by the Department of Community and Government Services to full-time students from Nunavut attending university, college, or technical school for programs in the following fields:

- Engineering
- Informatics
- Community Planning
- Business Studies
- Land Administration
- Firefighting, Training and Prevention

The Technical Professional Studies Scholarships are awarded to Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries and non-beneficiary students from Nunavut for four years of continuous full-time study, beginning with a scholarship of \$2,500 in their first year, \$3,000 in their second year, \$4,000 in their third year, and \$5,000 in their fourth year.

The 2014-15 Professional Technical Studies Scholarship recipients are:

- Lucy Curley (Rankin Inlet)
- Jonathan Ehaloak (Iqaluit)
- Chad Graham (Rankin Inlet)
- Maria Kasaluak (Iqaluit)
- Lisa Kolola (Rankin Inlet)
- Stephanie Matthews (Iqaluit)
- Troy Netser (Coral Harbour)
- Tyler Rowe (Iqaluit)

Mr. Speaker, our government understands the importance of investing

in our students. Providing motivation and financial support to pursue educational opportunities is key to building a highly skilled workforce in Nunavut.

These scholarships will assist Nunavummiut in pursuing a post-secondary education in technical and professional programs, skills they can bring back to work here in Nunavut.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I would like to congratulate the Technical Professional Studies Scholarship recipients and wish them the best of success in their studies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 128 – 4(2):  
Council of the Federation Literacy Awards**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly about an annual Canada-wide event aimed at raising the profile of literacy.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award is presented to one extraordinary individual in each of the provinces and territories. The Council of the Federation Literacy Award looks to recognize adults who go above and beyond to support, encourage, and promote literacy and its importance in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, literacy is essential to thriving in our global economy and society. It means much more than just the ability to read and write; literacy contains elements of numeracy, technology, and adaptation. Education, specifically improved literacy, is an important priority of this government, and we are committed to helping Nunavummiut reach their full potential. This award is an opportunity to celebrate our successes within the territory and expand on the best practices of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to announce that nominations are now open for the 2015 award and I invite my colleagues to promote this important initiative throughout their constituencies. The last day to submit nominations is June 26, 2015.

Past Nunavut winners include educator and publisher Neil Christopher, Nunavut Arctic College Director Louise Flaherty, and adult learner Annie Neglak. These individuals have all shown great initiative, vision, and commitment to literacy in Nunavut.

I look forward to seeing who is nominated this year and to announcing the recipient of the 2015 Council of the Federation Award in September.

Mr. Speaker, more information is provided on the Nunavut government's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.



**Minister's Statement 129 – 4(2):  
Standardized Writing System in  
Schools**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my  
colleagues and my fellow residents of  
Igloolik in Aggu and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to my  
colleagues about work my department is  
doing to explore the feasibility of using  
Roman orthography as the standard  
writing system in our schools.

Our government has stated in its  
mandate document, *Sivumut Abluqta*,  
that we are committed to strengthening  
and enhancing the use of Inuktitut and  
my department plays a key role in  
achieving this goal.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker,  
bilingual education is a vital element of  
our education system. In order to  
provide high-quality bilingual education,  
we are looking at the benefits of a  
standardized education system, one that  
would provide quality learning  
experiences and an equal opportunity for  
success for all students.

Mr. Speaker, at the senior levels, we  
have discussed the issue of standardizing  
the writing system for Inuktitut in our  
schools and we believe that a standard  
writing system has the potential to build  
an environment where students would be  
better equipped for learning more than  
one language.

(interpretation) *Inuit Uqausinginnik  
Taiguusiliuqtiit* has a mandate to  
develop and standardize the use of  
Inuktitut. I spoke with them and they  
passed a motion that supports our work.

We are looking to explore the benefits of  
transitioning to the Roman orthography  
writing system.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is  
a complex initiative. Our first step is to  
develop a comprehensive  
implementation plan for cabinet  
consideration that includes information  
on:

- staff capacity to provide instruction  
in Roman orthography,
- resources development, including an  
inventory of existing curriculum  
documents and resources,
- field test design and preparation, and
- communications and consultation.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I look  
forward to reporting back to  
Nunavummiut on the feasibility of this  
important initiative. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Ministers' Statements. Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation, Ms. Ell.

**Minister's Statement 130 – 4(2): 2015  
Tourism in Nunavut Conference**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to  
announce that our partner, Nunavut  
Tourism, is hosting the second Tourism  
in Nunavut Conference from March 9 to  
13 in Iqaluit.

This conference brings together 110  
tourism stakeholders from Nunavut's  
tourism sector ranging from local  
outfitters to industry leaders across

Canada. Taking place every three years, this event is made possible with support from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this conference provides a venue for building new ideas on tourism, from strengthening tourism products, developing new marketing opportunities and business relationships to how communities and all Nunavummiut can benefit from tourism.

Mr. Speaker, tourism continues to be a growing industry in Nunavut and is a sector with tremendous potential for many of our communities. Initiatives such as the 2015 Tourism in Nunavut Conference help strengthen Nunavut's tourism sector and realize its potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 131 – 4(2):  
Donation to Camp Cook Program  
from 1984 Nunavut Group of  
Companies**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, it is my pleasure to share with my colleagues news from the recent 2015 Kitikmeot Trade Show held in Cambridge Bay.

Nunavut Arctic College's Camp Cook Program students were responsible for

catering the event and all accounts indicate that it was a great success. Cooking and providing food for the trade show created a wonderful opportunity for students to show off their culinary and presentation skills to the citizens of Cambridge Bay and visitors from all over Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 9, a \$5,000 donation was made to the Camp Cook Program on behalf of the 1984 Nunavut Group of Companies in appreciation for all the hard work and success of students in the program. *Nakurmiik, Koana, Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 262 – 4(2):  
Housing Issues in Gjoa Haven**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Gjoa Haven and good afternoon, Inuit (interpretation) here in Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the ongoing housing shortage in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I raised this issue during our recent fall sitting. I will continue to raise it in this House until the situation begins to improve in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, when I last addressed this issue, I provided information to the House concerning the overcrowding situation in Gjoa Haven. At that time, I described such shocking situations at homes that have over a dozen people living in them.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that Gjoa Haven is not unique and I do understand that all communities in Nunavut face housing shortages. However, I have also pointed out that information from such initiatives as the Nunavut Food Price Survey have revealed that my constituents face the burden of one of the highest costs of living in all of the north.

Mr. Speaker, we are all very much aware of the social problems that result from housing shortages and overcrowding. Mr. Speaker, substance abuse, elder abuse, health problems, and truancy are all made worse by overcrowding and homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation tries to be fair and objective in determining which communities are in the greatest need for new public housing. However, it is also important that our communities have confidence that their needs will not be neglected forever.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current housing allocation system indicates that Gjoa Haven is one of the top ten communities in need of new public housing. I will continue to advocate for improvements to the housing situation in Gjoa Haven. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 263 – 4(2):  
Igloolikmiut Open Food Bank**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to announce to my colleagues the ability of the people of Igloolik to provide assistance to their fellow Inuit.

Around the beginning of the new year, some time around January 7, multitudes of Inuit in Igloolik held a gathering to open up a (interpretation ends) food bank (interpretation) to assist people in need. This is part of our traditional Inuit cultural trait of sharing. Inuit have always shared their food with those less fortunate.

I want to expressly single out the following people: Jeannie Kulluk Angidlik, who initiated the (interpretation ends) food bank (interpretation) to assist less fortunate individuals in Igloolik and looked at potential partners for this initiative locally. She was able to recruit volunteers for this cause and they were: Natasha Angidlik, Kate Kublu, Akittiq Angutiqjuaq, Percy Attagutak, and Bobby Kadlutsiak.

I would also like to thank the people of Igloolik Co-op who donated food to the food bank and also the local RCMP. They were very helpful when they were fundraising. At the Roman Catholic Mission, they provided the space to store the foods.

They raised \$3,300 for the food bank created to assist people facing food

insecurity. The volunteers did a tremendous job providing this essential local service and I would like to say “thank you” especially to them.

It is also quite obvious that many Nunavummiut are involved in these types of initiatives, so let us take the time to express our gratitude here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member’s Statement 264 – 4(2):  
Pangnirtung Winter Turbot  
Fishery**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut.

I rise today to speak about an ongoing venture, although it isn’t a new one. As I do on occasion, I have made announcements about the winter turbot fishery in Pangnirtung. The residents of Pangnirtung are well known, much like other communities, for bowhead whale hunting, beluga harvesting, seal harvesting, and fur sales to complement their incomes.

One of the ventures they are quite successful at in this age is the turbot fishery, specifically winter turbot ice-fishing on the sea ice. To date, the local fishermen have offloaded approximately (interpretation ends) 312,000 lbs., (interpretation) translating into revenue for the fishermen of approximately \$360,000 which has been earned to date.

Additionally, I was just informed recently that this winter, in comparison with the same period last year, has resulted in an extra 40,000 lbs. of turbot catches. The fishermen and their assistants that number over 130 involved in this winter fishery are all independent fishermen. Due to their commitment, they have harvested these benthic species that have provided an economic boost to the community as well as to the economy of Nunavut.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to announce this as well. The total harvest reached about 700,000 lbs. last year, resulting in extra flights into Pangnirtung, as airfreight was required to export the turbot and to send the turbot to markets. I am extremely happy for their success as my fellow residents and I am announcing their success to the House publicly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the  
Gallery**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Nunavut and Arviat and the people of Whale Cove. Have a great day.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize two senior researchers from

the Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute who are in the gallery today, people who have been doing good work in Nunavut towards revitalizing Inuit Sign Language. They are Jamie and Paige MacDougall, (interpretation) who are standing over there.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) They are from Montreal. Actually, Mr. Speaker, they are a father and daughter team. I would like to welcome them to the House today. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 442 – 4(2): Community Access to Medical Specialists

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet and to our fine, fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as anyone who travels in the north will know, flights in and out of communities often experience delays and cancellations due to weather or mechanical failures or other reasons. When community residents are unable to travel, through no fault of their own, they not only miss their medical

appointment, but they often don't get on the appointment list again for another year. I have even heard of clients who have had to wait for over a year, even though they really need medical attention.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut, can the minister clearly explain what process is followed to prioritize medical clients on the appointment lists for visiting specialists and how 'missed' appointments, which are not the fault of the client, are accounted for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any medical patient whose travel has been arranged by the department receives a package, including a phone number that they can call if their travel has been delayed due to aircraft issues. They are supposed to call this number and when they call early enough, the travel can be rebooked to try and catch the appointment for the client. That is how it operates at this time. However, sometimes they are unable to find space on the following flights due to the delays. The bookings are usually reviewed in these cases to try and rebook their travel. This is part of the travel coordinator's duties. When all things fall into place, the travel arrangements are usually rearranged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, as per my earlier

comments, when medical patients are placed in that situation, they are unable to attend to the doctor's appointment due to aircraft cancellations or delays. Can the minister indicate whether his department keeps track of the number of appointments that are missed because of late or cancelled airline flights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, the medical travel patients are provided with a package containing information such as a phone number to call if they experience any kind of travel problems or cancellations and they are asked to call immediately.

In the Baffin region, if any patient finds themselves in that situation, they can call this number at all hours: 1-866-371-3305. In the Kivalliq, the number is 1-844-886-8020, and in the Kitikmeot region, the number is 1-844-886-8010. These are the numbers medical patients can call at any time if their flights change and the travel coordinators try to immediately change their travel arrangements.

It is only when airline travel agencies are open that travel arrangements can be rescheduled, but sometimes these occur outside of working hours and these cases are rare. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In actuality, it can be heart-rending to see patients in this situation,

especially patients who urgently require medical attention. When the delays result in a missed appointment, they are the ones who are required to wait longer. This is in the cases where flight cancellations or delays result in a further postponement of their appointments.

What I want to ask now even if that is the case is: can the minister describe what plans are in place to re-evaluate how often specialists visit the smaller communities and what factors determine whether to increase the number or frequency of visits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our review in the Committee of the Whole, we also debated this issue and our response at the time was that we would revisit this issue to see if the doctors can extend their visits, but it is governed by agreements. We would have to discuss this issue with the doctors to see if we can make those arrangements to extend the visitations into the communities. Further, we will try to find the most opportune time to review this idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 443 – 4(2): Baker Lake Elders Hospice**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, the Baker Lake Hospice provides much appreciated service and support to those elders who require assistance and support with daily living. However, it has come to my attention that there are a number of concerns with the physical condition of the building, with the type of care that staff are able to provide, and with expectations of the staff which are often unreasonable and occasionally unacceptable.

Can the minister clearly explain how her department provides the necessary support to the Baker Lake Hospice Society to ensure that it is a safe, secure, and comfortable place for our elders to be taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking about the (interpretation ends) Baker Lake Hospice Society. (interpretation) It can house eight elders and \$948,195 is our annual contribution for their operation.

My staff travelled to Baker Lake this winter in February. We are waiting for follow-up and possible capital items to improve the elder facility in Baker Lake. The hospice society is run by a board with a (interpretation ends) contribution agreement (interpretation) that we fund. My staff met the board of directors who

are reviewing their operations and my department is looking at hospices to improve their operations. I can say that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I fully recognize that the Baker Lake Hospice is run by an independent board and not directly by the government. However, the government does play a role in ensuring that services meet certain standards. Can the minister clearly explain what support is provided to the board of directors of the Baker Lake Hospice to ensure that they are aware of their obligations and are able to meet them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague from Baker Lake for that question. You asked what our department does. I don't know all the details and I can get back to the member, but the directors have to be elected and they meet accordingly to keep the hospice open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Some services at the Baker Lake Hospice are provided by health care personnel, for example, in

the areas of medication management and chronic care needs. Can the minister describe how her departmental officials work with officials from the Department of Health to address issues relating to the care and comfort of our elders at the Baker Lake Hospice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague as he wants to know how we work together. Health care workers assist the elders and I am grateful for that. (interpretation ends) Home care (interpretation) is also involved as it is related to looking after elders. The (interpretation ends) contribution agreement (interpretation) is a contractual agreement with the hospice society. The hospice society is contracted under our department. We are reviewing the contract with the society. If there are going to be any changes, I will inform my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 444 – 4(2): Housing Issues in Gjoa Haven**

**Mr. Akoak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current

public housing allocation system indicates that Gjoa Haven is one of the top ten communities in need of new public housing.

The government's capital estimates for the 2016-17 fiscal year will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly in a few months' time.

Can the minister indicate where the Nunavut Housing Corporation is at today in terms of deciding where new public housing units will be constructed in the upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, at this time, we have not determined how many housing units will be going to Gjoa Haven and other communities. For that reason, I can't provide the member with an answer at this time. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how frequently the Nunavut Housing Corporation communicates with Gjoa Haven's local housing organization to obtain up-to-date information on waiting lists and overcrowding in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, with respect to his question about Gjoa Haven, there are many communities that are waiting for new housing. Some communities are more in need than others and we have to meet the greatest need. It's true that Gjoa Haven is in the top ten communities in critical need of housing. Nevertheless, there are other communities that are higher on the priority list than Gjoa Haven.

To use the member's community of Gjoa Haven as an example, they are lacking 58 houses. If we build 58 houses, it would meet their need. However, other communities need over 150 to 200 houses. As we determine how many units go to which community, we have to make that determination by need. I hope I made sense, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask that question at another time.

My second question, as the minister will recall, another housing issue that I have raised on a number of occasions concerns the problems that homeowners in small communities face when trying to access the Nunavut Housing Corporation's home repair and improvement programs. In small communities, there is often a shortage of

local skilled tradespeople and contractors.

Can the minister describe what changes the Nunavut Housing Corporation has made to its homeownership programs to address the problem that I identified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, in the smaller communities, we lack contractors and we also lack house maintenance workers. With regard to the member's question on the homeownership programs, we often have a shortage of local skilled tradespeople.

Mr. Speaker, as the housing corporation, we looked into this issue and looked at ways of improving this, especially for the communities that have a shortage of skilled tradespeople and contractors. We have identified and set up a program. If there is no contractor in the community, no matter where it is, such as Gjoa Haven, then the housing corporation can send a skilled worker and open the contract so that they can go to the community. That is just an example I can provide to the member. We are working on that policy at the housing corporation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Question 445 – 4(2): Repulse Bay’s Sewage Lagoon**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent fall sitting, the minister stated that the Government of Nunavut signed the Canada-Nunavut Gas Tax Agreement in February 2014.

The government’s 2015-16 capital estimates indicate that in previous years, a total of \$5.1 million in funding under the Gas Tax Fund was allocated to a sewage lagoon project in Repulse Bay. However, Repulse Bay still does not have a sewage lagoon.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the sewage lagoon project in Repulse Bay and how the \$5.1 million in gas tax funding has been used to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. (interpretation ends) The design for the sewage lagoon has been completed now at this point. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my question, this \$5.1 million in gas tax funding has been used to date for this

project. What did they use that fund for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the fund the member is asking about, the \$5.1 million was appropriated for constructing a (interpretation ends) sewage lagoon, (interpretation) but as of this date, only a small portion of the funds has been used primarily for the planning and design phase. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that the construction will start this summer? I refer to the sewage lagoon here. As Repulse Bay currently has no lagoon, the raw sewage is seeping onto the land as it is just dumped. I would then ask: will the construction phase of the sewage lagoon start this coming summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just waiting for the federal government for a water licence. Once we get the water licence, we will be able to start the project. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Question 446 – 4(2): Decentralization Policy**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, whose department has overall responsibility for implementing the government's decentralization plan.

As the minister is very much aware, the GN's overall decentralization model has gone through many changes since the creation of the territory. In decentralized communities like Arviat, people are concerned with what they see as a slow but steady slippage of positions back to Iqaluit.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Savikataaq:** It has always been my understanding that the government's policy is that when a position is moved out of a decentralized community, a new position must be relocated into the community in order to ensure that the community does not suffer a net loss of jobs. Can the minister confirm that my understanding is correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the earlier years, it's very important that

the decentralized positions be replaced when they're relocated to a different place such as Iqaluit. As a government, we intend to maintain our 60 percent government employees outside of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, I raised concerns about the transfer of a position from Nunavut Arctic College's Arviat headquarters to the college's Iqaluit office for a period of three years. The transfer is for three years. Although this transfer may be considered as "temporary" by the government, it should not prevent the government from following the spirit of its policy and relocating a new position into the community for an equivalent period of time. When I suggested this to the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College yesterday, I did not get a commitment or a positive response to this. Will the Minister of EIA commit to ensuring that this is done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'll be following the generally accepted method of trying to deal with these situations and once that happens, I will surely let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of EIA, the Premier, for the response. If you give a little, it is common to ask for more.

As I am sure my friend and colleague from Baker Lake will agree, there is frustration in the Kivalliq [regarding] the status of the so-called “headquarters” of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Although the headquarters of each of these three entities are located in Arviat and Baker Lake, the vast majority of their senior executives and decision-makers actually live and work in Iqaluit.

Will the Premier commit to ensuring that no less than 50 percent of each corporation’s executive and senior management positions are relocated to Arviat and Baker Lake before the end of this government’s term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, I will use the generally accepted method of looking into this. I can’t commit to some of these numbers that the member has stated because I will have to speak with my colleagues on this just to determine why we got to that state. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

#### **Question 447 – 4(2): Federal Funding for Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq and to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, the minister signed a joint agreement with the federal government extending the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement to 2019. This investment commits \$15 million for new affordable housing. Can the minister explain how this funding will be used to address the unique housing needs in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, our department continues to state that with respect to housing and our severe housing shortage within Nunavut, we will continue to work on this file and we will have to deliberate on our options.

However, our continual statement on this issue is that we have begun preparations for a strategy for housing to study issues, such as (interpretation ends) overcrowding (interpretation) and other related housing issues, as housing

includes many interrelated social issues. We have committed to undertaking this plan and we expect to initiate this plan soon.

We have begun the (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action on Housing (interpretation) to start consulting within and outside government departments, including such organizations as the regional Inuit associations or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and we hope to collaborate with them to start our plans to combat our housing shortage situation here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The additional \$15 million was announced on November 10 of 2014. Mr. Speaker, sealift deadlines are fast approaching. I think the department should have some idea of where they are going to spend this money. I wonder if the minister can update us today on which communities will benefit from this investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the member's question, in order to construct affordable housing, we had a surplus of approximately \$10 million. Mr. Speaker, we have identified the 2015-16 funding to construct the units in Pond Inlet, Kugaaruk, and

Arviat. We have identified those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's business plan indicates that "funding from CMHC for the social housing inventory, which was transferred to the Corporation in 1996, is declining and will terminate completely in 2037." Can the minister clearly explain how he is working with his federal counterpart to find a long-term solution to this issue and whether or not the additional money from the federal government will be used for O&M on public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can't actually answer that question right now, but I can tell my colleague that we have been speaking with the federal government and different departments are also involved. We are working with Community and Government Services and EIA, amongst others, in regard to housing because it's a complicated matter. We are working and talking with our counterparts. There is nothing identified yet, but it is being worked on in conjunction with the federal government. We would like to put a good plan together. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 448 – 4(2): Early School Leavers**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, statistics have shown that a significant number of our young school-age children do not finish school. They leave school early and many of them do not find employment.

Can the minister describe what programs are in place and what kinds of intervention efforts are made by his departmental staff to interact with youth who have left school early and are not employed and to get them back into the school system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. We are encouraging our young people to keep going to school. The student dropout rate in Nunavut is the highest in Canada.

We keep our doors open to students who have recently quit school through initiatives like PASS, which is geared towards older students to continue their education. We are able to help students with adult education as well. We also keep our schools open for younger students so that they may participate in after school programs. These are the programs that we advertise.

We are still pushing and encouraging the parents because parental engagement is an important part of the education process. These are different programs that we're trying to work on so that our students who can be in school keep going to school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes it is easy to fall off our path and it can be much more difficult to get back on it, especially when we get older, and I can speak from my own personal experience. I quit school in grade 9, but as an adult, I went back to high school and I graduated from this high school here in Iqaluit.

Our *Education Act* states that Nunavummiut are entitled to go to school up to the age of 21. Can the minister indicate whether his department keeps records of the number of Nunavummiut who leave school early and then come back to complete their education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my fellow MLA, for asking that question. Unfortunately, we do not keep records for that type of information. I do know other departments, such as Arctic College, do monitor and this is something that the Department of Education is now working on, to monitor potential students that have gotten out of our schools. This is something that our

department is now working towards to make sure that we have a monitoring system that can give us a better picture of what potentials we have that may and have an ability to go back to school. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lack of education limits one's options in life. It stands to reason that many of our early school leavers will have to rely on supports such as income support for their basic needs if they cannot find employment. Can the minister clarify what programs are in place to steer early school leavers towards productive choices for their future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for seeking clarification on that issue. When our students are attending school, these are the types of messages we try to convey to the students while they are still youth attending classes in the schools.

As a matter of fact, we had that in mind when we discussed (interpretation ends) early childhood education (interpretation) as an example of children not quite in school being encouraged to continue their schooling and we are trying to produce that now. As an example, based on their relative age as they grow older, the message is

meant to keep them attached to their education and we are starting that at a younger age and we are trying to apply that message earlier.

Perhaps it is that mindset we are trying to form, to see how students can be more engaged in their schooling if the encouragement starts at an earlier age in preschool to teach them the importance of education. These are the types of initiatives we are looking at as the Department of Education in (interpretation ends) early childhood education (interpretation) to start that earlier. That is what we are trying to encourage through this initiative.

Further, within our schools, we are using awards to encourage attendance and students are recognized by their teachers on a specific time period, such as a monthly attendance certificates. These are the types of initiatives we are working on to encourage our students through various encouragement methods, such as these awards. This encourages our students.

These are the types of things we are pushing for to ensure our students remain in school. As part of our designation of the importance of this issue, we have tried to show more encouragement, including televised recordings that are meant to encourage our students at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

**Question 449 – 4(2): Standardized Writing System in Schools**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and all the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education further today based on his Minister's Statement earlier today. He announced the writing system used in the schools, (interpretation ends) the standardized writing system.

(interpretation) I wanted further elaboration on this front, as I seemed to hear that a strategy or plan is in the works. Let me first ask: how long will this planning process take? (interpretation ends) The comprehensive implementation plan (interpretation) was announced as requiring work. How long will the planning take? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. At this time, we are looking at the upcoming (interpretation ends) spring 2015 (interpretation) where we want to return to report on the status of the plan and to review the issues. Currently, we are only doing (interpretation ends) research (interpretation) to see where we are, what resources are available in our schools now, as well as what other subjects are needed. We are only reviewing the issues and the planning process is scheduled to start in the spring

of 2015. That is our expectation of the planning process to resolve these issues we have found out about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the details within the Minister's Statement highlighted several communication initiatives and I assume that includes community consultations. Here I mean (interpretation) consultation (interpretation) specifically on our writing system that is taught in all of our schools in Nunavut. It will impact each and every community, so I wonder if the minister can elaborate on the (interpretation ends) consultation plan (interpretation) and if every community will be consulted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for enquiring about this issue and for asking for more details. Let us know that with respect to the writing system, it would only apply to the schools and not the public. It won't be applied to our communities as a requirement or elsewhere. The language isn't explicitly saying that it applies everywhere; only within our schools.

Also, we want further feedback on this issue from the DEAs, teachers, principals, parents, and students, and so on. These are the groups that we will consult as part of this process. Let me



reiterate that this writing system we are researching only applies to our schools at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. Currently, Inuit have two different writing systems, *qaniujaaqpait* and *qaliujaaqpait*. Do I understand that every student will now need to use *qaliujaaqpait*, or Roman orthography, as part of their schooling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again want it clearly understood even as I speak at this moment that our schools are teaching our children. At this point in time, the Roman orthography, or *inuilingajut*, is being taught starting in grade 4 at this time. The syllabics are taught as well from kindergarten up to grade 4 with no Roman orthography taught until they have reached grade 4. That is the current teaching practice.

Further, even with my announcement earlier, at this time, what we are trying to accomplish is to determine if the writing system can be incorporated into our schools. This is basically a pilot project and we haven't stated that this writing system will now be required. However, to reiterate, we are just trying to see if this initiative will work and to see what resources are needed in our schools to implement this writing system. We are

consulting to see if our teachers require additional training to offer this subject.

These are the types of issues we are currently reviewing. Nonetheless, I can state that this system will start being taught from grade 4 and the higher grades. Some schools already use the Roman orthography writing system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Question 450 – 4(2): 2015 Council of the Federation Meeting**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Jamie and Paige MacDougall here. I was just mentioning to them during the recognition that one of the very first questions I asked in this House as a newly elected MLA had to do with services for hearing impairment.

Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Premier today. Last week, he tabled the federal/provincial/territorial ministerial report from the 2015 Council of the Federation winter meeting, and I was going over the document over this past week and I had a couple of questions for the Premier.

As I'm sure all members are very much aware, I'm a very strong proponent of alternative energy use to be brought to Nunavut to reduce our reliance upon fossil fuels. During those meetings, they were speaking about the commitment to completing the Canadian Energy Strategy. I was wondering what input was our Premier available to put into that document to really highlight the need of exploring alternative energy

sources for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased that we have a member who is quite keen on how the Canadian premiers discuss energy and other various topics of discussions on the agenda.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian strategy on energy is one of the things that were put out in 2007. Mr. Speaker, our participation is through the working groups and at the senior level. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have another big player that has joined the Council of the Federation, that being, Quebec and we intend to have them participate in all our agenda items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the document that we received, it talks about the commitment to completing the Canadian Energy Strategy, building on the vision and principles adopted last year.

What I'm looking for is I'm wondering if the minister has... I'm sure he has. With the opportunities that have been available to him at these types of meetings to really stress the need of Nunavut getting off our dependency on fossil fuel and the impact it is having on the global environment, but as well as on the economy of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the hon. member's question. Mr. Speaker, we're just a small player in the overall scheme of things. We use very little fossil fuels compared to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, we have no alternative energy that we can use, whether it's hydro projects or any others, wind power and tidal power. We are not at that stage yet. We are not as fortunate as these other jurisdictions where they have collected royalties for years to put into their coffers so that they can actually build alternative energy infrastructure, such as hydro dams and other alternative energy. We don't have that luxury.

At this point, we do have to go to Ottawa and ask for mega millions of dollars to build basic needs infrastructure. At this point, it's very costly to build alternative energy such as hydro. As we all know, several years ago, there were discussions on that and the amounts came up to \$450 million or \$500 million. That was three or four years ago. Every year that we wait, the costs do go up.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have the luxury of collecting royalties from oil. We don't have enough capital resources to build that type of infrastructure, but as you know, Mr. Speaker, we are negotiating hard through devolution to get to that stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some other topics on this document, but I would like to stay with the alternative energy right now.

As the Premier just mentioned, every year we delay, it increases the costs. I know all of us in this House realize that we don't have a lot of the luxuries that other jurisdictions have with mineral, gas, and oil royalties. They are just not available to Nunavut at this time.

In the meantime, as the Minister of Finance has stated, I'm sure there is continual lobbying to the federal government. We know we can't do this on our own. At the same time, when you are talking about a Canadian energy strategy, if the other premiers from across the country can understand the predicament that it puts us in, if we could offset, again using the Premier's hydro development project here in Iqaluit, it would solidify costs all across the territory. It would not just benefit Iqaluit; it would benefit the whole territory.

If he could get a little bit more agreement or understanding from his premier counterparts from across the country, it might help pressure the federal government to give us assistance to move this project forward. I'm just wondering if the Premier has had those discussions with some of his counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I participate in western premiers' conferences and northern premiers' forums. Mr. Speaker, at the

northern premiers' forums, we discuss common issues that are related to the north. The northern premiers' forum is Northwest Territories and Yukon, along with Nunavut. This year, I will be hosting the Northern Premiers' Forum in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as a territory, we try and put forth our issues to other premiers, including the federal government. It is a struggle. There are other jurisdictions that are doing the same thing. As you know, with the fall of oil prices, it has made it very difficult for some provinces. They do the same thing as we are doing to the federal government, asking for more funds for programs and other infrastructure that we desperately need in Nunavut, and on and on it goes.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance had met with the federal Minister of Finance in December and he put forth our needs in energy, housing, and the debt cap. Mr. Speaker, that's why we are negotiating hard to get our devolution deal so that we can actually start planning and doing some of these things on our own. It's not going to be instant; it's going to take time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a day when we can actually start doing some things on our own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Question 451 – 4(2): Mental Health Workers in Communities**

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

Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note that when my colleague from Iqaluit-Niaqunnguuk asked about mental health staffing, the minister responded that he would “see how we can actually further help in every community.”

We have had a mental health worker in Pond Inlet and it has been of great benefit to the community. Today, I would like to ask: will the minister commit to ensuring that this position is a full-time indeterminate position for the community of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say today that every Nunavut community has a mental health nurse. It is in place today. We have been in the recruitment phase and we will look at ways to fill these positions. This month, we will take part in a meeting of northern mental health workers conference to look at ways to improve how best to set up mental health services in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, I have asked about the allocation of such positions of

nurses, doctors, and other health staff in our communities. Can the minister clearly explain how staffing allocations are determined for each of Nunavut’s communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to put mental health nurses into each community, as there was a need, and the House agreed to have these workers in all communities. This will now be a permanent set-up. When we look at community services, we look for the best options. In Pond Inlet’s case, we looked at a nurse practitioner in the community. We now have a permanent nurse practitioner after a trial period and have spread this to other communities. We look to improve and look at the best options for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to support the minister’s request for increased funding in his 2015-16 budget to address needs in the mental health field. The addition of mental health workers and psychiatric nurses will be a valuable resource. I would like to ask this question: can the minister explain what criteria are considered when deciding where to allocate psychiatric nursing positions across Nunavut’s communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to mental health nursing, we have them in all communities. Here in Iqaluit, we have a number of mental health positions and we are assessing them and reviewing what will work for other communities. It's going to be an ongoing effort for our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, you may have noted that the time for question period has expired. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 117 – 4(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2014**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2014*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

#### **Tabled Document 118 – 4(2): 103rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and Joint Declaration of Provincial and Territorial Education and Labour Market Ministers**

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *103rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and Joint Declaration of Provincial and Territorial Education and Labour Market Ministers*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

#### **Tabled Document 119 – 4(2): FPT Health Ministers' Meeting, Banff September 30 – October 1, 2014**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Provincial, Territorial (PT) and Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Health Ministers' Meeting, Banff, Alberta, September 30 to October 1, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mikkungwak.

#### **Tabled Document 120 – 4(2): Kivalliq Wildlife Board Resolution Concerning the Kiggavik Project**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today a copy of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board's resolution of February 23, 2015

concerning the proposed Kiggavik project. I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 121 – 4(2): 2014-2017 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner**

**Tabled Document 122 – 4(2): 2015-2018 Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth**

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I have two documents to table today.

I wish to table the 2014-17 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner and the 2015-18 Business Plan of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Motion 020 – 4(2): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its winter 2015 sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 26, 2015.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 19 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:07 and Committee resumed at 15:36*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Environment and, if time permits, the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates of the Department of EIA?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask the Premier if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the Premier's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) For the record, Premier, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Mr. Chairman, on my left is Deputy Minister David Akeeagok and on my right is Virginia Lloyd, Executive Director of Strategic Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Premier, you may now proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Today, I am pleased to present to the Committee of the Whole the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' 2015-18 business plan and 2015-16 main estimates.

The department continues to provide support to cabinet as a central agency. Mr. Chairman, the department is also the lead on interdepartmental coordination of *Sivumut Abluqta*. As a government, we are committed to fulfilling our mandate and we have, indeed, been making progress in that regard.

Besides interdepartmental coordination, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs continues to move the Government of Nunavut's policy discussions to ensure our interests are represented at the national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman, last spring, I committed to reviewing the Devolution Division within Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Today, I am pleased to announce that we undertook changes to the division and to the overarching structure of EIA. We took the necessary time to reassess the needs of the department. That reorganization is now complete and I would be happy to expand on it further.

The changes were made to allow the department to implement priorities addressed in the department's business plan more effectively. We remain focused on priorities identified in the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate. Within the mandate, we identified five core business areas:

- The Directorate,
- Strategic Planning,
- Sivumuaqatigiit,
- Intergovernmental Affairs, and
- The Devolution Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, we moved the function of devolution out from Intergovernmental Affairs and created a secretariat that now has a direct line of communication to my office.

Before I provide more detail regarding that approach, I would like to report on the department's main estimates.

For the 2015-16 fiscal year, the main estimates total \$27,547,000. I am presenting to the Committee of the Whole the departmental business plan. The main estimate total is comprised of approximately \$17.5 million allocated toward salaries and benefits, \$100,000 for grants and contributions, and \$9.9 million for remaining operations and maintenance costs.

The changes as they relate to core business areas are as follows:

The Directorate, as you know, provides the overall management and coordination of activities for the executive branch of government. As secretary to cabinet, the deputy minister provides cabinet and ministerial support. The branch also provides advisory

services regarding access to information and privacy protection issues, communications, and administrative support to both the department and the Utility Rates Review Council.

The Directorate Division also supports the Senior Personnel Secretariat function. As well, we have added \$200,000 in access to information and protection of privacy expenses for salary and benefits for the addition of an ATIPP officer and remaining O&M costs. This \$200,000 is included in the overall departmental budget of \$27,547,000.

Mr. Chairman, the department's governmental liaison officers are now housed within Intergovernmental Affairs. The GLOs are very much connected to their communities and Intergovernmental Affairs seemed to be a better fit for their role and how it relates to affairs between governments.

The Strategic Planning Branch provides broad advice on government business planning, strategies, policies, legislation, and supports the Government of Nunavut in collecting statistical information. The Strategic Planning Branch also works directly with the Department of Finance to oversee the government-wide operational audit, which this government has committed to in *Sivumut Abluqta*.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the Committee of the Whole that a request for proposals for the first phase of the operational audit was issued and we expect to award the contract in the coming weeks.



Phase 1 of the operational audit sets to carry out a high-level review of all departmental and corporate programs. Results and recommendations from the first review phase are expected this coming fall in time for preparations of the next business plan cycle. The aim is to identify programs that need improvement or need to have better efficiencies built within their scope. What's identified here will go under a more in-depth review during the second phase of the operational audit.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' Sivumuaqatigiit Division is responsible for providing human resources planning and direction on initiatives aimed at increasing and maintaining Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Sivumuaqatigiit also provides assistance and support to departments in training and developing their staff, including interns. The branch also leads and coordinates initiatives to support the government's decentralized model.

As I mentioned earlier, the Intergovernmental Affairs Division is now responsible for providing support to the network of government liaison officers. Given the role of Intergovernmental Affairs to provide leadership and coordination for the management and development of strategies, policies, and initiatives relevant to all levels of government, GLOs are a logical and well-supported fit within this division.

Intergovernmental Affairs is also being tasked with working with departments to coordinate an overarching approach to matters related to seniors. This new function also supports my role at the

Council of the Federation on the Seniors Working Group on behalf of Nunavut. Departments remain responsible for providing the day-to-day programs and services to seniors across Nunavut.

The Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is expected to liaise between departments, stay abreast of key issues, and coordinate matters pertaining to seniors. This facilitation is an important step in ensuring that departments are communicating, overlaps are managed effectively, and programs are meeting the needs of our seniors.

Mr. Chairman, besides these additions in responsibility, Intergovernmental Affairs continues to manage relationships with aboriginal, circumpolar, and international organizations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we have made significant changes regarding the additional core business function of the Devolution Secretariat. The reorganization of the devolution function was completed to support the Government of Nunavut's position and drive devolution in an assertive manner. The branch, as I mentioned, now becomes a standalone secretariat.

The Devolution Secretariat leads both the Government of Nunavut's preparation for and participation in negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated towards the conclusion of a devolution agreement.

\$38,000 in additional funds was allocated to operations and maintenance for this secretariat. This addition is

included in the overall departmental budget.

The transfer of authority over Crown land and non-renewable resources in Nunavut is a priority for this government and essential for the territory's long-term political and economic development. The secretariat is also responsible for coordinating the implementation of the final agreement when it is reached.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' main estimates and business plan. I welcome comments and look forward to answering questions. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee on oversight have opening comments? Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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 proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,547,000 is 0.87 percent higher than the department's 2014-15 main

estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 136.0 PYs in 2014-15 to 138.0 PYs in 2015-16.

In June of 2012, the Legislative Assembly approved amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The amendments added provisions to allow individuals to request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information, and to require public bodies to notify the Information and Privacy Commissioner where a breach of privacy has occurred.

Mr. Chairman, the number of positions in the department's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office is increasing from 1.0 PY to 2.0. The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that "additional supports are required to ensure compliance with the new privacy provisions of the ATIPP Act."

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Explore options regarding municipal access to information and protection of privacy legislation." It also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Provide support to the municipalities of Nunavut in implementing access and privacy principles based on the successful implementation within the City of Iqaluit."

The standing committee also notes the importance of the government tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the

*Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.* Mr. Chairman, the 2013-14 report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014.

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that "The next cycle of the [food price] survey is planned to be conducted in March 2015." It also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Conduct [the] 2016 Nunavut Food Price Survey to collect prices on food and non-food items in all Nunavut communities." In light of the Auditor General's recent report to Parliament on the Nutrition North Canada Program, it is important for the department to work closely with federal authorities to share data that could lead to improvements in this important area.

I would also note that information from the 2016 Nunavut Food Price Survey can be expected to be of use to the Department of Family Services in evaluating the adequacy of food allowance rates under the Social Assistance Regulations.

The standing committee notes with concern that the statutorily required 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's draft 2015-16 main estimates and business plan indicate that the Government Liaison Office has been transferred back to the department's Intergovernmental Affairs Branch.

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal

year is to "Coordinate and promote existing programs and services available to Seniors." As members will recall, a number of interventions have been made in this House concerning the need for the government to address this issue, including the question of whether to harmonize the age at which residents are considered to be "seniors" for the purpose of eligibility for certain programs and services.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has assumed a number of functions and responsibilities that were previously exercised by the Department of Human Resources, which was dissolved on April 1, 2013. Other functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance.

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, information contained in the government's quarterly employment reports indicate that a total of 1,165 beneficiaries were employed by the government in June of 2004. By June of 2014, that number had increased to 1,689. This constituted an increase of approximately 45 percent over the course of a decade. On average, the government gained approximately 52 new Inuit employees each year.

Mr. Chairman, it is important for the government to develop 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.

Information contained in the government's June 2014 quarterly employment report, which is the most recent report to have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly, indicates that there were a total of 4,503 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies. 3,359 of these positions were filled, of which 1,689 were filled by beneficiaries. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 2,138 new beneficiary employees to achieve full representativeness.

The standing committee notes that the government's proposed 2015-18 business plan indicates that its current government-wide Inuit Employment Plan target is 51 percent Inuit employment by March 31 of 2016.

Mr. Chairman, in its response to the standing committee's report on the 2010 *Report of the Auditor General on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut stated that it will "continue to lobby the federal government for funding in regards to obligations under Article 23." It is important that the government publicly clarify its current position concerning how much additional federal funding would be required in order to meet its obligations and achieve its objectives.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the ongoing gender gap within the public service. The 2012-13 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that approximately 37 percent of the public

service is composed of beneficiary women. Approximately 25 percent of the public service is composed of non-beneficiary females and an additional 25 percent is composed of non-beneficiary males. However, beneficiary males compose approximately only 10 percent of the public service.

The 2012-13 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that 756 employees were receiving a bilingual bonus as at March 31, 2013. However, the annual report does not provide a detailed community-by-community breakdown of the number of positions that are eligible for a bilingual bonus. Future editions of the annual report would benefit from the inclusion of this information.

The standing committee notes that section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Inuit Language Authority "may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency..." Given the importance of complying with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the standing committee encourages the department to develop objective tests for evaluating language proficiency within the public service.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the government's new *Human Resource Strategy, 2014-2018*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014, indicates that "A Language Incentive Program will be introduced in 2015-2016 to actively encourage employees to improve their oral and written proficiency in Inuktitut. The program is currently being designed, including the finalization of proficiency

levels, assessment tools and recommended compensation for each level.”

Mr. Chairman, on June 5, 2012, the Government of Nunavut’s *Decentralization Action Plan* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The *Decentralization Action Plan* states that “the current model can be strengthened by shifting focus on the number of positions and communities they go to and maintaining a commitment to allocating and maintaining over 60% of the public service outside of Iqaluit.”

The department’s proposed 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to “Continue implementation of the Decentralization [Action] Plan...in collaboration with other departments in the GN.”

On April 20, 2011, a new cooperation protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was signed. Mr. Chairman, some of the priority areas identified in the protocol were to review the *Child and Family Services Act*, consult on the NNI Policy, and develop new regulations under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The department’s 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to “Renew the protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and continue to work on matters of mutual interest to Nunavummiut.” The department’s draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that “A protocol and work plan has been drafted for review by both parties.”

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports a positive working relationship between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. It is also incumbent on the government to be clear and candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have disagreements on specific issues.

The department’s draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to “...work to finalize the devolution Agreement-in-Principle for transfer of authority over, and administration and control of Crown lands, water, and resources from Canada to GN.” The standing committee looks forward to reviewing progress towards a devolution agreement.

On September 5, 2009, the governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon released a joint communiqué announcing the renewal of the Northern Cooperation Accord for a five-year term. On October 31, 2014, the Premier tabled *A Northern Vision: Building a Better North* in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee supports Nunavut having a strong voice concerning such issues as the need to enhance federal search and rescue capacity in the north, as well as standing up for Nunavut’s seal harvesters.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. A reminder that all electronic devices should be turned off or put on silent mode. Thank you.

General comments. I want to remind members that the contents of the opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

(interpretation) General comments.  
(interpretation ends) I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the main estimates starting on page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,531,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Turn the page. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Sorry. Are we on B-5?

**Chairman:** Yes.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you. Your department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Conduct [the] 2016 Nunavut Food Price Survey to collect prices on food and non-food items in all Nunavut communities."

In light of the Auditor General of Canada's recent report to Parliament on

the Nutrition North Canada Program, how does your department work with the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on the issue of food costs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, we work with all the departments within the federal government. Of course, that's one of the issues that we work closely with our MP from Nunavut, the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, and that's one of the things we keep an eye on. Of course, with the Auditor General's report coming out, we will certainly be paying close attention to what the action items are going to be from their latest request for proposals to improve the program itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** I think I just have one more question. Has there been a survey done already or is there one coming up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One is currently taking place right at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** If that survey is completed, how will you be using it to help

Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We use all kinds of information and data collected to assist us in determining how we're going to be approaching the federal government in assisting northerners. Of course, again, that's in light of the Auditor General's reports. Things may change and of course, once we have a good understanding of what the new recommendations may be coming forth from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, we will certainly be keeping an eye on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will there be any way of determining how to...? When you're trying to help the people of Nunavut, are you going to make food affordable? Will there be any way of determining how it can be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At this time, we don't know. It's a federal program and of course, the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is trying to find ways to improve that program. Once we have indication on what they may be doing, we will certainly let the public know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. B-5. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,632,000 Agreed? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I actually only have maybe one question in this area. It has to do with the evaluation framework and evaluation plan for assessing the effectiveness and impacts of programs and projects.

In your business plan on page 5, it states that the "Framework for the GN has been developed and is currently being revised and expanded." Can you give us a little more information on what is being revised and which programs are being evaluated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The evaluation plan for assessing the effectiveness, of course, we talk about that and it's one of the things that we want to improve on as a government. At this time, a draft paper is being formed and developed. We can use that to expand on other things that may need improvement. Of course, we look at all the past reports and reviews have been done in the past, and we use that to quantify our improvements on an upcoming framework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe I heard in his answer what has been revised and which

programs are you reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're doing all that for some of the programs that we are looking at. Of course, some of these directions that we will be getting in reviewing some of these programs and the framework, we will certainly let the members know exactly what they are going to be, going into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says, "A draft paper on an Evaluation Framework for the GN has been developed and is currently being revised and expanded." Is the Premier telling us that this hasn't happened yet? You don't know which programs you're reviewing and you don't know what is being revised as of yet. Is that what you are saying? Thank you. Just to be clear.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely not. We were hoping that we could use that and develop into one of the... . What I'm trying to say, Mr. Chairman, is that times have changed and we want to update some of these frameworks that we have been doing in the past. Certainly, we will have the Bureau of Statistics help us out in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier give us an idea of which programs are being reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member please clarify the type of question. Because it is just on evaluation, are you asking questions on all the government programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Please clarify your question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going by from the business plan. In the business plan on page 5, the first bullet, it says, "Prepare an evaluation framework and an evaluation plan for assessing the effectiveness and impacts of programs, projects and activities..." and it says here that "A draft paper on an Evaluation Framework for the GN has been developed and is currently being revised and expanded."

If I'm thinking that something has been revised, it is because you have used some of it already and decided that you want to make some changes. I'm wondering and my question is: which programs so far have been evaluated? Maybe there are none. I don't know. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you for the clarification from the committee



member, Mr. Chairman. When we use information and data collected by the bureau of statistics, we want to ensure that we use proper methods of developing the framework and programs that we intend to use. We are using that data. We've got to ensure that the data we collect is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on B-5. Branch Summary. Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe one of my colleagues already asked about this issue related to food.

Firstly, welcome and I extend my welcome to you, and I mean the officials.

As I stated, one of my colleagues spoke about food and associated high costs. We have tried to ascertain through our questions exactly which department will conduct the food price survey. We have certainly noted the responses stating that the departments themselves don't conduct research on the increasing costs of food.

Who exactly has this mandate, and why is it so vague about the government stating that a study will be undertaken? Any time we ask questions to that effect, the answer we get is that the department doesn't conduct the studies internally. Who exactly will be conducting the food price survey? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akeegok.

**Mr. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics conducts the annual food price survey in the communities. The first survey was completed last year with the survey starting in March. This survey will be continued from our department to be able to produce the statistics on the food costs and determine if it is increasing or decreasing.

We wanted to be able to start using the figures to provide that data to the retailers. We want to be able to utilize this data in all avenues and to publicly show the actual costs of food over a year. This study stems from our department that we refer to as the current survey. This information will be available to all members of the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate my late brother's son-in-law for providing an understandable response. I tend to get perplexed over this issue when the response to our question of who is conducting the survey states that the department itself doesn't conduct that type of research.

I think we are all aware of this fact now as communities receive both air freight and sealift freight, and based on the distance from point A to B, the costs also increase due to the additional

distances to freight in the foods. The freight costs are what drive these excessive costs, especially in my constituency in the High Arctic.

Also, this is part and parcel of the fuel costs, as every increase in fuel adds to the expenses related to the food, and when it arrives into our community, we are flabbergasted by the change between the sealift prices and airfreight costs for the same products. That is how difficult this challenge is that we face here in Nunavut.

I totally believe this requires a comprehensive review, as it exacerbates the critical situation the people living in poverty face as these additional costs eat up their budgets. These escalating costs of food are evident in the Northern Store or the Co-op when they need to ship food via airfreight. This should be part of their annual resupply lists so that they don't run out before the year is over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I didn't hear any questions. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,632,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Turn to page B-6. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,645,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) B-7. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$301,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total... . Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not on the business plan at all, but I'm just curious. NTI was suing the federal government and back in 2010, the GN filed a statement of defence in relation to the federal government's attempt to have the GN named as a co-defendant in the lawsuit. The media has stated that an out-of-court settlement has been reached between the two parties. What, if any, effect does this have on the GN? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does have a huge impact on the Government of Nunavut. As you know, one of the main stipulations of Article 23 is training for Inuit and employment within the Government of Nunavut.

In your response to the opening comments, there is a statement there indicating 85 percent Inuit representation. In the past, we were getting \$10,000 per year for Inuit training and we certainly hope that's

going to be increased with the conclusion of the litigation between NTI and Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever the settlement is made public, we will all know what's in it, but does the Premier know if some monies will flow directly to the GN from the federal government or is it going to go to through NTI since they are the ones that laid the lawsuit? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for the question. Mr. Chairman, although the lawsuit was between Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, under Article 23, the Government of Nunavut is obligated to train Inuit. Certainly, we hope that we will see some money flowing into the government to allow us to fulfill the obligation of trying to reach a representative level of 85 percent. I know it's going to be difficult at times, but it will certainly boost our efforts if it comes out positive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different matter altogether, the Dene land claims in the Kivalliq region has been a concern and an issue with me since I got elected. I'm just wondering if the Premier has any updates on that issue. I know that there

are confidentiality issues, but is there any update that he can give us? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. At this time, there are no real updates, although we are making efforts to put another person in the negotiating main table and that person will be from Arviat. At this point, there is really no other information that I can provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment. I thank the Premier for the update that he has. I hope that the outcome of the land claims is not too harsh on us as a government because it has lots of implications, not only financial, but financially, it can have great impacts on us. I hope that the negotiations go well for the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I didn't hear a question, so I will move along. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask some questions on the work you have done in regard to Canada's 2013-15 chairmanship of the Arctic Council. It says that you attended the ICC General Assembly in Inuvik and that there were issues arising at the working group level. I'm wondering if you can tell us what issues arose out of these meetings that you feel directly impacted Nunavut and

what steps were taken to address the issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, I did participate in July in Inuvik. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference is an annual event and we do participate as a government and being an arctic community and representing Inuit.

One of the things that we try and do is coordinate some of these efforts with the Northern Premiers' Forum and of course, the Arctic Council. There are a number of themes that we try and push forward, one of them being mental health of course, and a number of different things. I've got to look in my book to remember.

Of course, we want to increase the capacity and infrastructure sustainability of communities throughout the Arctic. That is one of the themes that we try and promote through these conferences, including health and family wellness.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of different things that we do look at and of course, resource development and these, combined with the Arctic Council, we make efforts to ensure that our voices are heard throughout the Arctic and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his

response. It seems they have some pretty important things to address.

One of them I see, "The Government of Nunavut has assisted with hosting various Arctic Council meetings..." One that is coming up is called "Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities" symposium. Can the Premier tell us a little bit more about this symposium? When will this meeting occur, who is being invited, and where will it be held? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. The event is going to be held here in Iqaluit. I'll be co-hosting with Hon. Leona Aglukkaq March 25 to 27.

Again, there are going to be opportunities to talk about one of the major themes that the Arctic Council has identified through our northern participation. Nunavut's participation, of course, has mental wellness and suicide, and that is one of the topics of discussion that we have been talking about.

As members are well aware, it's one of the things that are all throughout the Arctic Council regions. It's an ongoing issue that we are desperately trying to come up with a solution to that. I know it's not an easy task, but there is continued collaboration and learning from other countries on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us who will be able to attend the symposium? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a co-host, I don't have that answer, but I'll certainly give it to the committee member because it is being organized by the chair of the Arctic Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on to something else and that's your protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated where, in the business plan on page 11, it states that you work with them "on matters of mutual interest to Nunavummiut" and "A protocol and work plan has been drafted for review by both parties." Can you tell us what the priorities of that work plan are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a draft MOU that we have been using. It's due for a renewal on that and that's called *Aajiiqatigiinni*. It's more or less that we work on common issues together. I don't have the MOU in front of me right here, but there are a number of things that we do discuss and of course, housing, mental wellness, health, just to name a few. I don't have that MOU in front of

me. There are a number of different things that we discuss in cooperation with NTI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming, and maybe as Joe says, we shouldn't assume, but I am assuming that this working relationship has gone on for quite some time. I would like to know if the Premier can tell us, out of these meetings, what joint projects are we working on together to address some of the needs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are major issues that we work together on and of course, that's devolution and also a file that a previous committee member mentioned earlier and that's the Denesuline land claims agreement. There are also a number of things that we work on with NTI and of course, there's poverty reduction. We are a partner in that. They co-host and co-chair the conferences, symposiums, and we plan our action items together on poverty reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us how much financial commitment NTI has provided to some of these joint initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know; I can't answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. Maybe I should state it a bit clearly. When you decide that you're going to work on a joint project like poverty reduction, the GN comes up with a budget, obviously, to say, "Look, this is what we're going to do to address this issue." Has NTI also come up with a budget to address the same issue and, if so, what are the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier agree to get that information for us? Obviously, if you're doing a joint project, there are budgets involved on both sides. What are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Premier also be agreeing to table the new MOU signed

off with NTI? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, once the draft is complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked this question a couple of times, I believe, in the past maybe during Oral Questions on the Committee on Internal Trade. The Government of Nunavut participates as an observer, although we're not a signatory on the Agreement on Internal Trade. I was just wondering what the government's current timetable is for signing the Agreement on Internal Trade or if we're going to sign it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are hoping to sign that within 18 months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last fall, the Premier indicated that the government wants a carve-out to protect the NNI Policy. In December of last year, the government announced that its goal is to work with NTI to have a revised NNI Policy by this spring. What

is the position of other provinces and territories regarding the GN's NNI Policy as it relates to the Agreement on Internal Trade? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. It's a very good question. The provinces have agreed for the carve-out of NNI. We have been reassured that there will be protection for NNI and Article 24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on page B-8. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have a question, but I would like to welcome the Premier and his staff.

I have some questions about the government liaison officers in the communities. Perhaps, first of all, in their business plan, it says that 23 GLOs have been hired while there are 25 communities. Is that still the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I never understood the question. Yes, there are 25 communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Joanasie, please rephrase your question. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the communities, which communities do not have GLOs yet? Does that make sense? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the committee member. Mr. Chairman, as time goes along, things do change. Just from last week, we have three more communities that don't have a GLO due to unforeseen circumstances. Of course, the communities that don't have them are still Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, and Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. I have asked about communities with GLOs in the past to the (interpretation ends) hon. minister (interpretation) and the operational aspects related to these positions. As an example, some GLOs are very adept at providing general identification cards for Nunavummiut or photo ID cards.

Yesterday, I believe it was then when we were reviewing the Department of Transportation and the minister was at the witness table, we discussed the (interpretation ends) MVIS (interpretation) system that is geared towards driver's licences and general ID cards.

I have asked questions about (interpretation ends) passports, (interpretation) the documents needed to travel outside of Canada. I understand there are two cameras, one camera is specifically for the driver's licences and the other camera is for the passport photos. Do all the communities have these two different cameras now and, if so, are they up to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know that, but I will certainly check and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to extend my gratitude to (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier (interpretation) for committing to look into the matter.

I just have a general comment about the cameras used by the GLOs. The GLO needs to know how to use the camera and some of them require more training courses to familiarize themselves with the equipment. I was wondering if he could also look into that aspect. This is more of a general question and that concludes my questions. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I didn't hear a question. We are on (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,137,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Go to page B-9. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Sivumuaqatigiit. Mr. Hickers.

**Mr. Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to start off with... I know there has been some progress made in NTI's lawsuit with the Government of Canada that was announced recently.

One of the things that have been talked about in the past is Canada's obligation under Article 23 to provide funding. Last year, the government said that it was going to continue to lobby the federal government for funding in regard to its obligations under Article 23.

As I stated in my opening comments, the committee had some concerns on the amount. Has an amount been identified by the Government of Nunavut on what the federal government should be providing under its Article 23 obligations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give a number at this time because I'll just be assuming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickers.

**Mr. Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll bring that up at some time in the future. I'm sure there will be some work to identify that and the amount of positions that are going to be needed.



I would like to go on to a topic that I have brought up with the Premier a number of times, the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. As I have stated, I'm a big fan of the program itself. I think there are a lot of benefits to it. To start off with, last year when I asked a question regarding this, there was a report on the findings with some recommendations on the review of that program that were being finalized. I was wondering: has that review been finalized, for one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the review has been finalized. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. Maybe I will come see the Premier to maybe take a look at some of the... I would like to see that document and maybe even the rest of the committee members might as well.

In the 2015-16 business plan on page 8, it talks to delivering the internship program with any necessary enhancements to ensure it is meeting its objectives. Without having all the details of the report, I just wondered if maybe the Premier would just be able to highlight maybe the top two or three enhancements that were made from that review to increase the benefit of that program to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Lloyd to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lloyd.

**Ms. Lloyd:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review of the Sivuliqtiksat program has been completed and now we're at the point where the final reviews by various committees internal to the government are making comments on that report. Once we have received all of those comments back, the top recommendations will be finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Premier be able to share that final report when it comes through with this committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on with the internship program, I have spoken in the past on how much I personally have benefited from participating in that program and I have always felt that it's maybe not so much underutilized, but maybe undermanned. I believe, the last time we talked, there

were 14 positions in the internship program and to me, there should be 100 or even 200 positions.

One of the benefits that Nunavut has had the ability to have in the past is oftentimes, because we have been building our government over the last 15 years and we don't have the in-house knowledge, we've had the opportunity to hire people from other jurisdictions to help us build our government.

Sometimes some of these people are towards the tail end of their career, that maybe sometimes they're even finishing off their career here in Nunavut. I think we're missing a learning opportunity when you've got somebody here that it's fairly clear they're only going to be here on a fairly short-term basis to act in their role as a mentor or trainer in addition to their daily function.

I'm just wondering: is part of this review looking at expanding the Sivuliqtiksats Internship Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Absolutely, as a government, we're trying to redefine our programs and we're trying to find ways to encourage and retain more Inuit employees within our departments. Of course, that's a suggestion we will look at very carefully and hopefully, going into the future, we will be able to hire more Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I participated in a portion of the review when they were speaking to previous participants. One of the things that I stressed at the time was that I think these positions are usually application-based. I know they are posted out there.

What I would like to see in the future as well, maybe it will come up in the review, is that young or Inuit current workers of a department that show the initiative and potential to move further up the ladder that may not have the academic background that is needed to move into some of the more senior management positions, such as myself. When I went into a director program, I didn't have the academic background to specifically qualify for that position, but I think I proved my value and my worth just through the experience that I gained by working under some great leadership.

I think that when you can identify people who are already employed, maybe at junior or mid-management levels, the directors, ADMs, and DMs know who these skilled people are. I think there should be more targeted approaches maybe in addition to the application basis of the program.

That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure I see a deputy minister nodding his head. Maybe if the Premier wanted to comment, that will be my final question under this category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good comment and suggestion. Of course, as soon as our budget is approved, we will certainly

take a look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8 of your business plan, the first bullet on Priorities (2014-15) states, "Finalize the Decentralization Plan and begin implementation in collaboration with other departments in the GN." I know that decentralization has been ongoing for a long time. It says, "Finalize the Decentralization Plan..." Can the minister just give us an update on what changes have been made or are going to be made to the action plan? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with other departments to deal with this. Of course, the draft is under final reviews and we will certainly be able to share it then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he give us a timeline on when he might be able to share that information with us? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will certainly try and do that, but as the members are well aware, some of these things do take time. I'm hoping that we would be able

to do that in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm from a decentralized community, and I have also heard that there are some jobs or positions that have been unfilled for extended periods of time. I just wanted to know if there are any plans or any actions in this plan where maybe these jobs... I don't know why they can't be filled. Maybe people don't want to live in the decentralized communities or there is no housing. I don't know why they are not being filled. Are there any thoughts or plans to put a different position in there that might have a better chance of being filled? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have said in the past that once a position is moved out of a decentralized community, we are hoping that the position can be filled by locals. That's one of the things that we're hoping to do. If a senior position is moved out and there are no qualified locals, we are hoping that we can exchange or transfer a different position in there so at least locals from the community can actually position themselves for that job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister would have this information in front of

him, but I'll ask anyway. Does he know what the vacancy rate is for the decentralized communities in each community? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information in front of me, but we do have the minister responsible for human resources over there. I'm not sure if he would be able to respond to that, but at this time, I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Mr. Peterson, would you like to respond to the question? Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very good question. Unfortunately I don't have that information, but my officials are listening in and perhaps before the end of this committee meeting, we can have that information or share it tomorrow, but I will commit to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Sivumuaqatigiit. B-9. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,249,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. (interpretation) Going to page B-10. (interpretation ends) Page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch

Summary. Devolution Secretariat. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, (interpretation) welcome. I have a general question first of all related to the most recent tabling of an agreement that resulted from the negotiators tasked to complete the agreement. The positions finally started getting filled just a short while ago. I would like an update from the Premier on the operational issues to date, whether or not he is satisfied with the progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Premier Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, within the Devolution Secretariat, there are 10 positions, but at this time, we have five filled and five vacant.

I'm quite satisfied with the level of progress that has been made at this time with our chief negotiator and deputy negotiator. Mr. Chairman, the work is ongoing and even at this time, there have been some main table negotiations and throughout the most part, it is going very well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your priorities for 2015-16 is to "...finalize the devolution Agreement-in-Principle..." Do you believe that you will be able to achieve the goal or the consideration that you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Before he responds, Mr. Enook, what page are you alluding to in the business plan?

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): If you will give me a moment, it's on page 13. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. He said that it's on page 13. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, I'm optimistic that we will be able to do it in that time. As members are well aware, we're the last jurisdiction to have devolution. I have said in the past that both sides have learned from previous completed devolution agreements between NWT and Canada and we're fast tracking this.

At the end of the day, the devolution agreement has to benefit Nunavummiut and we're quite cognizant of that. Again, that depends on the benefits that would be flowing into Nunavut and Nunavummiut. We are hoping that we can complete this AIP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This draft agreement or (interpretation ends) agreement in principle (interpretation) is something this government wants to complete within the calendar year. Further, (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier, (interpretation) you just stated that this may be doable. Further, you stated that

the negotiation process has been fast tracked to do so.

The question I want to ask here is our sister northern territories, such as the Northwest Territories, spent many years negotiating these devolution agreements. In some cases, it took over 20 years or longer to finalize the devolution agreement with the federal government. With that statement, aren't we being too hasty? Yes, I know that we are in a hurry, but if we rush to complete the negotiations, some items may be overlooked. Won't there be some danger in this rush? Compared to the other territories that took decades to negotiate their agreements, Nunavut seems to be set in trying to reach an agreement now that an AIP milestone is visible.

I just want to be completely clear in understanding this process. I also know our negotiators and believe in their capacity, as they are adept at their work and they can do their jobs. I just wanted to be clear on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the encouragement. Mr. Chairman, the agreement in principle is one of the first phases of negotiations and within that, of course, we have our mandate. Mr. Chairman, depending on how the negotiations go, we're hoping that we could reach that point. Of course, if we do reach that point, our mandate is within the agreement in principle. Like the member stated, it does take time for the second phase of the negotiations. The agreement in principle is just

outlining the framework of what we're going to be going after. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Devolution encompasses many things and I'm sure the negotiations will be long and hard. There are the federal positions that would come down when you start administering the land and the royalties and stuff.

One part I just want to question on is the royalty part of it. This year, the media reported that the NWT, which does have devolution, got less money than they anticipated because mining exploration and mining was down. I assume that we will have a similar deal with Canada as NWT does with them.

Are there any provisions...? I know that you're negotiating and it will be part of the negotiations, so maybe you can't answer it, but is there a chance that in the end, we will actually get less funding for Nunavut than we currently get without devolution? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. It's a very good question. Mr. Chairman, that's why we negotiate and during negotiations, we're trying to come up with the best possible scenario for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought this up or asked about it is because, as we are all aware, even Canada has a limited amount of money. If they start giving Nunavut the rights to the royalties, I would think that they are going to give less money in the funding formula that we currently have that's based on, I think, per capita or other transfer payments. Am I right to say that the funding formula that we currently have will change to a lower scale once we have devolution? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member. That is a very good question. That's why we do negotiations, to minimize that.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about devolution for Nunavut and collecting royalties from resource extraction, whether it be minerals or oil and gas, it is still a long ways out. At this point, when we talk about the agreement in principle and actually collecting royalties, it is quite a ways out.

As members are well aware, the majority of royalties for other jurisdictions is from oil. Although there are royalties to other jurisdictions from mining, for the most part, that's a smaller part of the equation. Mr. Chairman, that's why we negotiate whether the impact on our transfer payments from Ottawa. That's one of the things that we are quite cognizant about from the main table negotiating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a closing comment from me. I hope the best for the negotiation team because I believe that we as Nunavut have to take care of ourselves. Devolution will give us more authority to make things go the way we want or the way the people of Nunavut want. We will have more control over our resources and more stuff. I wish the Premier and his negotiating team well. I hope his negotiators are very good. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I didn't hear a question, so I will move along. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Devolution Secretariat. B-10. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,052,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go back to B-3. Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,547,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded this department?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Closing comments, Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to expressly thank my

officials, as well as our departmental officials. There are many employees who work in the department and they work to resolve the problems and to identify the issues. I want to express my gratitude for their hard work.

Also, I appreciate your questions and we will try to respond to the questions we couldn't answer in order to try to resolve these problems and to assist Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much again for your questions and your comments. We will certainly take note and try to improve on finding ways to better benefit Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Before we go on to another department, we will take a five-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:11 and resumed at 17:23*

### **Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Environment – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Mike if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Minister Mike, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleagues and the people watching the proceedings. To my right is my Deputy Minister Gabriel Nirlungayuk, and my Assistant Deputy Minister, Steven Pinksen.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to extend a special welcome to the Deputy Minister, Mr. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, as this is his first appearance in Committee of the Whole.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you very much. You may now proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present my department's business plan and main estimates for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2015-16 is \$25,754,000. This represents an increase of \$1.76 million from the previous fiscal year.

The increase includes \$150,000 for an air quality specialist position, which will provide the department with improved capacity for monitoring air quality in the territory and support expansion into the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.

It also includes \$1 million for a contaminated sites financial liabilities assessment and review. (interpretation ends) This funding is required in order to fill information and knowledge gaps to provide a clearer picture of the GN's outstanding liabilities.

In addition, the department is requesting \$350,000 to help assess and monitor the Baffin Island caribou population. This amount includes the creation of a new technician position to support the regional Baffin, High Arctic biologist stationed in Igloolik.

(interpretation) The department's proposed budget also includes \$100,000 for the Fisheries Strategy Action Plan implementation.

(interpretation ends) The remaining \$160,000 will be used to increase the purchase price of sealskins from harvesters in order to offset the increasing costs associated with harvesting.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the department's 2015-16 business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta*. (interpretation ends) They also uphold the Government of Nunavut's obligations and areas of responsibilities under the land claims agreement that relate to the management of natural resources, as well as ensuring that the



department's many statutory obligations are fulfilled.

*Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*, or environmental stewardship, (interpretation) continues to be a key element of our departmental focus. We will continue to manage Nunavut's wildlife effectively, (interpretation ends) with our actions rooted in *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* supplemented with western science.

(interpretation) The department will continue to work with government, businesses, and communities to ensure that industrial projects in Nunavut are undertaken in such a manner that negative impacts to the environment are minimized.

(interpretation ends) Working together with our co-management partners, the department will implement caribou management actions to address the decline of caribou on Baffin Island in the coming year. We will continue to consult with and receive valuable input from communities, HTOs, and our co-management partners throughout this process.

(interpretation) In the coming year, the Department of Environment will work together with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to review current legislation and to explore options to address any gaps identified in the management of resource development.

In the 2015-16 fiscal year, we will complete new management plans for Katannilik Park and Sylvia Grinnell Park. (interpretation ends) We will also complete a cultural landscape resource

inventory study for Katannilik Park and another for the proposed Napaaqtulik Park on Axel Heiberg Island.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2015-16 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and provide real benefits to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will be pleased to take any questions you may have. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$25,754,000 has increased by 7.3 percent since the introduction of the department's 2014-15 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 131.5. This is an increase of three positions from the 2014-15 main estimates.

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

The proposed 2015-16 main estimates of the Department of Environment include approximately \$1,046,000 in funding for its harvester support programs, including core funding for hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife boards, the Fur Pricing Program, and the Disaster Compensation Program.

On March 13 of 2006, the final report on the joint review of harvester support programs that was undertaken by the Government of Nunavut and NTI was tabled in the House. The report contained a significant number of observations and recommendations.

The department's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its goals is for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Implement revised/renewed programs and supports for harvesters." The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the department working with such entities as regional wildlife boards, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Municipal Training Organization to identify ways of providing training opportunities for local hunters and trappers organizations to strengthen their capacity in such areas as financial management, which can be anticipated to enhance their ability to effectively access and administer funding provided under the department's harvester support programs.

The Department of Environment's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that "Options are being considered to better align the department's organizational structure with changing needs of the territory and new government priorities." The standing committee looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on any significant changes that may affect the

department's main responsibilities and programs.

The Department of Environment's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that it will undertake a number of initiatives to enhance Inuit employment over the next two years. The standing committee recognizes the importance of providing effective training and orientation for staff to enhance Inuit employment within the government.

The Department of Environment's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Provide financial and human resource training workshops for staff in decentralized offices" in a number of communities, including Igloolik. During the recent fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Finance tabled the government's quarterly employment report, *Towards a Representative Public Service*. This report indicates that as of June 30, 2014, 32 percent of the department's positions in Igloolik were vacant. The standing committee notes with concern the ongoing high rate of vacancy in the Department of Environment's Igloolik office.

The Department of Environment's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that it intends to complete and implement a number of wildlife management initiatives over the next three fiscal years, including the management planning for all caribou populations, a new polar bear management plan, and the development of a grizzly bear management plan. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of these initiatives.

On December 19 of 2014, the Government of Nunavut announced that an interim moratorium on the harvest of caribou on Baffin Island would become effective on [January] 1 of 2015. The Department of Environment's 2015-18 business plan indicates that this moratorium has been placed "until effective conservation measures are implemented through the co-management system."

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of working with entities such as local hunters and trappers organizations and wildlife management boards to identify effective conservation measures to address this issue. The standing committee also emphasizes the importance of the department working with its Elders Advisory Committee, which is established under the *Wildlife Act* and facilitates the application of IQ principles into wildlife and environmental management in Nunavut.

The Department of Environment is responsible for administering regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. The standing committee continues to note with concern that a comprehensive set of new regulations under this legislation has not yet been introduced.

The Department of Environment is responsible for administering the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. One of the statutory purposes of the fund is to "promote education and training respecting IQ, safe and humane harvesting methods, harvester education and wildlife conservation."

The 2013-14 annual report on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 5 of 2015. Information provided by the department in response to questions asked in the Legislative Assembly on the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund indicate that new surcharges on licences issued under the *Wildlife Act* "will be the largest ongoing source of revenue" for the fund. The department has estimated that it will raise approximately \$200,000 per year from such surcharges. The new surcharges are to be brought into effect in association with new regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The standing committee looks forward to greater utilization of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund in future years.

In addition to the *Wildlife Act*, the Department of Environment is responsible for administering a number of other statutes, including the *Environmental Protection Act*. The department's proposed 2015-16 budget for its Environmental Protection Division is \$3,799,000. The division's responsibilities include "enforcing Nunavut's environmental acts and regulations, primarily the *Environmental Protection Act*," a function which includes "environmental monitoring, inspections, investigations, spill response, and enforcement action." Given the importance of these functions to the health and safety of Nunavummiut, the standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly that accounts in detail for his department's activities under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, on your page 2 in the last paragraph, you indicated July 1, 2015, but in the written document in front of me, it states, "January 1, 2015." Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which page did you refer to?

**Chairman**: Thank you. In your openers on page 2, the last paragraph, you indicated verbally "July 1, 2015," but in the written document, it indicates, "January 1, 2015." Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. It should read "January 1." Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I want to remind members that the contents of the opening comments are covered in different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

(interpretation) General comments.  
(interpretation ends) I have no names. I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the main estimates. I-4. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Hickes.

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

On page 136 of the business plan in the first bullet in the priorities of 2014-15, it speaks to the department's review of hunter support programs to assess the effectiveness and delivery, and the review is to be completed in early 2015. Can you provide an updated timeline for the finalization of this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking about this. I did see the review, but it was better to look at it properly and hear more from the communities and to hear from HTOs across Nunavut. I said that I wanted to see it this winter and expected it too, but due to more work that needs to be done, it is clear now that we can expect it this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In April of last year, NTI had announced that it would be reviewing its own harvester support program. Can you indicate if your department has been working with NTI during the review of both these harvester support programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. This winter, NTI Vice-president James Eetoolook and I met regarding this. I can say that NTI is not ready and with that being the case, we can't do too much, as NTI will bring up

their findings to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the government doesn't have control over NTI support programs, but as they are both going through a review at the same time, I was wondering if there was any collaboration or working together to co-develop both these harvesters support programs to make sure that they work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. NTI has been there all along and we continue to consult them as we move forward on these and other issues. I can say that we are doing our own review and not working directly with them, but they are also conducting their review that we haven't seen and they have not seen our work either. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, there is oftentimes where the Government of Nunavut has to have dialogue with NTI on policy changes or Acts and regulations. I brought this up with one of your colleagues and I'm not picking on you, Mr. Minister. It seems to be across the government.

When we hear that NTI was consulted, that's all we hear. We are wondering if maybe the government could take a little bit further of a stance and start sharing some of the discussion papers that are ongoing where NTI might be bringing concerns forward that maybe we, as committee members, may not have thought of that can have an impact to the Inuit in Nunavut and Nunavummiut as a whole to help complement our government's programs and our dialogue that we have in here.

Is that something that your department would consider, sharing a little bit more of the dialogue information as far as correspondence between NTI and specifically your department? I'm hoping all ministers are also listening to this. It's something that I think all the committee would like to see on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do agree with you. We do our best to have a dialogue with NTI and others on wildlife issues and programs and things like that, but I do understand that NTI may have some different ideas on how to deliver their harvester support programs and of course, they do have a lot of ideas on their part.

(interpretation) Right now, I can say that, through discussions, as I said, with NTI, with personal communication with the vice-president, I can use that as an example. As I stated earlier, he told me that NTI might bring something out in

March regarding the harvester support program funding.

The Department of Environment also works closely with NTI in regard to caribou. NTI also supported our caribou hunting moratorium. That is basically how we have been working together, Mr. Chairman. We will always continue considering different things with NTI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. Just to take my steps a little bit further, NTI has a role to play: representing Inuit. The Government of Nunavut has a role to play: representing Nunavummiut, all of Nunavut, whether it be Inuit or whatever background our residents have. We're proud of the multicultural component that Nunavut does have to experience.

I think what I'm trying to get at is that although there are differing roles, there still may be information in the dialogue that the government may choose during a consultation period to say, "Okay, that's too much just for Inuit, not for Nunavummiut." In correspondence on a policy change or a regulation change or a legislative change, I think the point I'm trying to get at is that we would like to see copies of that correspondence from NTI.

Maybe NTI is listening. Maybe they don't provide physical correspondence, but when we just see that NTI has been consulted, it doesn't really tell us anything, whether they agree with it, whether they oppose it, whether there are just factors within it that they agree

with, whether there are parts of it that they oppose, just to give, I think, the committee members when we're voting on these things a bit more information. That's kind of where I'm going at.

It's more of a comment, Mr. Chairman, but I would appreciate to hear Minister Mike's response to it. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Actually, as I stated earlier, I have been working in conjunction with the vice-president of NTI, and my officials work with his officials on these matters.

What I can state is that we maintain an open door policy towards each other in this regard, particularly related to implementation of the land claims agreement, especially wildlife-related management issues. We maintain close communications with NTI on this front. Further, our cooperation has strengthened over the last year, and wildlife issues are becoming less contentious, although I can state that we are collaborating with Nunavut Tunngavik on government operations, especially environment-related matters.

Yes, I concur with the member that your source of news shouldn't just be about the consultations ongoing with NTI. We will keep that in mind in all future announcements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 136 of your business plan, the second bullet there says, “Conduct a strategic review of the department’s organizational structure in consideration of the changing pace of development and GN priorities.” Can the minister just explain what that means? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask you if my assistant deputy minister can respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

**Mr. Pinksen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department’s structure is essentially the same as it was when we were formed as a department in 2004. The government has changed around us, budgets have changed, there’s a new government mandate, we have gone to *Sivumut Abluqta* as the government’s mandate, and we have been sort of stuck in the same structure with the same budget allocation as we always had.

We just felt it was time to take a look at how we resource various parts of the department and how we’re structured and to check whether we are running as efficiently as we can to address the issues that the government is facing today. That’s really what we’re trying to say is to take a close look at our structure and resourcing in the current work environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to this, the strategic review was done in 2014. Can the minister’s official just let us know what structures are changing, if any, after their structural review? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. Yes, it was last year in September when the Department of Environment started to review their organizational structure. This review involves the departments of Finance and Environment, as it impacts on some of the budget line items and to ensure they are properly structured.

Yes, with respect to this structure, it seems obvious, as I had also thought that this organizational structure would be presented to cabinet, but it’s not quite ready yet for presentation to that level. That is where it is at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the response. We will be looking forward to seeing the review and the changes when it’s completed.

Going on to a different subject, quite a while ago, I asked about the Wildlife Regulations and at that time, I told him that it was about ten years since the *Wildlife Act* was passed and there were still no regulations. Here we are again. Can we get an update on if and when

there will ever be any Wildlife Regulations passed? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. What he stated was absolutely truthful.

Actually, the wildlife legislation and proposed amendments or as we call them, the (interpretation ends) regulations, (interpretation) will have to be developed in collaboration with NTI. The most difficult issues are on the block, including NWMB's difficult decisions, but what I can say to the members here about that is that the most difficult issues and complex barriers stopping progress have largely passed.

Due to that, my personal viewpoint is that proposed wildlife legislation enactment is set for July 1, 2015 and that we can start implementing that. I am referring to the issue we are discussing at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that they actually will come out this time on July 1, 2015 because we have been told many dates on many occasions and it seems like it's quite a long, hard process. I hope the minister is successful this time in getting them "gazetted," published, enacted, and in use by July 1.

Going on to a different matter, on page 137, one of the priorities for 2015 is "Develop and implement a media campaign for national and international

audiences aimed at counterattacking misinformation relating to the status of polar bears as endangered and noting that polar conservation is in fact a success story." Would the minister agree that the polar bears in general in Nunavut population-wise are doing good and are stable? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to polar bears the member referenced, for our future plans, we have identified the year 2015-16 as the proper time. Misinformation continues to be spewed, even within Canada as well. Due to these misguided intentions, the Department of Environment has to publish data on the polar bear, the status of the species in Nunavut, and to release that for global information.

There are the animal rights groups whom we want to provide this information to, as issues related to polar bears surface from all facets of the animal rights sector. With respect to my colleague's comments, that is the main reason why we have to combat the misinformation spewed by these groups and to ensure the uninformed global village is aware of the facts.

I wanted to respond to that question firstly, but further, in today's legal framework, our wildlife partners, such as NWMB and NTI, are in agreement with respect to polar bears, that polar bears are doing well and the population is stable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.



**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just tell us exactly how this media campaign is going to be run, like what are they going to do, what specifics, if they are that far ahead, if they have planned that far ahead? What exactly are they going to do to let the rest of Canada and the rest of the world know that our polar bear population in Nunavut is doing just fine? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, my deputy minister can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

**Mr. Nirlungayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing us to appear before you. In regard to Mr. Savikataaq's question, with the polar bear issues we face in Nunavut, it includes the fact that the territory has the largest population of polar bears in the world. If I were to say it in English, it's (interpretation ends) two-thirds of the world population (interpretation) lies within Nunavut. We not only have the biggest population, but we are also the biggest harvesters of polar bears.

The other jurisdictions that have polar bear populations include the NWT, Newfoundland, and Quebec, whose governments we are working with on this issue, and that includes ITK. We have commenced the preliminary work on the plan. We will start hearing about

the latest (interpretation ends) CITES in South Africa (interpretation) where the Americans and the Russians will once again attempt to change the status to stop harvesting of polar bears.

We are starting to work with these various governments and organizations, and we have cooperated on past work in Bangkok by using the media as well as showing the map with the (interpretation ends) boundaries with 13 sub-populations (interpretation) that reside in Nunavut along with our management system.

As an example, we provided population status reports, such as the stability of the population in Davis Strait, using various colours. The visual information is very useful in providing understanding to the rest of the world. The misinformation bandied about includes the lies about over-harvesting or that all the populations are decreasing.

The other argument used is the hypothetical global warming scheme, that polar bears may become endangered with the loss of ice. We know that is not the case. We are just beginning to put together our facts with the other jurisdictions in Canada that share the polar bear populations.

(interpretation ends) Environment Canada, (interpretation) is providing assistance on this file. Obviously, since this issue involves outside organizations, any information package has to be prepared with their assistance. Plus, they work with their global counterparts on these issues. Environment Canada is one of our partners in this front.

With respect to the developments in Northern Quebec, we are working with them to deliberate on our options on the polar bear management challenges. However, in Nunavut, we have been in the forefront on this issue for 40 years, ever since polar bears became a species harvested using quotas. We have been involved in polar bear management for that long.

I will stop there as I tried to briefly hit all the points and hopefully I was clear in my response, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Nirlungayuk for the explanation. I want to just keep on this topic a bit longer. Is there anything that they are doing to convince their counterparts from Environment Canada that the polar bear population is doing fine? That's what they believe. Our Nunavut government believes that polar bears are doing just fine.

It seems like every report that comes out from Environment Canada about the western Hudson Bay polar bear population is that they are not doing so well. What is the minister's department doing to convince Environment Canada that the polar bears of western Hudson Bay are doing just fine? The population is stable. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to the question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

**Mr. Nirlungayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Yes, your statement is truthful. In the past, the department was conducting work in the (interpretation ends) Wapusk National Park, (interpretation) which is ongoing. Unfortunately, western Hudson Bay is part of the zone where the department believes the population is decreasing.

This is slowly being replaced by the fallacy of global warming that since the climate is warming, the polar bears will become extinct. However, in the past, the Nunavut government has started to conduct its own population study due to the biases existing federally. We found that the population is stable. Environment Canada and our government are collaborating on this front. With our data, they have started to state that the polar bears in western Hudson Bay are not decreasing. The polar bear researchers who conduct their work in that park work for Environment Canada.

We are communicating with Environment Canada to see if they can come up to Nunavut, particularly to the community of Arviat. We would like to work with them to negotiate or arrive at an agreement on the scientific data. Last year for the first time, Environment Canada went to Rankin Inlet to discuss the issue and they want to continue that. They also want to meet with the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. We're trying to work with Environment Canada along those lines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have more questions on polar bears later at the appropriate time.

Just on the same page there, 137, the last bullet says, “Investigate options for incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into environmental decision-making in a more standardized manner.” When I read that, it almost implies that it’s not being used much at all right now and you’re trying to figure out how to use it in your decision-making. Is my interpretation of that sentence correct? If it’s not, can I please be corrected and get an explanation? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to your comment, is it part of the 2016-17 plans? I’ll have my deputy minister respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

**Mr. Nirlungayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Savikataaq for asking about that issue. In this day and age, whenever we work on any polar bear related issue, we have to use the past population data or (interpretation ends) western science, (interpretation) which has more weight.

Nonetheless, we are looking at ways to incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge into this process. To use this example, if I wanted to trade my polar bear skin after harvesting a polar bear, then I

would have to use the (interpretation ends) science (interpretation) to prove that it was harvested legally before I can ship it outside of Canada. The only way to export the skins is to use scientific data.

We are working with Environment Canada to deliberate on the issue of incorporating Inuit traditional knowledge into more decisions related to polar bears. As Inuit, we are at the frontlines, as Inuit are the ones concerned about the changes. We know we can provide facts on the climate and our wildlife that we observe. Scientific studies, unfortunately, take years to decipher and sometimes many years pass before the science catches up with the reality Inuit are seeing. For that reason, we are working with Environment Canada on Inuit knowledge and how this government can incorporate Inuit knowledge.

For example, over the past two days, the public hearing on the caribou management issues is being conducted at the Parish hall and Inuit are immersed in this hearing. In Nunavut, Inuit knowledge is already used, but the outside countries have to catch up to our knowledge. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I had raised this question due to the 2016-17 wording that states, “Investigate options for incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit...” In reading that passage and the wording, as I understand it, the knowledge isn’t being incorporated now. That is why I want

clarification on one of the priorities listed for the 2016-17 fiscal year that states, "Investigate options for incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit..." Is that not written properly or am I misunderstanding it? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will elaborate on the details. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

**Mr. Nirlungayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Joe. Actually, Inuit traditional knowledge is currently being used. However, during the division from the NWT, the legislation that was enacted was just transferred to our government.

Nonetheless, we are trying to draft new legislation to see how IQ can be better incorporated into government operations. It is also a requirement to incorporate IQ. When the members are reviewing the draft legislation, this aspect has to be included in the legislation. It is only by amending the existing legislation and the dependence on (interpretation ends) western science (interpretation) to make these management decisions that we can start to incorporate more traditional Inuit knowledge. This could be by documenting the traditional knowledge or by utilizing a committee for this area.

The weight given to (interpretation ends) western science (interpretation) and Inuit traditional knowledge has to be equalized, more like your left and right arms. I can tell you at this time that we still need to make changes to the current system. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Environment. Branch Summary. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress at this time.

**Chairman:** There is a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. I will now report progress.

All in favour of the motion. Those opposed to the motion. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Mr. Enook:** Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee

of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Rumbolt is the seconder. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *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

- Bill 21

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 11
- Bill 12
- Bill 13
- Bill 14
- Bill 15
- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18
- Bill 19

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:22*

