



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 44

Friday, March 13, 2015

Pages 2485 – 2564

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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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
Friday, March 13, 2015**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, 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 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) as well as our interpreters and staff. I say “good morning” to you. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Item 2. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 132 – 4(2):
Nunavut Apprenticeship Successes**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share good news about apprentices in Nunavut. Recently, we had four graduates of the apprenticeship program who became journeypersons in their trades:

- one heavy duty equipment technician from Pond Inlet
- one carpenter from Kugluktuk
- one electrician from Arviat, and
- one housing maintainer from Arviat.

An additional eight people in Nunavut are undergoing the final steps of their apprenticeship training to become journeypersons. There are two plumbers, two carpenters, one power line electrician, and three heavy equipment technicians. They will finish their training by this summer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in encouraging these individuals to continue on as mentors in their trades in Nunavut so that more Nunavummiut can pursue a career in trades through apprenticeship.

I would also like to thank the businesses and industry that support these individuals by providing the training hours for our apprentices. We encourage others to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, supporting the success of apprentices is a key priority in *Sivumut Abluqta*. My department encourages more Nunavummiut to participate in trades-related training to fill vacant jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 133 – 4(2):
Economic Council of Canada's
Inuit Perspectives on Canada's
Arctic Future**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about a recent panel I was part of in Ottawa.

On February 3, I was a speaker at the Economic Club of Canada's event on Inuit Perspectives on Canada's Arctic Future. Terry Audla, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Canada's Minister of the Environment, also spoke on the panel.

Mr. Speaker, the Economic Club of Canada is a national non-partisan organization with a mission to bring members and guests face to face with important, relevant and influential leaders.

This event was a discussion aimed to explore regional perspectives on the vast opportunities and complex challenges for economic development in the Arctic. This included highlighting areas of success and ongoing work.

Mr. Speaker, it was an opportunity to address challenges of Nunavut to Canadian business, industry, and government leaders, some of who were unfamiliar with our territory.

I am always eager to bring the Nunavut perspective to larger audiences and benefit from the ability to discuss our realities to others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 134 – 4(2):
Certificate in Aboriginal Language
Revitalization (CALR)**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, it is my pleasure to share with my colleagues' news that Nunavut Arctic College is delivering the award-winning Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR). This has been developed by the University of Victoria's Department of Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies in partnership with the En'owkin Centre.

The first three courses are being delivered in Cambridge Bay. Developed in partnership with post-secondary institutions and Inuit communities, the Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization enables individuals concerned with language loss, maintenance, and recovery to develop both [knowledge] and practical strategies for language revitalization activities in Nunavut and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, this is designed to honour traditional knowledge and practices, to recognize and accommodate the realities and needs of diverse communities, and to provide a foundation for both language revitalization activities and for further study in education, linguistics, or other related areas.

This program delivery has been made possible with funding from the Department of Culture and Heritage through the Inuit Language Implementation Fund. *Nakurmiik, Koana, Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 265 – 4(2): Firearms Licensing in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Before I proceed with my statement, this upcoming Sunday will be the birthday of one of my daughters, so I wish a very happy birthday to Tina Mikkungwak.

In order for the people of Baker Lake to hear the news, from March 17 to 21, 2015, the Canadian Firearms Program will be in Baker Lake. Russell Akeegok will be going to Baker Lake to fill out forms for the Canadian Firearms

Program. They will offer firearms licence assistance and the representatives will be available to offer firearms licence assistance, deliver firearms safety education instructor training, and promote the safe use and safe storage of firearms.

The event will take place from March 17 to 21, 2015 at the Baker Lake RCMP detachment. They will start at 9:00 in the morning to 9:00 in the evening. There are a lot of people in Baker Lake who do not have firearms licences. The RCMP detachment will be available to provide that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 266 – 4(2): Cape Dorset Walrus Hunting Rescue

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, a wonderful day today where I want to acknowledge two individuals from Cape Dorset, who fell through the ice as they were hunting walrus. However, this unfortunate incident also has great news as the men who fell through were saved by their fellow hunters. The hunters who fell through were Nuna Parr and Mosha Ragee. Another hunting party was close by luckily and they were able to reach the hunters who fell through the ice.

I want to expressly thank those men who took it upon themselves to save their fellow hunters, and to especially recognize the fact that our hunters occasionally have to navigate dangerous

conditions in order to procure country foods for their families and communities and sometimes life-threatening situations occur.

I am ecstatic that this turned out to be a piece of good news instead of bad news. Our community of Cape Dorset will celebrate this event by having a community feast and games. This is currently being planned to mark that occasion.

I just wanted to share that piece of good news and the fact that we will be celebrating their continued presence in our community, and I encourage them to continue their livelihoods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 267 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Pangnirtung
Hockey Players**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my congratulations to the hockey players from Pangnirtung. There are two levels of hockey played in Pangnirtung.

There was recently a tournament in the Baffin region, with the younger players at level (interpretation ends) Junior C (interpretation) and the Baffin region hockey team is named the (interpretation ends) Blizzards, (interpretation) who won the tournament.

They started preparations to go to PEI for another hockey tournament. The

Junior C tournament will be held from March 24 to 30, 2015.

There are four hockey players from Pangnirtung. I would like to congratulate them and announce their names. From Pangnirtung, there were only four, but their names are:

Scott Angnakak,
Joanasie Dialla,
Corey Alivaktuk, and
Joseph Kilabuk.

They will be participating in the PEI Games.

We also had a bantam tournament in Iqaluit. From Pangnirtung, I would like to recognize individuals who participated:

Mathew Etuangat, who was the Most Valuable Player,
My son, Petoosie Mike,
Gregory Attagoyuk,
Nathan Veevee,
Davey Nakashuk,
Trevor Alivaktuk,
Aaron Veevee, and
Adrian Kullualik.

Also included were their coach and hockey players from Arctic Bay and Cape Dorset. I would like to congratulate all the individuals who participated in those tournaments and I am very grateful to the people who organized those hockey games. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 268 – 4(2):
Questions about Senior
Management Positions in Health**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our Committee of the Whole proceedings last week with the Department of Health, I feel that I may have gotten a little too detailed in some of my questions.

When I was questioning the minister on the amount of acting positions in the senior management positions across his department, it was a concern to me with regard to the number of people in senior management positions in acting positions. In my lines of questioning, I maybe made an error in listing the specific positions. I feel that I may have insulted some of the people that are currently sitting in those positions and I apologize for that if that was the perception. At the same time, I think that all of us as members have to realize sometimes the rippling effect of some of our comments in the House and how it can be perceived by the public service.

As I stated yesterday with questions to the Premier, I very much appreciate a lot of the people that make their home, for however long, in Nunavut to share their expertise and their knowledge and to help us grow as a territory. Obviously, I always want to see Nunavummiut working more in senior management positions, but until such time as we have the internal capacity, we are heavily reliant upon importing the skills that are necessary to move this territory forward.

If I offended anyone in my comments last week, I sincerely apologize, and I very much appreciate all the people that come to Nunavut and provide us with

their knowledge and expertise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. Return to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 452 – 4(2): Access to Medical Specialists

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my colleagues and to the people listening to the proceedings. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, diagnostic assessment is very hard to access, especially due to the lack of equipment in the communities, and it is almost impossible to access it when you have only a few flights a week, just as an example. When patients miss their appointments due to overbooking or missing flights, then they have no other choice since there are no other flights available. This is very problematic, particularly for communities that are far from Iqaluit where the majority of the diagnosis occurs for medical patients requiring treatment. This is specific to non-residents of Iqaluit and who have no access to doctors.

The problem lies with patients who aren't able to attend their appointments,

although they require urgent medical attention. Sometimes they have to wait many days or up to a full year to see a specialist. That creates problems for the patients. It is very difficult for the patients. I would like the minister to tell me if we are going to improve the situation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We raised this issue during Committee of the Whole. If there is a problem with patients making their appointment or getting on the plane, there is a phone number that they can call. We try to set up the appointments as soon as possible.

If the patients can't make it to their appointment, they are given later appointments. As we are aware, specialists who come to Nunavut are only here for a few days. That creates a problem for patients. According to my knowledge, it only occurs 1 percent of the time. For the majority of the time, the patients make it to their appointments. Only 1 percent doesn't make it.

As I stated, we need to catch up on that. We want to review the matter because we cannot control the doctors. We need to consult with them as to how we can provide better service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually I wanted to be very clear on this issue as it was raised by the Member for Tununiq and some communities are undergoing difficulties in experiencing this facet of transportation. Things that create problems include when patients don't leave on that plane, all of their options are closed.

In this case, I use the example of a patient with a heart condition who requires an EKG checkup and their travel is set for a particular day with the appointment set for their arrival. When a flight is delayed or cancelled either due to weather or mechanical issues, that patient may have to wait for an entire year for a follow-up appointment. This has a tremendous effect on the patient's life and we need to resolve this situation in our future. I doubt it could be resolved today.

With respect to doctors in Iqaluit, let's say, will there be specialists such as cardiac specialists that arrive from Ottawa? As the minister, will you commit to receiving such doctors in Iqaluit, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to move doctors to Nunavut and trying to spread the doctors throughout the territory as a pilot project so that the patients don't have to go through difficult times. We are trying to spread it throughout the communities. We are checking to see how some of these issues can be researched.

Nonetheless, we are also limited with the services available at our general hospital here in Iqaluit. Renovations are ongoing, but the work hasn't been completed as of yet. Once the renovations are complete, we can turn our attention to the other matters the member wants reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response, which cleared up my misunderstanding and I really appreciate the minister for that.

Nonetheless, has your department ever considered, albeit in light of our limitations fiscally that I am aware of, patients with medical conditions being forced to wait up to a year? This is very painful to hear about and causes discomfort to us. There are people who could have been healed if treatment was immediate, but when they wait long periods, it is sometimes too late by the time the patients reach medical facilities with no hope of recovery and we can't bring them back to correct the errors.

As a government, we have to be more aware of these services and how we can provide the services at hand.

Alternatively, if funding was available, although the air connections are not conducive to this idea, but Arctic Bay and the other High Arctic communities are geographically close to Pond Inlet. There used to be a doctor there, and I wonder if the department has any plans for any local doctors in any of our communities.

I would like the minister to provide a clear response so I can understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have initiated our discussions with the airlines on options for certain areas, particularly for communities that only receive a few flights a week. The airlines are open to discussing these issues, but I imagine we will clarify that in the short term as to what arrangements will be forthcoming.

With respect to your question about doctors and placements in communities, this isn't a simple fix. Doctors aren't too keen on moving here, but we try to encourage more doctors to move to Iqaluit, which is the largest community in Nunavut. Unfortunately, some doctors aren't willing to move north. The provision of doctors isn't an easy process, even though we continue to encourage them to move to the territory.

We are conducting more research as to whether we can send more specialists, but that depends on the completion of the renovations at the hospital here. We want to use that space for those specialists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 453 – 4(2): Budget for Fuel Resupply

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in my questions to the Premier speaking about alternative energy, there were some comments in his responses that I would like to expand upon a little bit further to the Minister of Finance.

In the Premier's response, he said that right now, there are no other... . Sorry. Where the Premier had stated with the global decrease in oil prices, it has created more competition for federal energy infrastructure dollars. As a territory, as we all know, we're heavily reliant upon fossil fuel to meet our energy needs.

The decrease in oil prices, however impact it has on other jurisdictions and shortfalls of their revenue, doesn't impact our revenue. If anything, it gives us an opportunity with regard to our annual fuel resupply purchase. I know that the final numbers will not be available until the delivery occurs this summer, but I would like to ask the minister: what was the budget allocated for the fuel resupply for this upcoming year and what is the anticipated real cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You kind of caught me off guard with that question. Mr. Speaker, as the members know, the Government of Nunavut is always looking for ways to

reduce our costs. I know that the Petroleum Products Division under Community and Government Services has been actively purchasing fuel in anticipation of providing some savings in the future.

We have talked in the past about hedging. Our form of hedging is pre-purchasing and stockpiling the fuel in other jurisdictions for delivery later in the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the minister didn't provide any numbers in that response, with his comments, it is quite safe to assume that there will be substantial savings for Nunavut in our annual fuel resupply, maybe even in the tens of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker.

To assist our Premier in his negotiations for further energy infrastructure dollars, I have a suggestion for the government. Why don't we show that we are serious about alternative energy and take this year's savings that we can save on in the resupply and invest in smaller scale alternative energy projects like solar and smaller scale wind projects? To me, this would show that the Government of Nunavut is serious about alternative energy and it would show the federal government that we need to expand upon it.

We can look at some of the smaller community pilot projects right now and then look at more serious infrastructure projects down the road when we have proven that we are serious about alternative energy. I would like to get the

minister's comments on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hickes theorizes that the Government of Nunavut purchases all of our fuel for the upcoming fiscal year, which is not the case. We don't have that capacity nor do we have the storage capacity to purchase an entire year's supply.

As Mr. Hickes pointed out in the preamble to his earlier question, we do purchase some fuel. The fuel is delivered to communities later this year. The fuel that we pre-purchase plus the fuel that we purchase later in the year, the spot price establishes that price when it is delivered from the tanker into the community. PPD takes into account a whole number of other factors to establish the fuel rate.

I have no idea what the final savings will be, if any. Perhaps, the way the global crisis is going, fuel later this year may be back up to \$100 a barrel, for all we know. It can happen that fast. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I do understand that those final prices are not in, with the amount of fuel that has been purchased to this point, I think it would be safe to assume that it would fall under the budgeted amount that would have been allocated to the fuel resupply for this year. Even if not,

maybe this government should start taking a look at exploring alternative energy solutions and invest in the future of Nunavut on a smaller scale to start with.

We've got projects like Nunavut Arctic College here in Iqaluit that has solar panels that, over the years, have saved tens of thousands of dollars. If we take a look at just using solar panels or smaller scale wind, as an example, on some of our hospitals, some of our schools, some of our health centres, and other government infrastructure, it's an investment into savings in the future on a money that is invested now.

I would like a commitment from the government that if savings are realized from our annual fuel resupply, this will be an option that will be explored instead of leaving the money in general revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated and Mr. Hickes mentioned earlier this week, I'm not fond of giving commitments. I think, if you tally up my commitments over the years, it would probably tally up to maybe one and I can't even remember which one that was.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Premier mentioned yesterday in his comments that we did have significant pre-purchase savings, but again, we've got so many demands in the Government of Nunavut that the savings from pre-purchasing fuel could be used in other priority areas. We have many priorities. We talk here about

health centres, community halls, ice arenas, office buildings, you name it. We have priority areas everywhere.

As the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I am an advocate for alternative energy. I'm also an advocate for efficiencies and effectiveness. We will take your concerns and suggestions into serious consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 454 – 4(2): Liquor Licensing

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the new Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board.

As the minister is aware, the Liquor Licensing Board may issue different types of licences to commercial establishments to sell beer, dining room licence, club licence, and cocktail licence.

The 2011-12 *Annual Report of the Liquor Licensing Board*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 29, 2012, indicates that the board approved the renewal of 26 licences during that year.

Can the minister update the House today on how many establishments in Nunavut currently hold a licence to sell beer, wine, or liquor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Nunavut and Arviat, as well as the people of Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, the question the member raised about the licences, these numbers change all the time. Some reapply, changing the number, especially when their applications are denied. However, with respect to the actual numbers, I personally don't have that information in front of me, so I can't provide the actual figures he requested. Unfortunately, I can't provide that information today to my colleague, but once I do have that information pertinent to his question, I will be able to provide it at a later date. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Liquor Licensing Board's annual report was tabled on October 29, 2012. Will the minister commit to tabling the board's outstanding annual reports before the end of the current winter sitting of the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this request and see

whether the information would be ready by that time. I will check into the matter to see if the information can be provided prior to the end of the winter sitting. If we are able to get the information, we can provide it, but if the information isn't ready, then it would have to be provided at our next sitting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 43 of the *Liquor Act* provides that the Liquor Licensing Board may not issue any licence without first obtaining the approval of at least 60 percent of the votes cast in a plebiscite. I would like to ask: can the minister confirm how many plebiscites have been held in the territory during the past three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as per my previous response, there is some information, but not related to what he is asking about. Once I have the information, knowing my departmental officials are listening, I will provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 455 – 4(2): Patient Relations Office

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

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, health issues and concerns can be extremely complex and there is much room for miscommunications, misunderstandings, and even mistakes.

The Department of Health established the patient relations office some time ago to assist Nunavummiut in resolving their concerns and complaints about health services.

Can the minister describe what kinds of details the patient relations office records about the different communications it receives and provides an overview of the kinds of issues that are most commonly brought up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That office was created 2013 in our past year. From April 1, 2014 to January 22, 2015, 147 people had called to this office. Most had different reasons, but one consistent reason was travel issues from patients. Some patients felt mistreated who went to a health centre. Those issues were brought up. I cannot tell you everything, but I can guess what most complaints are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, it is important that the staff at the patient relations office can communicate effectively with Nunavummiut who contact them. Can the minister provide an update on exactly how many staff work at the patient relations office and how many of those staff are bilingual? 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. There are two offices, one in Cambridge Bay and one in Iqaluit. There are two positions in Iqaluit, but we are currently looking to fill one more position. They are all Inuit staff. They support everyone who calls or asks for assistance. If they don't know what the call is about, they can ask for assistance from a co-worker. They are always available and their phone number is 1-855-483-3003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, as I have noted, the patient relations office has been in operation for some time now. Can the minister confirm whether there any reports of the office activities and its successes and challenges over the years? If there are, would he commit to tabling them in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have limits through the law and we cannot disclose some of the complaints. Once we review them to make sure that we follow the policy or law, I'll be able to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 456 – 4(2): Unilingual Elders Medical Policy

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister recently announced a change to the Medical Travel Policy, indicating that unilingual elders could have an escort if they requested one. This was very good news for me as a regular member and for the people of Nunavut.

I would first like to ask the minister: can the minister clearly explain how his department defines “unilingual elder” and who decides when an elder meets this criterion? 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. They do some planning with doctors and they identify if a person is unilingual, is over 65, and if they don't have any interpreters, they would have to have an escort. If they

have a disability, they will not travel alone. They have to have an escort. These are constantly reviewed by the people who do the planning and they do get help and support from the medical travel office of my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some regions of Nunavut, we are facing serious language loss, especially for Inuinnaqtun. Can the minister clarify whether escorts are selected based on their language abilities and the level of interpreting support that they are able to provide to elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The patient going on medical travel gets asked which escort they would prefer to accompany them. That's the first question they get. It would be kind of useless if someone who didn't know how to be an interpreter would try to act as an interpreter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At times, it seems as if there are fewer and fewer Inuktitut speakers and part of the reason is that so many services are delivered only in English. Will the minister commit to increasing resources to support the use

of Inuktitut within our health care system? 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. With respect to services provided within Nunavut, this is something we can look after. Also, some of the services are lagging behind in offering this, as far as I am aware. We are constantly urging them to look for ways to incorporate it into their services.

Unfortunately, we have no leeway with services provided outside of our territory. We really don't have any influence on the services. However, that is the reason why we encourage people not to travel if their fluency in English is limited by their lonesome. We have started to implement this already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 457 – 4(2): Issues with Medical Boarding Homes

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and to the people of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to direct my questions to the Minister of Health, as it seems the day to ask questions to the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this question to the Minister of Health regarding medical boarding homes, for example,

the boarding home called Tammaativvik and the boarding home in Ottawa, which is occupied by patients from our region. These homes are used by medical patients.

People who travel for medical reasons do so for many different types of medical conditions and they are sent down for treatment. However, the boarding homes have rooms that are all designed similarly, with no accommodations for specialized services based on the different medical conditions the patients are being treated for.

Does the department have the capability to review the rooms to better accommodate the various medical conditions our patients face so that patients requiring specialized services can have rooms that are better suited for them? In my opinion, I believe there should be rooms that are designed for patients who travel for medical reasons.

To cite this example, every room is carpeted and some patients aren't able to stay in the rooms due to the carpets and associated allergies. Also, some patients who travel down can't walk and require wheelchairs. There are also different medical conditions that require specialized rooms.

I wonder if these rooms can be designed to offer some specialized rooms to accommodate the conditions our people are faced with. 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. With respect to the boarding homes, it is governed by an agreement with the federal government that has to be negotiated before changes can be made.

Indeed, some of the boarding homes are quite open. We recently toured the boarding home in Ottawa and the rooms are designed differently. Some rooms are designed to accommodate handicapped patients and their rooms are different.

For the home here in Iqaluit, I will have to look into that to see what the reality is and to review if that is possible. Again, we can only work with the agreements we have. When it expires or requires further agreement, it is the only opportunity we have to request changes. That is our limitation in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it is more specific to the boarding home in Iqaluit, which accommodates patients from all over the Baffin region. The patients are all here for a variety of medical conditions and illnesses.

I will include this factual story by providing an example. Some people can't live in a room that is carpeted and the numbers are growing due to allergic reactions and it causes breathing difficulties. The rooms here are all carpeted and I didn't see any rooms that weren't carpeted, which is why I asked about it.

On a personal level, my wife has that condition as she is allergic to carpeted rooms, and I have been apprised by other patients that they too can't stay in a carpeted room. Further, the couches are pretty well all the same material and for people suffering from allergies, they can't stay in these rooms due to suffering the effects.

When my wife has to attend appointments at the hospital, which I am just using as an example, she can't stay in a carpeted room and has to move to the washroom in order to be able to stay there as the washrooms aren't carpeted. That is why I wanted to know if this could be resolved, as some patients are further aggravated by the rooms due to there being no rooms without carpets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for describing those different conditions. They are run through agreements with an outside party. We will have to talk to them to see what we can do. It's a good issue to bring up and we can look to see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying that issue and that this will be reviewed in the future. Perhaps that would be beneficial for the next boarding home construction so that these

types of issues are taken into consideration.

Not every patient suffers from the same ailments. I know that they are properly accommodated in the south, but up here, it seems that the medical travel patients are not properly accommodated. The present boarding homes can be renovated to accommodate the many different medical conditions that people go to the hospital for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a good topic to discuss. We have progressed in some ways. We never know what circumstances will arise. We do try to be ready to accommodate people. I'm sure it will be discussed with the owners of the boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 458 – 4(2): Contaminated Site in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As we all know, there was a cabinet shuffle regarding the portfolios that they look after, but my question will be to the Minister of QEC. The previous minister that held the Qulliq Energy Corporation visited the headquarters office and actually did see the contaminated site

that I have always brought up regarding the old power plant contaminated site.

Can the minister indicate if there are any planned visits, seeing that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is a decentralized site in Baker Lake, and if there are any planned visits for the minister to come to Baker Lake to come and see the headquarters office and to actually see the contaminated site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a visit planned. I don't like to make commitments.

>> *Laughter*

I commit to visiting Baker Lake as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had asked in my oral questions how large the contaminated site is in Baker Lake, but at the same time, to get a true visual concept on what is currently in place, can the minister indicate if he plans to visit the community of Baker Lake this spring or this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm getting some advice from my colleague from Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I'll visit in the spring, hopefully before the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With his visit coming into Baker Lake, does he anticipate to bring any of his senior officials, considering that one of the senior official positions was moved over here, and to possibly look at that also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to check to see which senior officials I'll bring, if I'm bringing any, but certainly, I'm well aware of Mr. Mikkungwak's concerns. The headquarters is in Baker Lake and they have the contaminated site there.

It's very good and I encourage all of our ministers, and we do try to visit communities as much as possible so that we can meet the people who serve us and they've got some very hard-working staff in Baker Lake for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. It's good for me to take the opportunity and invest some downtime from House sittings and standing committees to meet our staff.

I will meet with our staff and discuss a plan to visit Baker Lake and see who

should come with me to visit the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 459 – 4(2): Issues with Francophone School

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question today for the Minister of Education.

As most members may be aware, there has been a very public dispute regarding the French school parents association and La Commission Scolaire Francophone du Nunavut. I get numerous calls and emails on this topic and I have spoken to the minister about it numerous times as well.

My constituents are asking me to get an update on this situation. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide that to me today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question concerning CSFN. First of all, I just want to make it very clear to the House that the only scenario that would require action on the part of the department would be if CSFN was not complying with the *Education Act* and Regulations or the department or government policy. I just wanted to point that out first.

Again, we have been in contact with CSFN and we have written letters

informing and wanting to get an update on various issues on that matter. We hope to get something hopefully by next week. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that update. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's response, he spoke to questions and concerns of the department's involvement with regard to CSFN very clearly outlined within the *Education Act* itself. Is this the first time that the department has ever requested information from CSFN? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member might very well know, as a minister, I deal with the district education authorities and I view CSFN as one and certainly, they are similar to a district education authority under the *Education Act*.

I can say that, I believe, in the previous years, there have been some situations that had to be dealt with by the Department of Education previously. Again, as a minister, this is the first time we had to try and get more information from CSFN since I became the minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I thank the minister for that

update. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the request for information from CSFN, have there been any early indications on whether they will be able to provide that detailed information, and how is the department working with CSFN to help mitigate some of the concerns that the parents have been very vocal about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions on this issue. I can say that we get regular updates from CSFN and we talk on a regular basis. They keep us updated on the issue. To date, I wrote them a letter and I have yet to receive a response. I'm not sure how they are going to handle it, but I look forward to getting an update possibly next week. I have yet to receive a response to the letter I wrote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. 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 Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 123 – 4(2): Government of Nunavut's Privacy Management Manual

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Government of Nunavut's Privacy Management Manual*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 124 – 4(2): QEC's 13th Annual Report 2013-2014

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the 2013-14 Annual Report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Tabled Document 125 – 4(2): Minimum Wage Annual Report for 2014

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Justice, I am pleased to table the Minimum Wage Annual Report for 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act – First Reading**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act*, be read for the first time. 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 and Bill 21 has been read for the first time.

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 the 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 10:13 and Committee resumed at 10:40*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order.

I say “good morning” to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(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 morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Environment, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage and, if time permits, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Is the committee agreed that the minister’s staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike, please introduce your officials. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, my fellow members and ministers, as well as Nunavummiut.

The officials who will be here with me to my right are Deputy Minister Nirlungayuk and Assistant Deputy Minister Pinksen.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the House. (interpretation ends) We were on page I-4. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I want to ask should perhaps be first asked to you, as I know we are on I-4. This is related to the caribou management system and planned recovery plans, and I want to ask questions related to these plans. I am unsure which page I can ask the questions on, as it can apply to page I-5 and even on the page we are reviewing. Can you please direct me on this issue, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're on Corporate Management. You can ask those questions. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, my *angajuksakuluk*, Minister Mike.

I want to ask questions about the caribou management process before I am the only Baffin member not asking about caribou and the management therein. I would like some information to clarify this matter.

I believe Mr. Keyootak was asking questions in the House about the public releases and of the fact that the public may not be aware of the moratorium or he felt there wasn't enough information available publicly to some communities in particular.

I want to refer to this article written in *Nunatsiaq News* in the March 4 edition where it speaks about the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. This article stated that in the board's view, the caribou moratorium which has been in place for over two months was decided unilaterally and without any transparency, although this issue is a very important matter for people due to the importance of caribou in our lives. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board believes that the decision was made too hastily for this moratorium.

To ensure everyone in this region has the exact same information, can the minister provide an explanation of when, how, who, and where an opportunity was provided for feedback? Some communities have stated they are unaware of this management decision and that they had no opportunity to make their views known in a momentous decision such as this. They should have been involved. That is what I wanted clarified firstly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my *nukassakuluk*, Member Enook.

Indeed, I can provide more information on the public releases and how this decision has been released to the public. We can speak to that aspect. The Baffin Island caribou concerns have been in the forefront for several years, with the concern raised by QWB about the decline in the caribou population, including the concerns filtering up from the HTOs they represent and who are part of QWB.

A concern was raised by the organization around 2009 and 2010 about the declining caribou populations on Baffin Island. After QWB presented their growing concerns about the caribou, they were amongst the first to voice that concern. Obviously they represent the HTOs and local people are more attuned to changes in wildlife populations. That is the way it works today.

In the year 2013, an interim joint committee to review the Baffin Island caribou issue was struck, which is called the (interpretation ends) Baffin Island caribou joint committee. (interpretation) They have representatives from the Nunavut government, NTI, NWMB, QWB, and HTOs. It was at their request to review this issue. The committee was created either in June 2013 or July 2013. At the first meeting, debate sprung up on an immediate management plan need. When the committee was created in 2013, elders were included as advisors for the caribou management committee.

One of the first decisions was to conduct an immediate survey of the caribou

population in the region and how they could mitigate the decline in the caribou population. This is where the decision was made, including the announcements. I apologize if any communities weren't fully apprised of the management decisions leading up to the caribou moratorium.

However, in the winter of 2014, the Baffin Island caribou committee debated their options and presented their recommendations. The result was the 2014 winter caribou survey, as the committee wanted the latest numbers, although a caribou survey had been commenced earlier. This is how the process went throughout the winter. When spring arrived, the caribou management issues were still at the forefront, as another meeting was held in July 2014 with a larger meeting held in November of 2014, last fall just prior to winter.

The report had various options related to the management decisions. As the caribou population estimates were available, the management options were identified as to how to manage our caribou. That's how we tried laying it out. The Nunavut government identified three separate steps that had been brought back to the NWMB back in December in Rankin Inlet, so this was also dealt with. The caribou hunting ban has gone through this process as we look for options to consider.

The regional wildlife office, in this case QWB, had ample opportunity for their input and desire to be involved in this caribou discussion. I do say that any members from QWB have not stated as to how they want to be involved in

caribou management. That is how things are.

I'm sorry I have to make a long response, but I want him to understand where we are coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In December when NWMB met, did they respond at that time regarding the caribou hunting ban? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, that was the case and the proposed ban was presented for my approval and I agreed. We deal with all kinds of wildlife in Nunavut through NTI and NWMB. We have to work together in tough cases such as this. This was how it was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood that NWMB recommended a caribou hunting ban for Baffin Island to you as minister. I wonder why the media says that you stopped communicating with the QWB and it states that it was an acrimonious and jaded handling. I wonder what was out of place here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking about that. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement spells out in Article 5 how it deals with wildlife matters. The agreement states that the Nunavut government minister has a role to play as outlined in this case as it relates to the approval of this caribou hunting ban. Due to this, wildlife management has to go through this process and no other way.

If we deviate from normal practice where numbers were healthy and then a drastic decline in population occurred, which was observed by local hunters, who then voiced their concerns, this right is outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Since they are aware of their rights and obligations due to their involvement in wildlife issues, they recommended that a moratorium be enacted in the interim. It wasn't meant to be permanent.

Another issue rose related to communication or the communication breakdown. I personally am unaware where the breakdown occurred if QWB wasn't aware of this development, including the communities. I don't know where the communication lines went awry due to the fact that this moratorium was discussed earlier as part of the caribou management consultation process.

This was brought up as well as other options, such as a limited harvest of caribou, certain areas that would be subject to this moratorium, or to have only a winter or spring hunting ban while the caribou are calving or during their mating season. These were the types of issues debated by the groups.

I apologize if the details weren't released locally by either QWB or HTOs, and I can't respond on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter relates to the local HTOs. Some of them have stated that they weren't provided with any opportunity to voice their choice on the options. I wonder why the HTOs would state that they weren't provided an opportunity to select their options in the management plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this apparent breakdown, I personally haven't received any correspondence from QWB or HTOs about this complaint. I have heard on the media about the lack of communication.

Within our offices, we haven't received any correspondence outlining this concern and I personally haven't seen letters to that effect. I imagine it could be due to the fact that the HTOs and QWB who voiced their concerns about the caribou population decline in the Baffin region also have a representative at the NWMB board level. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated also has a wildlife department that deals with Inuit wildlife concerns.

With respect to this complaint, as of now, there weren't any population concerns expressed at the time of the

first meetings from 2009 and 2010. The caribou surveys have been ongoing since that time.

In the year 2013, when the parties wanted to strike a subcommittee, QWB, NTI, NWMB, and the government jointly established this committee to review the caribou population concerns expressed by our hunters. When the process reached the caribou moratorium option, this option wasn't brand new as this option was clearly identified within the Government of Nunavut options paper listed as the third option. The other two options were for a limited hunt or seasons.

I can't respond with the insinuation that the caribou were in danger of extirpation. However, what is an expectation is that the meetings are held mostly in Iqaluit. After the representatives have attended these meetings, if they haven't informed their membership upon their return to their communities, then yes, we can run into precarious situations.

In the year 2014, we also made a decision within the Department of Environment. We initiated a final community tour in 2014. Less than 400 people attended our community tour. Approximately 380 people attended. During our public meeting regarding caribou in Iqaluit, some members did not attend or their attendance was quite low or perhaps their representative did not inform the public.

Since I became minister, I have talked about caribou management on Baffin Island in the House three times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I'm probably not the only one who has received correspondence from the wildlife organizations in regard to the question.

Mr. Chairman, my other question is, since we have had a moratorium on caribou, one of our colleagues stated that the people were not properly informed. How did you inform or consult with the community that there is a recommendation or the moratorium will go into effect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond if you will give him the opportunity, Mr. Nirlungayuk. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Enook. As a department, of course, as elected officials, this was decided through an urgent teleconference. Later on, the chairmen of the wildlife organizations, HTOs, and QWB were also involved, including NTI. We had an emergency meeting.

The only time that it could be made public was when the minister declared the moratorium. We consulted the communities and also the conservation

officers by telephone. After the enforcement, we communicated through correspondence. After that, the minister had made the announcement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to respond to the deputy minister's response. You said that the elected officials had a meeting. For us Baffin MLAs, we were told that we were going to meet through a teleconference. Apparently it was after the decision was made.

When Mr. Keyootak was asking a question, he was given an example that there was a representative for Uqqummiut. I just want to remind you and to remind myself also that towards the end of our meeting via teleconference, I had asked the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) Minister Mike, if we were able to inform the people through radio. He said no and that the department will make the announcement. Even though that may have been the case, to hear the department now place the onus on the MLAs to inform their constituents about this issue is reprehensible because your department stated that they would do the public announcements of this moratorium.

This is what I want Nunavummiut and residents of Baffin Island to be absolutely clear about. I asked the question previously if we could now make that announcement on the local community radio stations. The answer was no and that the department will

conduct the public announcements on this issue.

With this process continuing up to this caribou moratorium now in effect on Baffin Island, how are you working with the local HTOs to ensure that this moratorium your department wants followed is complied with by their local memberships? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for bringing up that concern, my *nukassakuluk*, Member Enook. Yes, this was occurring at the same time we were focusing on other issues, including the various management options that stemmed from the NWMB meeting. After this meeting, we didn't have a lot of time to deliberate on this issue within our department.

I also recall that after we announced the moratorium, when the government released the announcement, our department identified that this would be made public with announcements to follow. It was my personal choice to include MLAs representing the Baffin region only because I felt it was right. There is nothing legally requiring us to consult with regular MLAs and (interpretation ends) this was at my courtesy (interpretation) where I included them.

I felt it was prudent to inform the Baffin region MLAs, although I wasn't required to do so, as I felt that the lines of communication had to be respected through both avenues, both through the

MLAs and HTOs. We didn't have to do that as we could have just unilaterally informed the public at large about the moratorium. I am only referring to the public announcement aspect only. That is all.

With respect to public announcements of the issue we are debating as it was asked about, it was only due to my personal convictions on the matter that I involved the MLAs. I wanted to do that and because of that, all members heard the exact same news when the government made the caribou moratorium announcement. I never asked the members not to speak to the issue prior to the announcement of the moratorium. If members misunderstood that, then I can only state that related to government operations, although I am a minister, I still needed to consult with my executive colleagues, particularly with our Premier.

At that time, the Government of Nunavut was faced with several wildlife issues and we didn't have much time to make that decision as we had to inform the residents about this issue. Due to that reason, within our mandate, we aren't the only ones involved in drafting public service announcements related to the caribou moratorium and how to disseminate the information. I suppose the rapidity of the decision caught people by surprise and I just wanted to reiterate that (interpretation ends) it was at my courtesy, really. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gratifies me to hear that your department is aware of their

need to provide that service. Inuit fought hard to get a government closer to their lives and one that would keep them informed of momentous decisions and who included Inuit. That mollifies some of my concerns that your department is aware of their responsibilities and I thank you for your awareness of this requirement.

Let me then turn to this next question, Mr. Chairman. Now with the moratorium in effect, some communities are placed in a very difficult situation as they are faced with food insecurity issues. Has your department researched any other alternatives specifically for this? I imagine there are discussions ongoing to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, this has impacted me on a personal level as well. Most of my life, I have practised our tradition of hunting and harvesting animals for food, so this also impacts me personally. I wanted to speak to that feeling because I totally empathize with the local hunters. When I was faced with this momentous decision, it was almost like taking a knife to my own heart to make the decision to enact the moratorium. That was my own personal battle I faced over this matter. That is obviously the case for Inuit when dealing with wildlife, but government operations dictate difficult decisions.

In looking back at the year 2009, it is now six years ago. In 2010, concerns were raised about the decline in the caribou and hunters were voicing their

concerns about the lack of caribou available. I, too, was amongst those who felt that. Even back then, there were management options being debated in the government. To use Pangnirtung as an example, our land use area usually has an area somewhere that caribou inhabit, at least based on the knowledge I was given and learned. When these areas were void of caribou, the Nunavut government, the local hamlet, and HTO banded together and ordered caribou from Repulse Bay in 2009-2010 for a local Christmas feast.

I want to return to this statement: a moratorium is useless to enforce if there are no caribou to protect. If there are no caribou, then a moratorium is basically void and useless as it would only work with a caribou population. Every community had different situations. As harvesters, we generally know which areas have caribou. As an example, Iqaluit had roughly the same number of caribou harvested throughout the year while some communities with sparse caribou populations hardly harvested any caribou. These harvest numbers are available.

This issue also requires alternatives, as this lack of caribou exacerbates the meat requirements of our people. We are trying to collaborate with other departments. We have started discussing the effects of this development with the departments of Family Services and Economic Development and Transportation. Various alternatives were identified during our last meeting. They have stated that they will try to make programs available much like our department is attempting to do with our programs.

Also, within our main estimates, we have identified increases in the funds used for the purpose of obtaining country food for communities. We are considering all of our options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, in the Baffin region, *angajuksakuluuk*, Minister Mike, don't think that I am personally dead set against this caribou moratorium. I am not personally attacking this moratorium. When the reasoning is clearly understood, it is much easier to make difficult decisions.

However, I want to ask about this issue next. Now that everyone in the territory is aware of this caribou moratorium in the Baffin region, all sorts of scavengers, or (interpretation ends) vultures (interpretation) as an example, are already raising freight costs to take advantage of the uptick in demand. They know Inuit have no choice but to order caribou from other regions outside of the Baffin region, particularly given our taste for caribou meat.

We have already seen drastic increases set by these unscrupulous airlines, although they pretend it is due to the rising costs of conducting business in the north. In my personal opinion, I noted that it was exactly when they learned about the moratorium that the rates changed, almost as it was done in step with the moratorium. It was unerring too close, although I know that it may not have been intentional.

The food freight rates changed overnight, seemingly in line with the caribou moratorium for food shipped to Baffin Island. While we are in that situation, it is already obvious that people are going to be in further hardship. Have you outlined or made any plans as to how you are going to help certain communities now?

For example, in Pond Inlet, we go through hardships, but we can fly to Igloolik or drive by snowmobile to Igloolik and then go caribou hunting away from Baffin. For the people in Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung, it is too far for them to go.

Have you thought of any ways of supporting those communities or is it too soon that you haven't made any plans like that yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand what my colleague is saying. We are doing this for the people out there, all of us. The Government of Nunavut has set this up. I know from the Department of Environment that requests for the funding that is used for country food distribution haven't changed. We know that the airlines that carry country food raise their freight rates and it will change a lot of things. This is new. Perhaps later on, we will see what it does. We may need to reconsider things.

Inuit need to have food. We are working together for this. The Government of Nunavut's various departments are

aware of it. I know that if we need to do more things, then we will have to consider that for all the communities, especially for the people who yearn for the food that they know.

This moratorium, temporary ban, I know that I have stated that it may stay until March and April. However, NWMB is holding hearings right now in March. There are a lot of discussions. People have a good opportunity there and I'm sure we will be given more ideas about country food from those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on Environment. Page I-4. Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is great. Welcome to one of the member's *angajuksakuluk*, Mr. Nirlungayuk, and that other person. Please feel welcome. We are happily trying to do things that the people of Nunavut need, not just those things. I appreciate my colleague for talking about this because it is extremely important for our lives.

Now, we have heard and I don't know if this is true or not, but somebody has killed a caribou. We are not quite sure. There is a moratorium. Has it happened? Right now, we are banned from killing caribou. Have you set up strong circumstances or things that could happen to people if they don't listen to the law? If they don't follow the law, what will be done to people who decide not to follow the moratorium? What have you set up for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank our colleague for asking the question. Before the moratorium, the Department of Environment's Wildlife Division looked at wildlife laws that are being broken. Enforcing the wildlife regulations is always continued.

After the caribou moratorium had been announced, as a minister, it just falls under the Wildlife Regulations of Nunavut. Today, whenever a new law is enacted, only after people start breaking it, we learn it. That's how laws seem to work these days. It's like somebody makes a law knowing that it will be broken, and then it gets tested. That's how laws seem to be made. It will probably happen with the caribou moratorium. That is how I can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about this again. I thank you a great deal for this. I was concerned about it. I know there are regulations that fall under it. I know that HTOs have to follow regulations as well. Even our community has their own committee that makes sure animals are not wasted. You have the authority to do things like that. I appreciate it.

Let me change the subject a little bit. In the Department of Environment's business plan, one of the priorities for

2014-15 is to “Undertake a review of the department’s suite of harvester support programs...” It talks about support programs. What is it directed towards? Does it have to do with country foods or gasoline subsidies for harvesters? Can you describe to me what is available under it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s an operational matter. I would like the Assistant Deputy Minister, Steve Pinksen, to respond to that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Country Food Distribution Program is a program that is administered through the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. It’s not our program, so I’m not an expert on it, but I do know that it provides funding for communities to purchase country food from other communities and ship it to the community that buys it. They have various schedules under the program. The main purpose of the program is to make country food available and it provides financial support for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that and for answering my question. I’m happy because it’s very difficult to work with. Please know that

we are not asking questions because we’re angry. It’s just normal practice to ask questions.

I also know that kind of experience because caribou weren’t available during those years, and the HBC traders imposed a hunting ban and this was around 1944-46. The HBC traders were adamant about Inuit not hunting any caribou. With respect to bans, that practice continues up to today and it’s not alien to Inuit. Nonetheless, I believe it has more to do with Inuit population increases and I think country food has returned to being an Inuit delicacy, at least for older Inuit like us.

I don’t want you to be overly concerned, including our listening audience, as this ban won’t be in place forever. After the situation has improved and all the information has been collected, will you be informing the public about the next management steps? Will the department inform the public about either the month or year when this ban may be lifted? Is that the direction you are going towards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking that question about the timing, as we are all wondering about that issue as residents of this region.

The government also has to follow the process laid out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement where they work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, as they are the main instrument of wildlife management in Nunavut.

This includes the public hearing process and currently, the caribou issue is being debated in that forum.

This is an opportune time for this process to be held, at least on a personal level because NWMB has the authority to conduct public hearings on certain species. The public hearing is something I want the public to fully understand, as the (interpretation ends) public hearing (interpretation) includes the Nunavut government as an intervener, much like everyone else submitting their positions like NTI, QWB, HTOs, and every Inuk who wants to submit their opinion.

After the hearing process has run its course, NWMB still has to evaluate the submissions made during that hearing and they will have to arrive at a decision. This applies to the Government of Nunavut submissions as well submitted at the public hearing, as they also have to assess all the information.

I, too, am in the same situation as all the other residents in waiting for news about when the moratorium will be lifted and replaced with different management options. That is what I can respond with at this time. Even though we're the government, we can't decide that until the hearings have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Environment. Branch Summary. I-4. Following my list of names, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have further questions related to the caribou issue. I raised several concerns in my questioning to the minister about our

community's lack of information and of the fact that community members weren't at all pleased with this development. The department has stated that efforts were made to inform all the communities about this moratorium, but as per my earlier comments, the community wasn't provided with any public announcements in Qikiqtarjuaq about the caribou moratorium.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association represents all of the Baffin Inuit and has representatives in every community. Unlike the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, which doesn't have representation of all the communities, at least at the executive level, and NTI represents all Nunavut interests, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is the only organization that has a representative in every Baffin community. I wanted to know if QIA was involved in this caribou management issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association has not contacted me up to today. I have not heard from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in my office. That is what I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some communities have no renewable resource officer and my community of Qikiqtarjuaq has had

no wildlife officer for some time now. This makes it hard to deal with some issues.

Why have you not met with the HTA or notify them as to the moratorium? We only heard about the caribou moratorium through the TV. We had no prior warning and this makes it harder to live in our community. Why did the department not issue a written notice of the pending moratorium on hunting caribou? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. I will ask my deputy minister to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. I am not happy too that Qikiqtarjuaq has no conservation officer. We are looking to place a conservation officer there. QWB has a representative from Qikiqtarjuaq and they were aware through that process. The minister never wrote to the communities as we were hitting the Christmas rush for this. We are sorry. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that communities that have no caribou will not be affected. I want to let him know that we have no caribou, but we do

go get caribou at a very far distance traversing across Baffin Island and we take a long time to go get caribou.

If a hunter returns in a week, that is considered a quick caribou hunting trip. If he brings only one drum of gas, we consider that a quick trip as well. That is how we go and hunt caribou. As he stated, communities without caribou will not be affected, but I can assure you that Qikiqtarjuaq is affected. Does the minister not feel that Qikiqtarjuaq is affected by this caribou moratorium? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I never stated that they would not be affected. I said that if you have no caribou, then this moratorium does not affect you. If there are caribou, then you are affected.

I know for a fact that the hunters in Qikiqtarjuaq harvest caribou, although no population exists nearby, and we always heard about Qikiqtarjuaq hunters harvesting caribou even when they were far. My father's stepfather, Pauloosie Angmarlik, moved to Qikiqtarjuaq, and I learned from him personally about caribou and their usual haunts. This knowledge has become more common. ‘

For that reason, I want everyone to understand this point: pretty well every community that had caribou close by has seen the caribou move away, as if they migrated elsewhere. This happened on occasion, at least in the past. This doesn't seem to occur anymore, but this is just an example.

I wasn't insinuating that this moratorium won't impact communities, but rather that without any caribou, a moratorium is useless to try and enforce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand then that Qikiqtarjuaq won't be affected by this moratorium because there are no caribou populations in our land use area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. This moratorium affects all of Baffin Island. There are 10 communities that aren't allowed to hunt caribou. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have continued to maintain in my statements that our community is without a conservation officer. How will this information be provided to the members that there is a moratorium?

As per my earlier comments, our hunters travel great distances to hunt caribou. I wonder if your department will have employees monitoring this moratorium. Will this include monitoring hunters to ensure they aren't going for a caribou hunting trip? Would they confiscate any caribou harvested? I'm asking about communities that don't have a conservation officer. How will your

department keep abreast of developments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At that time, we had a teleconference with QWB and at that time, we discussed the issue of a moratorium on Baffin Island and the concerns. Before the moratorium was placed, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board was involved at those meetings. All affected hunters and trappers organizations, the conservation officers, the communities, and the government were going to be working together. It's very important. The first ones to voice the decrease in the caribou population came from the hunters and trappers themselves.

As the Minister of Environment, I was working with the communities. I can only use Baffin Island as an example. We know that there will be some people who follow this moratorium and there will be some people who will be harvesting a caribou every now and then. We know that laws are broken all the time. We would like to work closely with the hunters and trappers organizations.

We are already doing some research. I think there are going to be some people harvesting caribou, but we have been doing research. I think there are going to be some people harvesting caribou, but we have been doing research on this issue already since the moratorium came into effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. As I indicated earlier, we have to go very far to go caribou hunting. We have to cross the ocean and just about go to the other side of Baffin Island, and I don't think it's going to change in our community at all. We have to go to the mainland to go caribou hunting.

As I indicated earlier, if we're gone for a week, then that's a very short time. We usually know where to go caribou hunting, but in Qikiqtarjuaq, we have to go to the mainland and right now, we're not crossing to the other side. That's why I asked you how this moratorium was going to be enforced. How are you going to know if caribou were caught on Baffin Island or from somewhere else? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The moratorium is only in effect for Baffin Island. If you want to go caribou hunting for a month outside of Baffin Island, you are free to do so. You can go caribou hunting anywhere as long as it's not on Baffin Island. The moratorium is only in effect on Baffin Island. If you were to go caribou hunting anywhere else, that is perfectly fine.

I can use Igloolik and Hall Beach as an example. They were also involved in the caribou issue, but they do go caribou hunting because they are outside of Baffin Island. They go caribou hunting

in Iluili on the mainland. If you want to go across, then by all means, you can go caribou hunting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. I-4. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Minister Mike, and staff. In your business plan on page 140, you're talking about the first of a three-year quantitative assessment of McClintock Channel polar bear subpopulation. It says that it was successfully completed in June of 2014. I would just like to know how that survey went and if the subpopulation is healthy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: I'll get my Assistant Deputy Minister Pinksen to answer that one. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first year of the survey was completed last year. It's a three-year project and it takes at least two years of results before we can really get an indication of the population and whether it's increasing, decreasing, or stable. We're not really able to say until we finish the second year, which will be this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the total allowable harvest for that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The minister has indicated Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current allowable harvest for McClintock Channel is three, but the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is presently considering whether to change that number. It's currently in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement decision-making process. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three are shared between Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven. How does that work? My understanding is two and one, and that changes every year. Confirmation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kitikmeot Wildlife Board, I believe, makes a decision on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Minister. I would just like to know how it was between the two communities. I believe that in one year, Gjoa Haven is allowed two and Cambridge Bay one, and then the next year, Cambridge Bay would get the two and Gjoa Haven would get the

one. I just want confirmation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: I'll get my deputy minister to answer that one. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) That is correct. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, between Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven, has decided that over the past few years. It rotates annually.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, third bullet, at the very bottom, it says that "An IQ study is currently being planned..." I want you to know that we have our own scientists. They don't have any certificates to show for it, but they are knowledgeable. I'm assuming, reading that line, that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* was never used before 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) Yes, that's correct. Our biologist is working closely with hunters and trappers of Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. When they are doing a survey, they're asking questions about what the hunters are seeing. That's taken into consideration and taking hunters as well into the survey. A more in-depth IQ study, as you know, there have been some IQ studies in Gjoa Haven. That is the plan. We want to incorporate the traditional knowledge. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that, we are seeing a lot more polar bears coming into the community of Gjoa Haven within the last year. The IQ specialists are saying that there is a lot more out there than what your biologists are saying. Is the 2015-16 the second year of the survey? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): The answer is yes.

Chairman: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: I don't see anything for the third year. There's nothing mentioned in 2016-17 and that would be the third year, I'm assuming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): If my deputy minister can respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk: As the ADM alluded to earlier, to get good survey results done, we would like to do a three-year study. It will continue to the third year in 2016-17. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more question. When is it that the community of Gjoa Haven found out when the total allowable harvest...? When will they be told that it will increase? Is it this year or the next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) As the ADM alluded to, there is a request for decision currently before NWMB before the results are done, so it's at NWMB's discretion for the moment. We're not sure what the results will be to the minister.

However, once the scientific study has been completed along with an IQ study, there will be a second decision made. They still have another year, next year,

and once the reports are done, it usually takes about a year, but we will see what we can do because Gjoa Haven has been impacted for a while. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, I didn't see any other show of hands, so I'll recognize Mr. Enook. Second go-around, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of my earlier line of questioning, in order to complete the questions and to be clear in my own understanding, in my last question, I stated that Baffin Island residents may have the option to go hunting caribou elsewhere, perhaps to the Queen Elizabeth islands in the High Arctic. They are far removed from Baffin Island.

In particular, what I want to speak to in this preamble is the mainland past Hall Beach, that Inuit call the land of Canada, especially by Igloolik and Hall Beach residents. I know that is an area where our hunters can go caribou hunting, at least the communities within reach of the mainland. It is very difficult to attempt that trip, but with no other choice, that may be their only option.

Have you taken into consideration the possible impacts of the Baffin Island moratorium on caribou populations elsewhere, such as the caribou herds in the Kivalliq? Has this consideration been included in your deliberations on the matter? If Baffin Island residents were to start harvesting from those herds, due to our population size, we could conceivably harvest a lot of caribou from those herds, although we can't predict the numbers, especially with the

increased cargo rates for country food shipments. Has this been taken into consideration as part of the overall impacts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue has been brought up as a concern from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and that this is disconcerting to them due to the possible impact on the caribou in their region. I believe it has been several years now, perhaps as many as six years since Baffin Island residents started to order caribou from that region. Also, with the growing concern about the caribou population in the Baffin region, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has sent correspondence outlining their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I want to ask relates to some of the issues brought up by other members. We often hear various reasons people spout about the decline in the Baffin Island caribou population. Different theories abound for the crash in the population and they could all be factors that contributed to this decline or perhaps only a few caused this problem. I personally don't have a clue to the actual reason. I wonder if the abundance of wolves in the Baffin region is partially to blame for this population decline. Was this taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, in listening to IQ and caribou historical abundances, we have heard of past declines and escalation of populations inhabiting our island. In the early 1990s, the South Baffin caribou were actually all around Iqaluit as they migrated through this area. In those days, you could often see caribou resting between the schools and buildings.

We have heard of various factors from hunters. Yes, Inuit hunters and wolves both contribute to population declines. However, caribou have cyclic periods of population increases and declines. The historical data indicates that populations have crashed in the past and then rebounded in later years.

In meeting with my executive colleagues from Canada, they are all saying the same thing. They aren't sure of the reasons, but caribou populations are decreasing throughout our country and it seems to be more commonplace now. When I meet with my colleagues in other jurisdictions, that's what they all say. They report that their caribou populations are declining and they believe it has to do with the wolf population. However, the caribou have their own natural process that they go through and that's what they're going through.

I believe that in Canada, we are undergoing the downturn in the caribou population cycle and elsewhere in the arctic regions. I think we will be in this cycle for a while, but I don't think it's just due to the harvesting of the caribou;

it's part of the natural process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In considering the caribou moratorium, every effort was made to deliberate on these issues, as we all know. However, what we don't know is how long the moratorium will last, as that is part of Minister Mike's ministerial authority. At this time, with the caribou moratorium in effect in the Baffin region, as per your earlier comments that it seems some laws are made to be broken, that seems to be the purpose.

Let me quote an article in the *Nunatsiaq News* that was written in the March 11 edition. I will only read part of the article which talks about an interview with your departmental officials. Actually, they were reputed to have stated this.

I will start off with an alleged remark from Mr. Gissing. I suppose he responded to a question where he was asked a hypothetical situation whereby an Inuk harvests a caribou and his response was that this would have to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. I imagine they used an elder as an example, who is out on the land and facing starvation without any other food source. They may have to harvest a caribou to stave off starvation. "That elder would not likely face any consequences, Gissing said, but others could face fines or wind up in court facing charges under Nunavut's Wildlife Act."

It also states that “Pinksen seemed a little less generous.” He stated that “This is a big step for the government to take. It’s certainly controversial but, it is now the law of the land.” That’s what Mr. Pinksen said. There ends my quotations. Wow, our government is so dictatorial in stating that this is the law of the land.

Which legislation prevails? Your two officials seem to be saying two different things, that if the offender is an elder, then it may not be an issue if they harvest a caribou while Mr. Pinksen seems to be insinuating that all cases will be sent to court. What is the process going to be? If we catch a caribou out of season or while the moratorium is in effect, are you going to treat the elders differently from the younger harvesters? Is that the way it’s going to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, *nukassakuluuk*. We will think about that and I’m going to make a decision when I have to make it after I get a recommendation from NWMB. You stated that I have to make a decision on that, which is true, and I thank the MLA, Joe Enook.

The process has been, when there’s a moratorium anywhere, when someone has no choice but to harvest, and that’s the way I understand it from way back, even if there’s a moratorium, you’re able to harvest in emergency circumstances. My assistant deputy minister can explain that further with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk. (interpretation) I’m sorry. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Nunavut’s *Wildlife Act*, a person is always allowed to kill an animal in self-defence or to prevent starvation. The law has always provided for that. In the event somebody was in a starvation situation and they needed the hunt to survive, the law provides for that and it always has.

However, because of the moratorium on Baffin Island caribou, if we become aware of anybody hunting Baffin Island caribou, we will conduct an investigation. Our obligation is to conduct that investigation to find out the circumstances of that hunt, and then the department would make a decision on whether or not to pursue charges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we have a moratorium on Baffin Island, I know that people will not harvest caribou because we’re told not to. In the same article that I quoted from, one of your officials stated that “Starting March 16, representatives from the environment department and from NTI will travel to each Baffin community for consultations on a long-term management plan for Baffin caribou, Gissing said.” Can you give us some information on what this means, having consultations with the people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Pinksen, will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister has described, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is holding its public hearing this week on Baffin caribou to review the minister's decision and also, they're expected to make a decision on the future management of the caribou.

In addition to that, the Department of Environment committed to drafting a management plan for Baffin Island caribou. We have drafted that plan and it's being distributed to the HTOs. The upcoming consultations are on that draft management plan, which we're seeking input and guidance on how to approach Baffin Island caribou management in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the master plan that you're drafting is coming just from your department, is that why you're finally going to convey it to the communities? That's the way I understand it. It has not been heard by the communities, so this is what the department is going to do and this is what you think should happen. Is that what's happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant deputy minister will give you the details on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In November of 2014, we held a large Baffin Island caribou workshop with representation from all the Baffin Island communities and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. It was at that workshop that the department was tasked with drafting a management plan based on the discussions that took place at the workshop. We were tasked with that role to draft the management plan based on the workshop and then to distribute it. We went away, we prepared the draft, and it's now being discussed and shared with the HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two more questions.

It also states here, "Gissing said he hopes to visit all communities by the end of March, and to submit a long-term management plan to the NWMB by the end of 2015."

I want to ask a question about the next statement. It states, "Setting a sustainable long-term harvesting quota depends on knowing how many bulls,

cows and calves make up the caribou herds on Baffin Island, Gissing said.”

Do I understand that all of Baffin Island, starting from now and I don't know to when, before the end of the year, will be surveyed or consulted? You said that you would like to submit a management plan by the end of 2015. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Pinksen, will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff person who gave that interview indicated to me that the newspaper article does not accurately reflect what he stated to the reporter. I would just caution that maybe the report in the newspaper is not reflective of his statements.

Aside from that, we are developing a long-term management plan and monitoring plan for Baffin Island caribou and I'm sure you're aware that we have requested additional ongoing funding to fund ongoing research to better monitor Baffin Island caribou. The intent is that we will consult with the communities by the end of March and complete the management plan by the end of the year, noting that the management plan requires the approval of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Refrain from naming people who are not at the witness table. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, my question is, and I also know that my *angajuksakuluk*, Minister Mike, might not be able to respond to the question I'm about to ask, but let me ask it anyway. Since the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is having a hearing at this time, how long do you feel that you will wait for them to give you a report? If you can't answer it, then I understand that you might not be able to give me an answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After any kind of wildlife public hearing that is established by NWMB, usually it's about three months or over, for sure, if not five or six months. It usually takes about that long before we get a report or recommendation from any hearing. That's what I feel if this proceeded without any problems because I know that there are different types of hearings and some of them are quite difficult. I can't state when it would be, but it will be up to NWMB to decide on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following your statement, it may be five months that have to pass. Is there no way I can harvest a caribou this summer according to the law? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just one of the people waiting to hear from NWMB, so I cannot answer that question. I'm sorry. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister saying that the caribou moratorium may change before he hears about it or is it only after he hears about it that the moratorium will be changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I said was that I am one of the people waiting for a decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The caribou moratorium will not change before I hear from NWMB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is going to be five months, it will be all summer. You say that you are waiting to hear from NWMB and nothing will change unless you hear from them. I doubt if I will harvest a caribou this summer. The law won't let me.

For my last question, I believe I can ask questions about the O&M contributions. The bottom one is Other Expenses,

\$821,000. That is quite a lot of money. What are the plans for that money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I'm not sure what page the question is based on. Can he explain?

Chairman: The question that he is asking is on Distribution of Operations and Maintenance Budget on page I-7, Other Expenses. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, our papers were in disarray. I would like my assistant deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other expenses include staff travel and a number of other associated expenses, including our annual training conference. I believe the minister, in a written response to the standing committee, explained the finance guidelines that were followed in explaining what is included in the \$821,000. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I have recognized everyone who wishes to ask questions on this page and as such, we will move on. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,408,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on to I-5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of quick questions.

In the past, like the past several years, polar bears have been selling on the market quite well. I have noticed in the past couple of auctions that the polar bear furs aren't selling as well as they used to be. I'm just wondering if the minister can explain what accounts for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. The price of furs fluctuates and that is normal. This past winter, trying to sell the furs was more difficult. For the ones that go through the government fur sales, we run it the way we want to and the prices rise. We will only know in June. We're holding off on auctioning them until June because the prices are too low right now. If the prices can go up, then it would be better for everybody. The purchase prices have been low and we know that, but because we can hold off, we're holding off right now and waiting for the prices to go up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, they're holding off until June to try and sell the bear skins on auction again. What is going to be happening in June to make

you think that the furs will sell better in June than they are at the present time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I'm saying is that in June, the auction sales will happen again, and if the prices can go higher a little bit or any time if the prices go up a little bit, we're just hoping the prices will go up a little bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, he talked about putting more funding into the purchase of sealskins from harvesters, which I think is a good idea because sealskins and hunting seals is very important to most of our communities.

I'm just wondering what your department is doing with other furs. For example, when I was reviewing the auction, I was in North Bay, Ontario. It said that over the past several auctions, 100 percent of their white fox furs are being sold and they're being sold at fairly good prices. My question would be: what is your department doing to promote the harvesting and purchasing of other furs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your reference to sealskin prices, we would like the prices to go up if we can be

approved and so we are asking for more money because of that.

There is a lot of demand for sealskins in the Baffin, especially the tanned ones. Many Nunavummiut hunters sell sealskins and it has to do with the possible raising price for sealskins. It would mean more hunters would actively hunt. Hunters feed the community with seal meat both to family and other residents. We believe too that the price for sealskins should go up. If our plans can be approved, it will start April 1.

My assistant deputy minister will answer the second part to the question, with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two programs that support harvesters of long furs. There is one, for example, for white fox and cross fox that provides a guaranteed minimum price. If there is a market decline, which does happen in the fur markets, the hunters are guaranteed to get a minimum price so that when, as it regularly does, the market crashes, the hunters don't lose out in that particular year.

The other program we have is for wolves and individuals who sell wolves in a given year, depending on the volume they sell, they receive a bonus subsidy later in the following year in the fall time. Those are the two programs we have that support harvesters of long fur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Pinksen stated, they have programs where they guarantee prices for other furs, such as foxes. What are you doing to promote this in the communities? Are you advertising in the communities in any way or promoting it somehow so that it encourages more people to go out there and trap these kinds of furs that are in high demand at the present time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant deputy minister will respond, with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we do not have a program to encourage trappers. However, you will note in our business plan that we have indicated that we want to develop a hunter education and training program. Encouraging and promoting trapping and hunting as a lifestyle and a way life is a part of that planned program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question: when do you anticipate having this plan put into action? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The minister has redirected to his official, Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Mr. Chairman, I'm just trying to look it up. My memory tells me

that it's in the 2015-16 fiscal year, but I can check the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) He is checking for us. He found it. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is for development in 2015-16, for implementation in 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Before I move to the next person, we will take a 15-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 12:30 and resumed at 12:48*

Chairman (interpretation): We will now resume our committee meeting. Environment. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Program Management. I-5. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask some questions to the Minister of Environment, our colleague's *angajuksakuluk*. I will be asking questions on the priorities for 2015-16.

In the business plan, one of the priorities for 2015-16 is to "Continue development of a grizzly bear management plan for Nunavut. (...) While Nunavut does not currently have the legislative ability under the *Nunavut Act* to regulate management of grizzly bears, a draft management plan is in development that will be based on voluntary compliance."

What does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. My Deputy Minister, Mr. Nirlungayuk, will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Maybe the Inuktitut wasn't written properly, but I think he was referring to grizzly bears.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize. It's not written in my dialect. I didn't know that it had the "&i" sound instead of "li."

It states here that they're going to "regulate management of grizzly bears" and probably set up a quota. Is your department making plans to set up a quota system for grizzly bears? Is that the plan of your department or is it some other kind of management plan for grizzly bears? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. The minister has redirected to Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr.

Shooyook for that question. There are grizzly bears in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. As a government, we have no management plans for grizzly bears. We are going to be working with the hunters and trappers organizations in those regions to possibly introduce a formal management plan for grizzly bears in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Nirlungayuk for that response.

As you're developing grizzly bears, the polar bears are moving everywhere. We can't tell them where to go because they go wherever they please. If they come to Baffin Island, what would happen? Would we be allowed to hunt grizzly bears or would that be forbidden by law? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. The Kitikmeot region has always had grizzly bears. They are now in the Kivalliq area and very likely moving towards the east. They will probably come to the Baffin region some time in the future, but to date, there is no quota system set up for grizzly bears. Again, following Inuit

tradition, you can't just kill an animal if you're not going to eat it. We are currently working with the regional wildlife organizations to regulate the management of grizzly bears. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, very much. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just ask the minister a few questions on polar bears of the western Hudson Bay. I'm pretty sure he knew that there would be some questions.

Specifically on the TAH (total allowable harvest), at one time, back in 2006-07, the TAH was actually 56. The minister's department has stated that the population is stable, yet the current quota is only 24. I would just like to ask why the quota is less than half of what it was if the population is stable. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant deputy minister will explain that if you will allow him. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The historic harvest level for western Hudson, I believe, was 42. It was increased in 2004-05 to 56, I think. Following that, research suggested the population had declined, so the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board then

decreased the harvest down to eight per year. It went down quite low. Since then, it has been increased based on more recent research data.

It is estimated that the population has remained stable since the last surveys were done. The most recent data, I believe, is from 2011-12. Also, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada re-analyzed their historic data and also concluded that the population was approximately stable.

The harvest level of 24 is based on an estimated population growth rate of about 2.5 percent. That's what they estimated as the normal population growth level. At the current population estimate at that growth rate, that's how we also concluded that the harvest level of 24 would be sustainable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in 2011-12, Mr. Pinksen is correct in saying that the quota went from 8 to 21 huntable bears, but the actual TAH for that year that was given out was 42 tags to account for the backlog of defence kills when the TAH was too low. In fact, that one year, they were able to put a TAH out of 42. Why did it have to go so far down to 24? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The minister has redirected to the official, Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board adjusts the total

allowable harvest, as per the memorandum of understanding, we have a credit system of how we manage over-harvests. In that system, in the MOUs, we zero the credits when there is a change. However, we still have to account for any over-harvest.

It's correct that during the years when the harvest level was quite low, there were a lot of defence kills and defense of life and property kills of polar bears. We had to account for that in our management system. How it was done was to allocate and to cover off the additional bears that were harvested. I hope that answers the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The western Hudson Bay polar bear population, historically in the past, has been hunted by five communities. Currently, the quota of 24 is only hunted by three, which is Arviat, Whale Cove, and Rankin Inlet.

I know that every bear has to be accounted for and a tag has to be issued. If the number of defence kills should go up from these communities, it's quite possible that the TAH could all be used up for defence kills. If the number of defence kills starts going up, would the minister agree that it's possible that there will be no huntable quota again there was from 2008 to 2011? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant

deputy minister will answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the [question] is: is it possible? I guess it is possible. It is difficult to sit and answer a theoretical question like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it is that theoretical because we've had other communities that have shot as high as, I believe, 20 or 30 bears in a two-year span for defence kills. It's not hypothetical; it could happen.

Going on a different matter, the Government of Nunavut studies the western Hudson Bay population and so does Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and they're managing these bears to the numbers they're at now. I would like to know if they are doing any studies to know what the carrying capacity of that area is for that polar bear population. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what they should do is try to find out what the carrying capacity is because if the polar bears are at their

carrying capacity with the environment that they are in, then even if you keep putting the quota down, the bear population will not increase because they're at their carrying capacity. Maybe that's just as many bears as their habitat or the environment can carry now.

It doesn't make sense for polar bears to go skinny or die of natural cause if they are going to die anyway. It makes more sense that people of Nunavut get to harvest them and benefit from the harvest of the bears. We see lots of bears in the fall now, lots in Arviat, not just Arviat but Arviat is where it's in the media and we see them a lot.

I believe that part of the pressure from the media and outside pressure are having a factor on how the Department of Environment is managing the bears and setting up their quotas. I honestly believe that the western Hudson Bay polar bear population can go with a higher TAH. I'm hoping that NWMB will be recommending a higher TAH to the minister.

The long and short is: does the minister have any plans to find out what the carrying capacity is, if they can, of that area for the polar bears? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no specific plan to do

a carrying capacity study of how many bears that ecosystem can support.

The way we approach it is through discussions with the hunters and trappers organizations, the regional wildlife organizations, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We establish what a target number is for managing the population at and that is currently done through memoranda of understanding that we have with the communities. That's the process that we use for following that. All parties would agree to the population level that we are trying to manage it at.

Currently, we are finalizing a new Nunavut-wide polar bear management plan, which is also being done with the same organizations and that process will, again, establish the target level for managing each polar bear population at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I just heard, the HTOs and RWOs are used to get a target population. My understanding would be that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* is being used to get a target population.

At the same time, on the other hand, the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* of the HTOs is not being used to set the quota of the total allowable harvest because everyone has heard every hunter and every HTO saying that most communities have, I won't say too many bears, but lots of bears. Some people say too many bears, but I'm just going to say lots. In most communities and Arviat in particular, we're seeing more bears than we traditionally ever have.

If you can use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* to get the target figure, why can't you use that as part of the process to get the total allowable harvest? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. In regard to Inuit traditional knowledge and how we can incorporate it into this, I know that there is a high population of polar bears in those communities. The government has to abide by Article 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We have to work with the co-management partners. They produce traditional knowledge from the HTOs or it is derived from the harvesters and from the regional wildlife boards.

The issue that we are discussing right now, the western Hudson Bay polar bear management, I'm looking at the management plan and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board just recently held a hearing in the month of December. I believe that Inuit submitted their traditional knowledge, especially the knowledge of the harvesters. I am sure that they made submissions to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board at the time they were holding a polar bear hearing.

All the submissions and all the surveys were provided to NWMB from NTI and various organizations. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was going to take all of those submissions. I expect the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will make a decision. I'm sure we will hear if they used the traditional

knowledge in making the decision.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for stating that if *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is being used by the HTOs and by the regional wildlife boards in their submissions to NWMB, the outcome will be positive.

I would like to know if he is using it in his process or is it all just basic scientific data. The GN submission to NWMB for the western Hudson Bay polar bear population is to keep it at the current level of 24 bears a year for the next three years, yet the minister has heard from HTOs saying that they have lots of bears now. I'm pretty sure that he has heard from a lot of elders too that there are lots of bears now. I believe that is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*, but his department's submission is still only for 24 bears.

I ask the minister: did he use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* or *Qaujimaningit* in his submission to keep the current harvest of western Hudson Bay polar bears at the current level? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for mentioning that. I personally have not heard from an individual or elders nor did the elders come to my office. As I said, when NWMB is holding a hearing, these entities can make their submissions.

I apologize to the member, but what I'm trying to say is that I haven't received a letter from the HTOs in the Kivalliq regarding *Inuit Qaujimanituqangat* nor did I hear from the elders. Personally in my office, I don't know about other entities. I don't know if they heard from the HTOs. I'm sure that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has heard from their HTOs. I believe NWMB has heard from the communities in regard to western Hudson Bay polar bear management. I'm sure that NWMB has heard through the hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the clarification. I will just ask him now if he would like the HTOs and RWOs to write his office letters requesting that the polar bear quota be increased using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*. If the HTOs wrote to him, because apparently that is the only way that the information would get to him, if they wrote to him and asked for a quota increase, would he consider a quota increase from the HTOs? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for talking about that. The member asked whether I had heard or not. I just elaborated that all the entities have the opportunity to submit a letter of their knowledge. The process follows the memorandum of understanding.

Now the member is asking me if I am willing to consider an increase in the quota if the HTOs or regional wildlife

boards writes to me requesting to have the TAH increased according to traditional Inuit knowledge, but the hearing has already passed. Now I am waiting for NWMB. Likewise, the Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board is waiting for the results from NWMB. NWMB has not given the results from the hearing on polar bear management in western Hudson Bay.

Even though there's no hearing occurring, I just want you to know that we welcome any kind of letter of correspondence, but the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has to make a decision on the total allowable harvest of western Hudson Bay polar bear population. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I'll go on to a different topic now. I would just like to talk a bit about furs. In your opening statement, you said that you are putting in \$160,000 into buying sealskins, which I believe is part of the Fur Pricing Program.

In the past, when I have asked you questions about the shipping of furs out to other fur buyers, which is part of the Fur Pricing Program, you said it's under review. Just a clarification on why you're asking for money on one hand and then on the other hand, you say, "Well, we can't give you an answer because the program is under review." Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. In regard to sealskins, we have been considering this for quite some time. The review of the harvester support programs will be initiated in September. However, in regard to sealskins, we have been considering how we could improve the program, even though the review went ahead. Therefore, we had agreed to consider the increase in the price for sealskins. We were considering it, even though there is a review occurring of the harvester support programs from the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister that putting the price up for sealskins is a good thing for the harvesters that hunt seals. For the harvesters that also hunt wolves, wolverines, and foxes and would like to sell their fur to other fur buyers other than the one the department currently pays the shipping to, would the minister consider to start paying for the shipping of furs to other fur buyers in Canada, even before the review is done, just like he did for the sealskins? In Arviat and in the Kivalliq, most people hunt long fur and sell long fur. It would be beneficial to the people of the Kivalliq if the shipping of their fur was paid to other fur buyers. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to make it clearer on why we have to increase the sealskin, I just wanted to give you more information on that.

Skinning seal or tanning seal is very important here in the north. It's just within the Nunavut area. They need more sealskin. Sealskins are being bought, tanned or not. They want the sealskin in Nunavut and they want more. There are sewers who want more skin. There are other skins that are being used. My colleague is using a sealskin vest. For these reasons, we would like to give the people who make clothing fur that they need to make garments or whatnot.

The prices have not increased for a long time and that's one of the reasons why we would like to see the increase. The increase is long time coming. The seal meat will be distributed to the community and if the harvester wants to make an income out of it, then he can do so or just give it to the people in the community. This also helps the people in the community by providing them with food.

We're not going to drop the fur program. Recently, we thought that we wanted to do this as a government. I know that the seal products or sealskins are not liked by the animal rights activists, but I hope that clears it a bit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question, I think. It's got to do with: do you have any programs

for hunters who travel long distances to go polar bear hunting? The reason why I'm asking is we have hunters over in Gjoa Haven who do go over to the Gulf of Boothia behind Taloyoak. That's well over 100 miles one way. Is there such a thing as that for the hunters from Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have my assistant deputy minister to explain that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a number of harvester support programs which, as the minister indicated, are under review this current year, but we don't really have anything specific to hunters who may have to travel 100 miles or whatever the distance is for hunting. We don't have a specific program that would provide subsidies or anything like that for that kind of activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm thinking of just in line of buying gas for the hunter. Sometimes they do go over and can't come back because they don't have money to come back, to buy gas with. Would you suggest or would you think of getting a program in like that for hunters who do travel a long distance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we stated in regard to our colleague Mr. Savikataaq's question, these programs are being reviewed. That is the only answer I can give him right now because the review has not been completed. We needed to get more feedback from the wildlife organizations in Nunavut so that we will have a good program. This will probably be brought up through that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Just one more question. Has there been a program like that before the Fourth Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I'm quite new, so I'm not sure about what happened in the past. I'm just kidding. My assistant deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Northwest Territories, there were some programs that did provide support, but usually it wasn't gas subsidies. It was mostly run through the hunters and trappers organizations. The money was used for various things, including equipment purchase, building hunting cabins and survival cabins for communities, and various different things.

I have been with the department for over 20 years and I am not aware of any program that was for gas subsidies for long-distance hunting. I can't recall any program like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Just a comment, it would be nice to have some kind of a program to help out the hunters to go on a long-distance hunt. If you could think about it, it would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few remarks about the subject of polar bears while I have the chance, but I shan't digress.

I know from personal experience and can provide factual information without any educated guesses by adhering to naught but your written word, which I won't by the way, but only what I myself have actually witnessed about polar bears to provide some background.

Back when I was growing up, the area where we resided had absolutely no bears. No bears were even seen. That's how rare a sighting was. Sometimes a polar bear was harvested once a year. Inuit were able to cache their meat anywhere from harvesting marine mammals. These caches were never ever robbed due to the fact that no polar bears were in the vicinity to attempt it.

Inuit today, in using their traditional knowledge in seeing the present day reality with polar bears, want the listening audience to know as well as the people watching this on television that I am providing a factual piece of knowledge, one gleaned from experience and not an educated guess like those stemming from my learned friends.

Today, Inuit are in a precarious situation with relation to the present abundance of polar bears. It is becoming life-threatening with ever increasing chances of getting mauled by polar bears and Inuit are experiencing this first hand. You endanger your own life by sleeping in a tent, yet these animal activists say the bears are on the verge of extinction. Come and prove it because that is absolutely not the case. If the bears were on the verge of extinction, no polar bears would be present anywhere in the area Inuit use.

In this day and age, as government considers plans, you had better respect *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* because Inuit don't lie about serious matters or guess about possibilities. This knowledge has been passed from actual experiences by our forefathers. Will this department ever subjugate themselves to the superiority of data from the historical knowledge related to the explosion of the polar bear population? Has this minister or his officials ever taken this into consideration when incorporating *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for bringing this up as people are in danger because of polar bears. Yes, we do hear about different situations. Ever since there has been an increase in the number of polar bears, there have been some bad situations.

My uncle also had a live polar bear on his qamutik. These different things happen because of polar bears. We never usually hear about someone pulling a live polar bear from a qamutik or a little boat.

In regard to the polar bear issue, we have also stated as a government, in regard to polar bears in Nunavut, this has been worked on. The polar bear management is going forward along with the review and the changes that are coming. We have tried to gain feedback from all the communities in regard to polar bear management. Polar bear management is being changed and this was part of his question. People have been voicing their concerns in regard to polar bear management.

We are expecting to give it to NWMB in May, and all of the things that have to be considered in regard to the polar bear have been discussed during review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will again try to make this straight to the point. I thank you for that. Indeed, life is always like that. This issue has to be resolved now and to try to incorporate Inuit knowledge into this type of situation.

Let us know this truth that these animal rights activists, especially those who can read, your fallacy of the ice melting at unprecedented rates is your calling card of concern in this global community. Polar bears don't live because of the ice. Ice is, indeed, one of their preferred habitats, but they are capable of using any terrain due to their superior faculties from Inuit as the top predators. Irrespective of marine, terrestrial or icy environs, they can hunt anywhere. I have personally seen polar bears catch seals in all these arenas.

Now, what has been broken is their ability to hunt. They are being impacted by researchers, especially the so-called scientists. They use helicopters. The sound is the most insidious of the impacts of research by helicopters, and Inuit want less intrusive methods, if available.

Once a bear has had their acute hearing hit by sonic sound, if you are capable of comprehending that, which I doubt you can due to your educational biases, it completely loses the ability to use its hearing to hunt seals. This is like firing a rifle next to your ear. They lose their sense of hearing; a lot of bears do at least.

When a bear loses the hearing sensitivity in their ears, which is a sad thing to see as Inuit, it is written off as a side effect of white man's research. With these intrusive and noisy research methods resulting in the loss of hearing, these affected polar bears start meandering into Inuit occupied areas since their only hunting sense left is their smell, which brings them into contact with people, which results in dangerous human-bear interactions.

With that being the reality we face today, I want this government to be more focused on the fact that a polar bear, much like a human, will actually get mad at all humans for being man-handled. They will go out of their way to exact revenge on the closest humans or if they can find the researchers, but this intrusion changes a bear's behaviour for the rest of their lives. This is why I urge you academic folks to be more understanding of the polar bears' characteristics because they take it personally as an assault on them. This intrusion affects the bears for the rest of their lives, which is why they become dangerous.

The ice isn't disappearing any time soon. Can the minister ensure his scientists carefully consider the quotas in the Baffin and Kivalliq regions? The situation is thus, the reality we face today is due to scientific advice. If a community harvests too many females or surpass their boar quota, then their tags are decreased. This is resulting in overpopulation of bears. I wonder where and how this present overpopulation of polar bears can be determined in Nunavut by Inuit in a way we can abide with.

It is getting to a point where Inuit may start a cull. Please keep that in mind when you are looking at management plans. I want this taken into consideration and that concludes my tidbit for the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I didn't hear a question in that comment. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is pretty simple on this one. In the main estimates there on I-5, one of the line items is Other Expenses and it is \$832,000. We are asked to approve these budgets. I think that is awful high for other expenses and we don't know what that is. Can we get an explanation on what that \$832,000 is for? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my assistant deputy minister to have the opportunity to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a complete breakdown, but I do know some of the items that are included in other expenses. It includes staff travel for our annual training conference. As I indicated in an earlier response, Minister Mike provided a response to the standing committee with the actual breakdown of what's included in that item, which was provided fairly recently. I actually don't have a copy in my binder right now, but it was provided to the standing committee fairly recently.

In addition, as the minister indicated in his letter, the expenses included in other expenses and the breakdown of the budget is done under the guidance provided by the Department of Finance. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) That question was asked. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When my colleague, Mr. Enook, asked about the same type of question under I-7 for the \$821,000, the response was that it was for travel and an officers' conference. Now there is another \$832,000 and we get the exact same answer that it's for travel and officers' conference.

I'll put it simply. I think, for next time, they should put a separate line item because that's a lot of money for other expenses and I'm sure it's all legitimate, but we are asked to approve these budgets and all we have is what is in front of us. If it's a line item in the main estimates, it should be broken down in the business plan so that we can look it up and maybe we can, but I'm not that familiar with which heading it might be under.

Is this other expense in the business plan, though? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The minister has deferred to his official, Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All expenses are included in the mains and reflected in the business plan. I do understand the concern that it's a large chunk of money without a breakdown. I will discuss, with the minister's direction, with our director of corporate services a way to address it and I certainly understand the concern from the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a statement; my questions are done. Between the two line items, it comes out to \$1.7 million that

we are asked to approve with no breakdown of what it is. I would suggest that next time, give us an idea of what this money is being used for because these are public funds. I'm sure everything is being used correctly, but we don't know that. All we know is what is in front of us and, if it doesn't state what it is in front of us, we are asked to approve, in this case, \$1.7 million without knowing exactly what we're approving. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't hear a question, so I will move on. I have recognized everyone who wishes to ask questions on this page and as such, we will move on. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,346,000. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't given an opportunity to ask about caribou and I had some questions and I believe it's on I-5. I don't have many questions.

Welcome to our meeting, Minister Mike and your officials.

Caribou management was discussed this morning. As a department, I would like to understand how you're going to oversee all the planning that is done and all the things that are being set up for caribou. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Baffin Island caribou management, we're requesting to have a technician in the Baffin and that's why we're asking for some of the extra money. Caribou

management in the Baffin is going to be an issue for a while, so we're asking for an additional PY, if it can be approved, to have someone in charge of caribou management and it would be based in Igloodik. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I would appreciate it, when we're starting a particular branch or a particular page, if you raise your hand if you have any questions at the beginning. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The caribou moratorium is in effect now and you will need to be monitoring the population of the caribou to see if they're rising or still dropping. When are you going to do more surveys of caribou in the Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The caribou moratorium has brought out a lot of different kinds of knowledge since the discussions started. We probably missed the opportunity to gain more knowledge. Caribou roam freely and the caribou have no idea we are concerned about them and they function as they always have.

We have to be careful as to the ban to ensure that later generations benefit from our actions today. The elders say the caribou shall return and they did return. Now they are low in numbers and we have to be aware and be informed as to the caribou on Baffin Island and elsewhere too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if he answered my question, but let me rephrase it. They stated that they will develop a caribou management plan before the end of 2015. From that plan, will it be possible to find out when you plan to do another population survey of Baffin Island caribou? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): As I said, the surveys and the desire to know about the caribou will dictate some of our work plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that in the business plan, we will find out when you would do another caribou survey, for example, in 2015? Maybe in 2016-17, would another survey be done then? Is that the way I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for clearing that up. To go on to something else in the business plan, one of the priorities for 2016-17 in the third bullet is to "Support and

enhance role of HTOs by enhancing relationships with co-management partners." How do you see that rolling out in 2016-17? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure which page that is on, so if I can get the page number. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Joanasie, please clarify what page you are on. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. In the Inuktitut version, it's on page 152. In the English version, it's on page 141. It states, "Support and enhance role of HTOs by enhancing relationships with co-management partners." It's one of the priorities for [2016-17] listed in the third bullet. I hope that clarifies it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I now understand what you are asking about. I can respond by saying that right now, in our fiscal year, it became kind of obvious that we needed to make a plan, although it is a little late.

The HTOs and our wildlife co-management partners have to be able to run certain things under agreements and be able to manage certain kinds of wildlife themselves through an agreement. Managing things is becoming more and more difficult, so

we want to give more support to the hunters and trappers organizations in the communities and other wildlife co-management partners. We want to give them more support so that they can all manage better. We hear that Inuit need to be able run more things on their own. To that effort, the local HTOs can be effective co-managers and we have recognized that, so that's one of the reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman. Again, I think that if you read it, you can understand it. Regarding the HTOs, I know they do have some power through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, especially through Article 5. Reading this, would it give more power to the hunters and trappers organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): In Nunavut, there are various organizations that deal with wildlife in the regions and in the Nunavut communities. There has to be a better working relationship amongst all the parties involved. It would streamline our system and I think we all have to have more information. There's Article 5 that deals with a lot of issues and because of that, there has to be a closer working relationship among all parties that deal with wildlife. We have to make it a better working system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Environment. Program

Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,346,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,754,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded the department?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation): You can now make your closing comments, Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He is just detailing the dialectal difference.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues and my officials, especially NWMB, NTI, and all the people who are involved in wildlife issues.

I would just like to add that wildlife, the environment, and dealing with those issues is quite hard. I think that if we have a close working relationship, we would have an easier time dealing with the issues. I know I'm not the only one who has thought of it like this. We have to follow the rules. We are trying to do the best we can. Some of them are going

to be hard. Some, I'm sure, will be easier.

Regarding the caribou moratorium or some of the wildlife, we would like to have a proper management system set up. Regarding the moratorium and caribou behaviour, we have to look at a better system. Even though we have management plans, we don't know where the caribou are going to migrate through next. They will increase at a proper time. I don't know when that would be. We have to work closely together, even though there are some challenges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Before we move on to the Department of Culture and Heritage, we will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 13:58 and resumed at 14:08

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

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

We will resume our committee meeting. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does

the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Kuksuk, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I say "good day" to the Nunavummiut watching the proceedings.

This afternoon, with me here to my right is my Deputy Minister, Joe Kunuk, and to my left is Teegee Akande. I hope I pronounced it correctly. He's our (interpretation ends) manager of finance. (interpretation) If necessary, we also have Gideon Joamie, (interpretation ends) Director of Policy and Planning. (interpretation) Those are who we are today, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk, you may now proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage 2015-16 main estimates and business plan.

Culture and Heritage holds a leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture,

heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, in keeping with “Good government through wise use of our resources,” the department aims to hold regional workshops that will highlight our revised grants and contributions policies. Our overall budget for 2015-16 in grants and contributions is \$7,162,000. Keeping Nunavummiut informed about the grants and contributions will ensure that the department is accountable, fair, transparent, and reflective of community needs and Inuit societal values.

Within our Official Languages Branch, we are continuing to coordinate the implementation of language programs and services across the government, including providing community contributions and supports to other initiatives that implement the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to indicate the level of commitment we have put into supporting initiatives aimed at revitalizing and promoting the use of Inuktitut among youth in our communities. The department provides a total of \$1.6 million in grants and contributions that support the preservation, use, and promotion of Inuktitut. This year, in collaboration with language partners, the department will develop language planning and management tools for communities, including a strategy to promote and revitalize the use of Inuktitut in the media, arts and cultural sectors.

Iksivautaaq, since the creation of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage has

provided grants to community radio stations across the territory. The societies that operate FM radio stations provide a valuable service to the communities that they are in. Community content is determined locally and typically includes public announcements, music, fundraising bingo, and issues of local interest, including search and rescue.

Mr. Chairman, Culture and Heritage intends to increase its contribution budget this year to support more community radio stations across our territory. These radio stations are important tools to our communities. They also contribute positively to enhance and strengthen the use of Inuktitut on a daily basis.

Mr. Chairman, those are my comments. I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to deliver the standing committee’s opening comments on its consideration of the 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the Department of Culture and Heritage’s proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$25,697,000 has increased by 0.08 percent since the introduction of its 2014-15 main

estimates. The number of positions in the Department of Culture and Heritage is 90.8. This is the same number of positions as the previous fiscal year.

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 recognizes that the department concentrates its efforts on cultural and heritage initiatives, as well as language initiatives and the implementation of Nunavut's official languages legislation, in particular, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*.

On October 28, 2014, the Minister of Finance tabled the government's 2013-14 annual report on grants and contributions made by all departments during that fiscal year. Between the 2004-05 and 2013-14 fiscal years, the government's grants and contributions expenditures amounted to approximately \$3.0 billion.

The Department of Culture and Heritage's 2015-16 main estimates include a total of \$7,162,000 in funding for grants and contributions programs. This constitutes approximately 27.87 percent of the department's total operations and maintenance budget.

As members will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address that was delivered in this House last year announced that one of the government's priorities is to "ensure funds provided to organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcomes this government expects from

its investment." This objective was also included in the Minister of Finance's 2014 Budget Address.

Mr. Chairman, members will recall that a number of my colleagues have identified this issue in their opening comments of departments under consideration of the Committee of the Whole. The annual report on grants and contributions identified the programs under which funding was provided. However, the actual purpose of the funding is often not clearly explained.

Although members recognize the need for the government to safeguard information of grants and contributions recipients, the purpose and goals for which public money is being provided to entities must be disclosed. This, in turn, should assist the government and all Members of the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are achieving their objectives and providing value for money.

The department's 2015-18 business plans indicates that "a revised Grants and Contributions Policy has been approved." The standing committee was pleased to receive the updated Grants and Contributions Policy and is looking forward to it being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

During the minister's recent appearance, the standing committee raised a number of concerns about the accountability and annual reporting practices of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, the Inuit Language Authority for Nunavut. While the standing committee recognizes that annual reports for the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 fiscal years were tabled

in the Legislative Assembly in 2014, the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*'s 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee also recommends that future *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* annual reports contain more detailed information regarding its expenditures and outcomes and that they be tabled in a more timely manner.

The standing committee recognizes that the implementation of official language legislation is a priority of the department. The 2015-16 main estimates indicate that there is a reorganization of departmental programs within its Official Languages Branch to include the creation of the "Inuktitut Affairs Program" and the "Francophone Affairs Program."

During the minister's recent appearance, the standing committee was pleased to be informed of the department's plans to lobby the federal government for increased funding for official language promotion across the territory for both the French and Inuktitut languages.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the road to a standardized Inuktitut writing system is a long one with many stakeholders involved. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the comprehensive report of the Inuugatta Language Conference.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that a significant number of Nunavut's cultural artefacts are still in storage in other jurisdictions across

Canada. While the standing committee recognizes that memorandums of understanding are signed to store Nunavut's heritage artefacts, it also recognizes that millions of dollars are spent annually to finance this temporary solution.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the department's ongoing efforts to work with partners and stakeholders, including private entities, towards innovative, long-term solutions for the protection and showcasing of our territory's heritage artefacts within our territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services to support both Nunavut's elders and youth. Members encourage the minister in his efforts to establish links between these two important sectors of our population, especially in efforts to address pressing social issues such as suicide or elder abuse.

Mr. Chairman, a priority of the department's 2015-18 business plan is to "Develop a government wide Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Strategy that is culturally relevant with tools for monitoring & implementing of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in government programs, policies and services."

Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding the implementation of Inuit traditional knowledge across this government.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, a number of concerns were raised regarding the

role, governance, and authority of both *Tuttarviit* and the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the revised terms of reference of both *Tuttarviit* and the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*.

The standing committee also recommends that the department table the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*'s annual reports on a more timely basis, as the last tabled annual report was for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments. I would like to remind my colleagues that the contents of the opening comments are covered under different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

General comments. I don't see any show of hands for general comments. We will begin the page-by-page review. The first one is page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. I would like to remind my colleagues to raise your hand ahead of time before we get to the actual page so that I can put your names down. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the minister, in the 2013-14 fiscal year, your department spent over \$7 million on grants and contributions. I'm wondering:

how does your department go about evaluating and measuring the success of its grants and contributions spending programs? How do you know what people say they're going to do with the money is actually done with the money? How do you go about your audits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question posed by the member. When we start dealing with the grants and contributions for our programs within the department, the higher level officials usually monitor the proposals, whether it be an application, to review them once they are submitted, and they look at the goals. If their objective qualifies for grants and contributions policies, then they review the application.

I hope I'm coming across. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what I'm trying to get at is once somebody is already qualified and they have already received the contribution agreement, what kind of audits does your department do? Do you do spot audits to make sure...? Let's say if I put in an application for a grant and you gave me that money and I told you that I was going to do certain things, how do you know that I have actually done those things that I said I was going

to do in my proposal? How do you go back to check? What kind of accountability do you expect of your applicants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. I understand her now. To monitor the success and evaluation of the grants and contributions, I'll have my deputy minister respond, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The applicants, according to their application, are provided funding twice. The first phase is the initial funding and we review and look at the actual expenditures that they had to ensure that they follow their goals and objectives. They then make a report. We look at the report. They have to write a report before we grant the second phase of funding. That is how we monitor.

After a year, the reports are audited. We ask for audited reports from the applicant to make sure that they used the funding for whatever they were going to use it for. That is how we review them. In the first review of the report, we look to make sure that they are using the funds for what they were going to use it for and if they did not use the funding appropriately, we ask them why and we hold the funding back until they provide that information to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department or the minister tell us how many times they have withheld funds because of non-compliance or just not doing what they said they were going to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been none so far. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's grants and contributions policy expired on December 31. When will you be updating this policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. The policy has been approved. It will be new and it is on the website already. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I meant to ask, actually: when are you going to table it within the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to table it during this winter session. (interpretation ends) 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. I'm going to go on to *Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*. It says here that under section 23 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it requires that the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* prepare and submit an annual report to the minister within nine months after the end of every fiscal year.

The 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. What is the status of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports and when will they be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. My deputy minister can elaborate on the question, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2012-13 annual

report has been done and we're just in the process of reviewing how the money was used. For 2013-14, we were just reviewing the report, but the money that was being used is also being reviewed and it has not been given to the minister yet. As soon as we have the 2013-14 annual report, the minister will have to review it before it's tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2015-16 main estimates indicate that you have eight PYs in the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*. Are all of these positions currently filled and, if not, which positions are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. I again thank the member. Mr. Chairman, at this time, of the eight positions, seven are filled. For the final eighth position, if my deputy minister can explain that, as I don't have that information with me. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to what the minister said, the director for *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* had moved to another position and there is an acting director at *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*. We still haven't

advertised it and we have a temporary worker at this time.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a couple of questions on this page.

When I was going over the FPT ministerial report from last June, the Canadian francophonie pan-Canadian showcase report, it speaks to that the ministers adopted the ministerial conference and Canadian francophonie 2015-2020 strategic plan. I was wondering if the minister would be willing to table that document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I would like to table it during the month of May. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 66 of the business plan in the priorities from 2014-15, it speaks to "Initiate discussions with the Government of Canada on a multi-year Nunavut-specific agreement for the continued protection and promotion" of both the French and Inuit languages in the territory. My first question would be:

with this working group, can you identify how many meetings this working group has had to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. My deputy minister is working on the agreement in regard to the funding. I'll ask him to respond if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We met with our committee. They have met in Ottawa three times. This coming May, they will be meeting. I will meet with the deputy minister who is located in Ottawa to review what has been done. At this time, for the 2015-16 fiscal year, we will be able to sign at the end of March. The committee itself has met three times. It has met a number of times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the status on that category in the business plan on the very top of page 67, it says, obviously, that the working group has been established and that work has initiated, and I'll quote, "to review the different options for enhanced long-term support..."

When a working group is reviewing multiple options, I'm wondering maybe if you can just highlight what some of those options that are being discussed are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for the question. I would like my deputy minister to continue to respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ever since Nunavut was created, we make plans for a year and sign the agreement for Inuktitut and French. We have reviewed how we can sign for five years. The funds that are being used for French and Inuktitut that we get from the federal government have not changed. We are looking at how we can increase this.

We are looking at how the NWT and Yukon have set up their... . If we are going to set up an agreement for a longer time, how can we increase these funds that we get? The prices and the cost of living have gone up. We have talked to the federal government in preparation for a two-year agreement to be consistent with what the NWT and Yukon governments do in regard to the aboriginal first languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Kuksuk and your officials, welcome to the Assembly.

I just need information. The Department of Culture and Heritage provides funds to *Taiguusiliuqtiit*. Although they are kind of independent, they're also part of the government. They're supposed to produce annual reports. I would like to find out how many years this entity... . Is the operation of *Taiguusiliuqtiit* going smoothly? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Ever since it was started, they have a board and when they first started, everything gets kind of challenging, but that's exactly what is going on. They're starting to set up properly. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any terms that have been worked on by *Taiguusiliuqtiit*? I haven't seen anything that they have produced. I'm asking the minister to see if they have or promote or show terms that have been worked on by *Taiguusiliuqtiit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. The deputy minister will explain what

has been happening, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In their annual reports, they haven't really brought out what terms they have produced. However, they have a computer database where they have explained what they have been doing. They show the words and the meanings. In English, it's called (interpretation ends) the living dictionary. (interpretation) The work from the group is produced there.

In terms of the board's decisions, we have told them that we're going to make sure that all of their reports show all of the considerations in their 2013-14 report. They have been asked to publish all of the considerations that they have been doing with terminology in their annual reports and also make sure that they promote them within the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know they have been created under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and they have certain authorities. Let me use this as an example. I would like to see how much authority they have.

We are MLAs and since I have been an MLA, I have been told that former MLAs are referred to in a different way. They used to be called a different term in Inuktitut. Now they're called another term completely. Will they be able to announce that they're going to be called

a certain term now? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for the question. The answer is yes. The *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* board look at terms that are acceptable that they want the government to adopt. They give those terms to the government, to my department, and then we take those words and implement them. That's the authority. We get the terms and meanings from the Taiguusiliuqtiit group. They say that this is what this word is going to mean now. They do the work and then we do the work after they do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have even had to discuss the term "chairman" here. It's not a physical chair. Maybe we could call him a minor speaker or something. When there are things like that, does the group decide on the proper term to use or as the Minister of Languages, are you the implementation authority for the terms that come from that group? I hope I was understandable, minor speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, minor speaker. As I stated previously, the Inuit Language Authority can give words or

terms to us, for example, the chairman. I'm not sure, but if they come up with the term for chairman, then we will have to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'm not sure what to call you in Inuktitut anymore. Maybe we will have to get direction from the Taiguusiliuqtiit group.

Moving on to something else, in your 2015-16 departmental priorities, the first priority on page 67 in English is to "Develop and implement a communications plan for promoting changes to Culture and Heritage Grants & Contribution Policies, including holding regional workshops." Have you decided which region the meeting will take place in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. The work is ongoing. Trying to have better communications with the communities and the regions is ongoing. As to where they actually are and to answer your question, I would like my deputy minister to answer this if he has the information, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the youth conference in December, they were the

first ones where these changes were introduced and then they had a meeting in Arviat just before Christmas. Thirdly, we haven't announced which community we're looking at yet.

The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Committee meets and they will meet next week in Clyde River. Following the progress of their meeting, we will update them with information. Next week, our minister has been invited to the mayors' conference in Iqaluit. Those are the meetings that we're planning to go to.

In the Kivalliq, for example, when KIA is going to be meeting, we would try to go to their meetings. For the Kitikmeot region, after the Kitikmeot meets, then our worker in Kugluktuk will be taking care of our responsibilities there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, welcome, as well as your staff.

I believe we are on F-4. I would like to ask this question and it's not in any of the documents, but the Inuugatta Language Conference was brought up. I was very proud of that meeting. As all of my colleagues know and the people of Nunavut, I am one of the people that really want to save our language and I will work to preserve that here in the House. It's appropriate to me and I like it.

Don't misunderstand what I'm about to say. I was not happy at all about the fact that there was a meeting at that time. For many years, all Government of Nunavut departments and agencies have known when MLAs are going to be meeting in the fall. It would have been great if we could have taken part in that. For me personally, I would have really wanted to take part in that if I had the opportunity, but we just didn't have any time. We consider it so important and we just couldn't take part because we have to sit here.

When we had an opportunity, my colleagues, Mr. Joanase and Mr. Keyootak, and I went to an early morning meeting. Could you not have scheduled that meeting at another time other than when the House was sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is a really good question. Thank you for asking it.

Mr. Chairman, I didn't have any part in planning this, but my deputy minister took part in the planning for the meeting. I totally understand what you're saying. It was inconvenient that that meeting happened at the same time as the sitting of the leg. I agree with you on that. With regard to your other question about whether it was impossible to hold the meeting at any other time, I will ask my deputy minister to explain that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a planning committee that our department used and we worked with NTI employees, the Languages Commissioner staff, and the Inuit Language Authority on some of the issues on Inuktitut writing systems that were discussed.

Before one of the meetings here in Iqaluit, there was a meeting in Ottawa that the ICC hosted on Inuit writing systems to see what needs improving. We followed their work from there. We moved on the work here and we tried to use some of the people invited as much as possible, such as the language authority in Greenland, Oqaasileriffik. We consulted them on our work.

However, as we work, we find there is more to be done and recommendations will come forward from all this work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, please be aware that some of us were not happy that we could not be involved. Some of us have very strong ties to our writing system and we want to be involved as we search for best options. I just wanted to bring that up.

Also the grants and contributions, I think I can ask questions on that, Mr. Chairman. Minister Kuksuk's opening comments on the last page in English on community local radios, if I understand correctly, it states that the contribution budget will increase to ensure more communities have local radio stations.

The contributions, if I'm not mistaken, under F-9 are \$150,000. The budget has not increased. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. As I was stating, local radios are very important in the lives of everyday people. They provide a great source of community. It could be emergencies like search and rescue or school closures. Mr. Chairman, I don't know the answers to some of the questions he asked, so I will ask my deputy to respond, if you don't mind, especially as it relates to the financial question. Thank you very much, minor speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we look at this, we find the contributions for various other categories, for example, for elders and youth, hunting, language use, and municipal organizations. We are looking at how much of the monies are being utilized for which purpose. The requests that had been approved that went over budget, we're going to do all that. We're going to review that and look at how we can increase the monies.

For example, this \$150,000 can be used for ten communities at \$15,000 per community. Usually, when we reach the \$150,000 limit, the other communities can't access any more monies from that pot of money. We're looking at new

monies that will be available after the end of the fiscal year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again if you would allow me, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask questions under the Summary of Grants and Contributions. It's on F-10. \$200,000 for the Nunavut Heritage Centre Society, I just want to know exactly what that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Heritage Centre Society, (interpretation) that's what he is referring to. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Heritage Centre Society was organized so that they can make plans for a heritage centre and to see how they could raise the monies to build such a facility. They do fundraising for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for recognizing me again. I forgot to ask a couple of questions under

this category. There has been a lot of recent coverage in the last six months or so on the artefacts that are currently located in Yellowknife. There has been some recent dialogue or information through the media that Yellowknife wants to send those artefacts back, that they don't have the room. There has been recent media coverage on QC getting involved with the heritage centre.

Maybe if the minister could just update us on what the status of those artefacts that are currently being stored in Yellowknife are, as the shared services agreement expires in approximately one year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that good question. The artefacts are being held at the (interpretation ends) Prince of Wales heritage facility (interpretation) in Yellowknife and some are being housed in Ottawa at a museum. Those are artefacts that originally came from Nunavut.

Right now, we have a lot of artefacts being housed at the (interpretation ends) Prince of Wales heritage centre (interpretation) in Yellowknife. It's true. We are leasing a space for our artefacts. Every year, it costs a block of money. We realize that it is very expensive to house those artefacts in the other museums. We are spending a lot of money.

We are currently having discussions with the Government of the Northwest Territories and in a few days, we will be

having another meeting with them right after this session. We are currently having discussions with the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding their housing our artefacts. That's where we are at this time. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 72, it speaks to the topic, about halfway down the page, about canvassing for new storage space in Iqaluit for materials not requiring climate control that are currently in the Yellowknife facility. In the status, it says, "Ongoing. Space in Iqaluit to be identified and selected." I'm just wondering: has there been any progress on that maybe to bring over some of the artefacts that don't need specific climate control to ease the space issue that NWT is currently undergoing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. A few minutes ago, I stated that we are currently talking with the Government of the Northwest Territories. We are currently looking at storage to house artefacts that don't require climate controlled rooms.

I don't know where the Nunavut Heritage Centre would be, whether it would be here in Iqaluit or in one of the other communities. My department has been dealing with that issue and maybe my deputy minister can give us an

update on what is happening with the Nunavut Heritage Centre, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since last August, we have been in discussions with Community and Government Services about an RFP preparation for our archives that don't need climate control. Our director of heritage is trying to finalize the wording for the RFP.

Last fall, we also received a response from CGS on whether an RFP can be considered out of territory and the answer was yes. We are still working on finalizing the RFP to increase archival space in Iqaluit, plus to bring back some of the archives from Yellowknife to Iqaluit. Once the RFP is finalized, we would be in a position to start shipping some items from Yellowknife.

In terms of other activities, as mentioned previously, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is also looking at a project which will include a heritage facility. Our minister did write a letter back to the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation in January asking for more financial information that they may be looking at. To date, we have not received a reply to that letter.

We have also been contacted by the community of Cape Dorset for their proposed project of a heritage arts facility and whether we would be able to repatriate some of our artefacts from Yellowknife to Nunavut.

We have also received, a while back, a proposal from the Kivalliq Inuit Association to build heritage type

facilities in their region, but no final details have been discussed between the Kivalliq Inuit Association and our department.

Like the minister said earlier, he's planning to go to Yellowknife after the session and we plan to look at the artefacts that are placed there. In preparation for that, we're working on a heritage management plan that would address the different priorities or proposals that might be out in Nunavut to do that.

We have also received information from the Winnipeg Art Gallery on what they have in their facilities in Winnipeg and how that could fit into some of the planning and discussions we're having in Nunavut.

Based on that, our priority has been to develop and finalize the heritage management plan so that we can address some of the proposed projects that have been discussed through the media or directly with our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. F-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) We are going to page F-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,871,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page F-6. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,008,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page F-7. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,208,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Turn to page F-8. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to F-3. Department Summary. Culture and Heritage. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,697,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed that the Department of Culture and Heritage is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Maybe *iksivautaliralaag* is the term I'm going to be using. I'll practise that term.

I was very pleased to appear before the committee. I would like to thank my officials and I apologize to my other officials for not coming here, but I thank them as well.

I thank the members for asking good questions and we will continue to move forward with the questions that were posed and the questions we were not able to respond to, we will make sure that we provide the responses to you. If we need to table them, we will do so in the future. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Thank you very much. We will take a five-minute break as they prepare and so that the interpreters can take a break. Thank you very much.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:26 and resumed at 15:37*

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

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation) We will resume our committee meeting. I would now like to ask the Speaker if he has officials that he would like to bring to the table. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): My colleagues, do you agree to let the Speaker's officials in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your officials.

Speaker (interpretation): To my right is (interpretation ends) the Clerk, Mr. John Quirke, (interpretation) and there was another official who was supposed to be here, but due to other responsibilities, he is unable to be here. Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'll be reading the prepared statement in English.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before you today to present the 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$25,027,000.

The Legislative Assembly's 2015-16 main estimates also reflect the financial and human resources required for the operations of our independent officers,

including the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth.

As members will recall, Nunavut's new *Plebiscites Act* came into force last year. I am pleased to note that the Management and Services Board recently approved new Plebiscite Regulations and new Tariff of Fees Amendment Regulations. One-time funding of \$995,000 is being provided to Elections Nunavut for the administration of the upcoming 2016 territory-wide plebiscite concerning municipal lands.

Mr. Chairman, the Fifth Speaker's Youth Parliament was held in November of last year. This event occurs every two years. In 2015, I look forward to visiting a number of communities as part of the Speaker's Mace Tour and Parliamentary Outreach Program. I would like to thank those members who have already extended formal invitations to me to travel to their constituencies.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to update members on the progress of our audio and video archival project. In the coming fiscal year, we plan to expand public access to our proceedings through such means as live streaming.

As a consequence of the events in Parliament of last October, the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly has been working to review our legislature's security procedures to ensure an appropriate balance between security and public accessibility.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and I welcome their comments, suggestions,

and questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to remind my colleagues that if you have any detailed questions, please ask them at the appropriate page.

General comments. I don't see any show of hands. (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 A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Page A-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,830,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) On page A-5. Branch Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,667,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question on this page. Since the representative for children and youth has been established and took office in June, that office has been getting set up to become within the full function of their mandate. Their plan was tabled yesterday or the day before yesterday and I have gone over it a little

bit. I'm just wondering: what is the status of that office being established? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the member for asking the question. The official to my right, John Quirke, will respond. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The office is up and running. Three staff have been hired and the third one was just hired recently.

The office is operating under certain sections of the Act only in terms of administration and setting up the office. The board was advised by the child and youth representative the other day that she is gearing for an opening of the office in the fall with practically every section of the legislation in force. There may be at least one subsection that will not be in force.

From that point of view, the public should be alerted that some time in the fall, the office will be fully open for business in terms of taking clients and complaints, etcetera. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Clerk for that response. With regard to that opening, how will that be communicated to the public, contact information, and even just maybe a brief

explanation of the role of that office so that people are aware under what circumstances they would utilize that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'll have Mr. Quirke respond because he will be able to give you more detail. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, the office is preparing a website where a lot of information will eventually be handed out. There is knowledge out there that the office is, in fact, open from the point of view of administration, etcetera. There is no doubt that the representative will, in fact, have a media type campaign some time in the fall to indicate where they can be reached and how they can be reached, etcetera.

You saw the business plan of the position is very well done and articulated, and you can expect that type of product in terms of press releases and advising the public of the role and responsibilities. When you see that level of detail and very clear detail, I think the public will be well served and all that information will come forward in the fall. There should be no doubt as to how she can be reached not only in Iqaluit but right across the whole territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that and I would like to echo those comments with regard to the business plan from that office. I was very impressed with the level of detail that was contained within it and the amount of work that has actually been done just in the few months that she has been in office. I would like to commend the Speaker's office with the support that they have provided and the decision they made for the person that they put in that position. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I only heard a comment there. I will move on. (interpretation ends) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. A-6. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,530,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. A-3. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,027,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. You may now make your closing remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you very much and also our staff, who have worked very hard within the Legislative Assembly.

Also the people who were hired, the different officers that we are working with, they are proceeding and being established. This is very exciting for the people of Nunavut. They can get assistance in different places.

I also thank the Clerk's office and his staff, who have worked very hard.

I thank everyone and have a good day. It was a very good day today. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker's official out.

Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I ask members to go to Bill 16, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016*. It is in your white legislation binder. What is the wish of the committee?

(interpretation) My apologies. (interpretation ends) Bill 16, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$1,467,789,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 16 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 16 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. (interpretation) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and would like to report that Bill 16 is immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor and it needs a seconder. Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure on Friday the 13th to make this motion.

>>*Laughter*

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 16, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016*, be read for the third time. 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 and Bill 16 is ready for assent.

Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 16:

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 (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.
18. Second Reading of Bills >>*House adjourned at 16:00*
- 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 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) Members, on behalf of all the members, I would like to thank the Iqaluit Royal Canadian Air Cadets for assisting us since opening day.

>>*Applause*

Today is their last day. (interpretation) I thank you immensely.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 16, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

