



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**4th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 24**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**Pages 1210 – 1277**

**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)  
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(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. George Hickers**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

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(South Baffin)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 15:00

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

(interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19. Are there any nays? There are none. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and

Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 16 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I'll ask members to remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following to items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the departments of Family Services and Finance. If time permits, we may continue the review of other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Is the committee agreed that 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.

(interpretation ends) Minister Hickes, please introduce your staff.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I have with me President and Chief Executive Officer for Nunavut Housing Corporation Terry Audla and Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Tim Brown. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We were on page L-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question in regard to the funding that is allocated to LHOs. (interpretation ends) After hours, after 5:00, (interpretation) there is usually some staff working (interpretation ends) that are on call. (interpretation) Do you provide or allocate funding for standby pay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon.

Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it is funding is provided to LHOs for the amount of staff that they have for regular business hours. Typically, overtime is absorbed through the staff funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When our colleague first assumed the portfolio of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, he travelled to Rankin Inlet where I met him upon his arrival and I thank him for that trip. Nonetheless, when we met with the local housing authority, these items were brought up at the meeting.

One of the issues was that they don't receive emergency funding (interpretation ends) regarding water line breaks and no heat (interpretation) during the winter in particular with (interpretation ends) no heat. (interpretation) I wonder if they can take that into consideration for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As the member mentioned, some people did bring it up in Rankin Inlet specifically when I was there. We continuously keep on top of LHO funding to make sure that we're funding to address the actual need within a

community. Obviously, there can and have been unforeseen circumstances that demand our LHO staff in the communities to work overtime to deal with emergency situations. Typically, the funding is sufficient to absorb, but if there is ever a need, the LHO can contact the district office and we will work with them to address any concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister. I just want to get an idea on the homeownership programs. Overall, in looking at the different programs, what is the uptake? Can we get kind of an overview of where things are at? Which ones are getting more and more used or less and less used? Let's take the Home Renovation Program as an example. Can we get some idea on the uptake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, we had \$4.5 million, of that \$2.4 million was from the home repair program. Typically, it has kind of averaged around \$2 million a year. There was a slight increase of up to \$2.4 million last year. I would attribute that to the centralization of our homeownership program application process being run out of the office in Arviat. They had streamlined the process for applications quite substantially where we have been able to address any backlog with any applications and I'm very happy with the

results to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many houses were renovated using that money? If you can provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the different programs, there are obviously different levels of engagement, but in total, there were 352 applicants in the 2015-16 year that were approved. Of that, the home repair program was 114, the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program was 98, the down-payment assistance program was 50, the Emergency Repair Program was 74, and the seniors and persons with disabilities were 4 applicants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a homeowner uses one of these programs, can they apply for the same program again? Let's say the \$15,000 Emergency Repair Program, is there a certain amount of time where a scope of work that's being done on a home repair project, if it's an emergency, if the issue keeps coming up each year or even within the same year, can they keep applying for this homeownership program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is specifically asking about the Emergency Repair Program, there is a scope of work that's identified at the time when an applicant puts their application through for approval, which would encompass all of the emergency repairs at that point, if there is something that comes down the pipe, which should have been addressed at that point as well.

Basically, what we look at is identifying the current situation of the unit and addressing any concerns at that point. There would typically not be a need to come back again for emergency repairs under the basis that the issue should have been dealt with the first time. There is nothing, really, to stop people from applying. From what I can gather from the Emergency Repair Program, it's an emergency-based funding program. I would have to look into the specific details, but there is no limit and it's based on a case-by-case nature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines, let's say for the down-payment assistance program, are there individuals who apply again for a different or new property? Have there been multiple applications that your corporation approved to the same individual under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, for the down-payment assistance program, it is a one-time only program. That being said, there are special circumstances that the housing corporation will take into consideration. One example that has happened in the past is a divorce where people have separated and somebody is in need of and is able to fiscally maintain a residence, so they can reapply. We will consider on a case-by-case basis, but it's typically one-time only. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My last question on homeownership is, we have talked a bit about the Tenant to Owner Program. Where does the corporation see this program going moving forward? Do you think it's viable to pursue? Where is it going from here on? That's my final question for housing for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Typically, it hasn't been a program that has been taken advantage of too often. Like I believe I mentioned yesterday, there was one application last year and one new application this year. Again, when we're doing our blueprint for action, all these programs will be considered on an evaluation of their intended results.

At the same time, we have to make sure that when we put people in a



homeownership position, we're doing them justice and making sure that they're fiscally able to maintain a home on their own. It's something that we're always cognizant of.

At the moment, we're not looking at taking away this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, we're on the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter completely slipped my mind. Firstly, I wish all women a wonderful day, as today is International Women's Day and a happy day indeed.

I forgot to ask about this issue at an earlier junction, particularly related to a private homeowner who waited for many years for funding assistance to repair their house. The house would become cold in the winter due to drafty windows. I believe they stated that they had been waiting for four years, as their application would not make the list of approved projects or the funds ran out. This occurred over a lengthy period.

I would like an update as to these situations, if they are aware, related to funding assistance issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, there have been some timely issues through capacity of being able to deal with the amount of applications that were going through.

We took steps last year to centralize the application process for homeownership programs, like I had mentioned earlier, to our headquarters office in Arviat. That has streamlined the process substantially. Like I had mentioned, I'm quite happy with the progress that has been made out of there and the amount of time it has taken for applications to go through.

Going forward, I would anticipate not having a four-yearlong process. Like I said, our staff in Arviat is working very diligently to maintain the application process in an expeditious manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that. With that process in place, do they know now how many applicants there were and how many were approved before the funding ran out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay.

One of the challenges in the past with some of the applications taking such a long period of time, it was a little bit more difficult to have oversight on the budget. With the process being streamlined since the changes that have been made, there's a lot more oversight on the budget and we're always aiming for better customer service with our clientele to maintain efficiencies and to make sure that we're meeting the needs as we're able to. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He didn't respond to my question. What I wanted to know is how many applicants there were for renovations and how many applicants were denied because of lack of funding. I would like that information if it is available so that we will know if we need to increase the funding for renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the level of detail of which ones were denied due to lack of funding. I do know that there are a number of different reasons that applications can be denied. There were 134 applications in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Again I don't have that level of detail with me today, but to my understanding, it was a very minimal impact.

Up until today, because we are so close to the fiscal year-end and because our staff in Arviat has been so diligent in processing applications, we are currently not accepting applications under the 2015-16 fiscal year. We are awaiting the April 1 new fiscal year update given the intent of having this budget approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is desirable to give assistance to homeowners. It benefits all of us. We would need to improve it in order for the program to run better. I would like to know in the future how many applicants there were and how many were approved but were not given assistance due to lack of funds. That's the only way we can benefit homeowners in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that into more focus. It is our goal to provide as many homeownership opportunities as possible.

That being said, like I had mentioned a little bit earlier, we are waiting for this budget to be approved so that we can move forward with our goals of assisting our residents. There are two programs that we have not stopped taking applications on at this moment. There is the Emergency Repair Program which, as the title intends, is emergency repair, so we don't want to hold back any applications on that basis, as well as the down-payment assistance program. We do move forward with those applications.

Once this budget is approved, we will continue to look at utilizing the centralized process in a continued, efficient manner. If we find going forward that the need is exceeding our fiscal limits, it's definitely something that I would hope that I would get encouragement from this legislature to

address any of those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be desirable to give assistance. I would like to know how we can provide more assistance if we are falling behind. I would like to know how many applicants there were, why applicants were denied, and if there is lack of funding, how we can benefit more homeowners in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through different committee meetings throughout the year, I would be happy to share that information with committee members. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister. Along the lines of homeownership, because a couple of my colleagues asked about this area of the Emergency Repair Program, who makes the decision when an applicant applies? Is it the regional office or headquarters in Arviat that approves the application? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the centralization of the applicant process at headquarters in Arviat, applications are approved

through there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. The reason why I ask is, if I can use my community as an example, one of my constituents has been applying for the past four years and nothing has ever been done. On the last application, he got tired of filling out the forms and getting CRA forms. The last time he applied, he was told that the application went to Arviat and everything is now coming through. That went okay.

However, the other one is there was another applicant who applied, but a private company has to work on it and is now waiting for funding to get it going. He's waiting for some money so that he can work on the homeowner's place. Is that approved now with the Arviat head office or with the regional office in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that to my attention. I'm sure that if he has the desire, I would be open to having a discussion on this specific example. Generally, the applications are approved at headquarters in Arviat, although there is an appeals process through a corporate executive committee. If people are denied funding or there are challenges, they can appeal that to that committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the next time they apply, do they go directly to the head office in Arviat or should they still go through the regional office in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those applications go directly to Arviat. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Following the list of names, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say “good afternoon” to my colleagues and to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I wanted to pose this question yesterday about construction material for housing units allocated to the communities.

With regard to the process for the applications for (interpretation ends) tender bids (interpretation) in English, the paperwork is quite complicated for bidding on construction for the units allocated to the community. When a contractor wants to bid on a project, they have to fill out the forms and information has to be provided.

I imagine the minister can provide an update on the allocated units to arrive this summer to the smaller communities. When will the tendering bid process commence and how long will it be open? I would like that clarified first as my first question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, when a tender is put out, the closing date is within four weeks. Three to four weeks is the norm. Most contractors in the territory, to use a term, kind of got it down to a science. They look at the designs. Just through the building cycles that we’ve had over the past number of years, the contractors are very diligent with meeting the needs of the tender. It’s a formal tendering process that is utilized by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I raised that question is that in the smaller communities, they state that they receive proposals for the tender process to fill out the tender bids.

To use an example, in our home community of Kugaaruk, when an RFP comes out for construction projects, the application forms are very complicated, requiring several days to complete, yet they are only provided the documents a week prior to the closing date or alternatively, they receive the forms with less than a week left in the process. That is my question and I appreciate the response from our minister.

The other issue I want to ask about is when a unit is under construction during the winter when the tender has been provided. Sometimes the contractor will be provided a cold weather break, but not always. My question to the minister is: does the housing corporation still have to pay the contractor if they are taking a cold weather break? I would

like the minister to clarify that for me.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every time we go to tender, there is a negotiated amount as part of the contract to build that unit. There are occasions where, as in Kugaaruk, as he mentioned, there are breaks in construction typically during some of the colder months. It doesn't cost us any more money as the housing corporation. It's a contracted amount with a completion date. The units in Kugaaruk that he's mentioning are still anticipated to be finished in August of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was thinking about that because people in the smaller communities lack housing. Many are tired of waiting for housing. They have conveyed that to me. We have to support the people in our communities in this regard. That's the reason why I am bringing this up. I appreciate the responses from the minister.

I have another question. Quite recently, Member Okalik talked about homeownership. When a person is trying to become a homeowner, do they have to pay a certain amount? Do they have to pay a percentage of the cost of the house they are trying to purchase in a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our down-payment assistance program, the client typically has to put in 2.5 percent towards the down payment and the Nunavut Housing Corporation will cover up to 7.5 percent, up to \$30,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Department Summary. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have asked this question yesterday as well. It's just for clarification. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister and your officials.

You brought this up last year that those of us in Nunavut who rent from the Nunavut Housing Corporation owe a substantial amount of money to the housing associations or authorities and that caused you problems. Your department was trying to figure out how you can get the people who owe all that money to the housing corporation to start paying back. Has your collection of arrears improved since that time you stated it in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Enook. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken steps. We have built a collection team from within our organization that works on a daily basis to target collections and they have made some substantial progress. In addition to that, we have also piloted a program using an outside collection agency for some of our hardest-to-recover accounts

with some success. It's still a work in progress and they are handed the most difficult files for collection.

That being said, the LHOs have done a very good job as well in increasing their collection rates. Initial responsibility lies within the LHO on collections. It did come to a point where we had to build a team from within our headquarters office here in Iqaluit that deals specifically with collections on a daily basis. We are trending in the right way.

Are we where we want to be? No, but we're working every day to improve the collection rates and assist our LHOs in their collection methods as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you have the figures right now, how much money do the people of Nunavut owe to the local housing associations and how has that improved from last year's figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at some of the numbers. Right now, as of March 31 and last year, LHOs are collecting at an 89 percent average across the territory. Still, like I mentioned, it's not where we want to be, but we are trending and some have made dramatic increases and some have made smaller increases.

At the end of the day, we're still looking at approximately \$27 million in outstanding collections. Again, if we are

looking at bad debt as a percentage of revenue, it's down to 12.6 percent from 16.4 percent in 2013-14 and 22.7 percent in 2012-13, so we are trending in the right way.

Some of the practices we have been using through this collection team and through other pilot collection programs, CRA as an example, we have made some dents in it, but we're striving every day to improve the efficiency of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have a couple of quick questions here. Welcome, minister and your staff.

Both the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy and its draft 2016-19 business plan discuss the issue of land tenure in the territory. The strategy states, and I quote, "When mortgage insurance on leasehold land cannot be obtained, this impedes financing and discourages construction." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's business plan states, and I quote, "The cost to transport materials, obtain developed land, and construct and operate dwellings, makes building on speculation unpalatable for most."

Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have a position concerning the upcoming plebiscite on municipal lands, which will be held in March 2016? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question, as that land plebiscite is coming near and it was a question that I asked as well.

We're still reviewing all potential ramifications, but in general, when we are leasing land, it's still the same. It will depend on a community-by-community basis on how they vote with the plebiscite. As far as owning land, we are still limited to purchasing what we're building upon. Most communities have by-laws. If you take possession of a lot, you have to put buildings on it within a certain period of time. Unless the communities are looking at changing those by-laws, it would still be difficult for us to buy a parcel of land for future development.

It's something that I would like to explore maybe down in the future depending on how the land plebiscite goes and communicate with Community and Government Services to see how to deal with some of our land availability issues that we are dealing with in some communities where it has been difficult to get land allocated. That being said, I look forward to the plebiscite to see how it goes and that will dictate how our action is to proceed, working with Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Well, obviously the minister anticipated my next question because he answered it before I asked it. Thank you. That's it.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I take that as a comment. Department Summary.

Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$196,177,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Closing comments, Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee members for taking the time today to come out in the weather conditions and continue with the budget review.

I appreciate very much the confidence that you have given to me and the Nunavut Housing Corporation by approving our budget. I can assure you that we will continue to work as fiscally responsible as possible to build as many units as we can and to provide all the efficiencies that we can within our programs to maximize the impact of every dollar that we do get, whether it be from the GN or from outside sources.

I would like to thank Mr. Audla and Mr. Brown for joining me at the table today and assisting me with responses to the very good questions that I received over the last couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We will now take a short break before we deal with the Department of Family Services. Thank you very much.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:49 and resumed at 16:07*

**Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask the Minister of Family Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Mike.

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, and the assistant deputy minister... I have a hard time saying her surname, my apologies. Can you say it for us, please.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Modesto-Vardy. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Minister, you can proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the proposed 2016-17 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services.

Before I continue, I would like to wish our respected colleague, Minister Kuksuk, good health and a speedy recovery. We wish him and his family well.

Mr. Chairman, for 2016-17, the Department of Family Service has allocated a budget of \$140,906,000, which represents an increase of 10.64 percent, or \$13,597,000, over last year's main estimates. The staff complement for the Department of Family Services has increased from the 2015-16 level of 205 PYs to 216 PYs in the 2016-17 main estimates.

Our budget includes:

- \$3,754,000 for residential care placements and for an additional 1.5 client liaison officers;
- \$837,000 for seven new family resource worker positions in Nunavut;
- \$769,000 for additional O&M funding for existing family violence shelters and a family violence program project coordinator position;
- \$277,000 for two additional community social service workers in the Iqaluit Area Office;



- \$6.8 million to allow the Government of Nunavut to exclude federal child benefit income from our social assistance calculations, meaning more financial support for low-income families;
- \$700,000 for a social assistance expected shortfall; and
- \$470,000 for O&M for a new homeless shelter planned for Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, as our department increases its resources, we continue to improve our budget and planning practices. In our departmental business plan, you will note some changes in certain program budget lines, both increases and decreases. The largest change is the reallocation of \$3.5 million from (interpretation ends) Guardianship Services and Adult Support Services.

(interpretation) I apologize that I have no clue what the equivalent Inuktitut terms are as I am still learning the jargon. Nonetheless, it is regarding services for children and families within the department.

It is a reallocation to other programs within the Children and Family Services Branch. After thoroughly reviewing spending patterns, the department has realigned each budget line to better reflect expected expenditure need. This will allow us to better monitor program spending and to determine and show the true cost of program delivery.

### **Children and Family Services**

The Children and Family Services Division has been allocated 42 percent,

or \$59.2 million, of the department's proposed 2016-17 budget. Children and Family Services provides a range of support services for children and vulnerable adults who may require protection and/or other specialized support. The division also provides emergency intervention as well as prevention programs to address domestic and family violence.

The department is advancing its efforts in implementing the Quality Protects Action Plan, which was developed as a response to the Auditor General's 2011 and 2014 children and family services reviews. To support these efforts, the Children and Family Services' compensation and benefits and contract services budgets have been increased by \$5.6 million to allow for much-needed frontline workers and program support staff, as well as to adequately provide for residential care placement services.

New positions have been created in this budget, including seven family resource workers in locations where there are single social workers (Arctic Bay, Whale Cove, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Kugluktuk, Sanikiluaq, and Taloyoak), two additional community social services worker positions for the Iqaluit Area Office, 1.5 residential care client liaison positions in Ottawa and Edmonton, where most of our contracted residential care facilities are based, and an additional family violence specialist position in Iqaluit. These new positions will help our department move forward on delivering change, including more violence prevention programming, suicide prevention, parental engagement, and community outreach.

**Income Assistance Branch**

Mr. Chairman, I will now get into the Income Assistance Branch. This is where people get help in getting money to buy food and other things.

The Income Assistance Branch has been allocated 38 percent, or \$54.1 million, of the department's proposed budget for 2016-17. The Income Assistance Program includes a variety of benefit programs that provide financial assistance to people 18 years old and over and their dependants. The objective is to assist residents in achieving their goals for independence and self-reliance.

The department is seeking an additional \$7.5 million for the Social Assistance Program in 2016-17. Of this, \$6.8 million will allow the department to provide additional support for low-income families. The current practice is to deduct the income that families receive from the federal National Child Benefit Supplement from our social assistance calculations. The plan is to exclude this income from our calculations, which will increase the financial assistance for families who need it the most.

I just want the members to realize that we used to deduct the income that families received from the federal National Child Benefit Supplement. That will no longer be the case. I just want it to be clearly understood that we will no longer deduct that so families who need it the most can get assistance from the Nunavut government.

We expect the Government of Canada to launch a new child benefit system this July. While details are currently

unknown, more information is expected in the coming weeks.

The Department of Family Services is also seeking \$700,000 in 2016-17 to cover a potential shortfall in the Social Assistance Program.

Our Nunavut-wide community engagement with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation allowed Nunavummiut to provide feedback on how we can help improve our approaches to social assistance in order to promote self-reliance and provide help to those who need it the most. A report is currently being drafted which speaks to lessons learned and recommendations stemming from the community engagement. We are anticipating that this report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the spring sitting.

**Career Development Branch**

Mr. Chairman, I will be moving on to the Career Development Branch.

The Career Development Branch has been... I'm sorry; I just recently took on the portfolio, so I'm quite new to the terminology.

The Career Development Branch has been allocated 15 percent, or \$20.1 million, of the department's proposed 2016-17 budget. (interpretation ends) This branch develops and funds employment training programs, including employment assistance. It's called G.R.E.A.T., Getting Ready for Employment and Training, and Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS). Career Development administers the delivery of Financial Assistance for

Nunavut Students (FANS), which is funding for students to attend post-secondary education. The branch is also responsible for the Nunavut Apprenticeship Certification Unit, which oversees the certification of apprentices and trade qualifiers.

The department will continue to enhance services and supports to increase the work readiness capacity of income assistance clients as part of our commitment to review and reform social assistance.

### **Corporate Management**

(interpretation) The Corporate Management Branch has been provided 5 percent, or \$7.4 million, of the department's 2016-17 budget. This area is responsible for the overall management support to the department, setting direction and leadership in key areas of strategic planning, policy development, Inuit employment planning, human resources planning, system implementation, budgeting, and financial management.

This branch also provides administrative support to meet the requirements of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* and is responsible for homelessness initiative programs. In the upcoming fiscal year, we have proposed additional contribution funds of \$470,000 for the operations and maintenance of a homeless shelter in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, my deputy minister can explain that part further so that we have clarity.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): This \$470,000 is for operations and maintenance. We are proposing a homeless shelter in Cambridge Bay. It is so that we can plan for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to go through this process because the terms are very difficult for me.

The department has worked closely with the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre on their proposal for a shelter and is pleased that all the hard work and dedication will assist the community in meeting their needs.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, this budget will allow the department to continue to fulfill its commitments under *Sivumut Abluqta*. This will improve financial support for income assistance clients, improve frontline delivery services and residential care placement, and deliver training programs that support the development of Nunavut's labour force.

Mr. Chairman, our department is approaching its fourth year of operations. We will continue to need the support of committee members as we work to improve the lives of Nunavummiut and fulfill the vision behind the creation of this department. We have taken your advice, as evidenced by the linkages that we have made between income assistance and career development, and we are striving

to be more creative in our efforts to promote self-reliance across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continuing to work with members of this committee and I am pleased to answer your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. As chair of the committee, I would like to take this time on behalf of my colleagues throughout Nunavut and the world.

Today is International Women's Day. Thanks to all the women, mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and women in all. Have a wonderful International Women's Day.

>> *Applause*

We will now proceed. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish all the women who are listening a good day and I send my greetings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2016-17 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services.

This will be the fourth year of the department's existence after being established in April of 2013 with the transfer of various divisions and programs from other GN departments.

The operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services has grown to almost \$141 million, which

represents an increase of approximately \$13.6 million from the department's budget for 2015-16.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has noted that there continues to be some confusion with respect to the overlap or, in some cases, gaps in services and programs delivered by the departments of Family Services, Education, Health, and Economic Development and Transportation. This becomes especially problematic when clients and their families face a mix of challenges and needs in such areas as poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, addiction, and opportunities for education, training, and employment. Services and programs for seniors and elders also seem to be delivered in a piecemeal manner with the Department of EIA coordinating seniors initiatives and the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services both coordinating different aspects of residential care services for elders and other vulnerable Nunavummiut.

The standing committee strongly encourages the minister and his officials in their ongoing efforts to collaborate with their counterparts in the Government of Nunavut's other departments to ensure that Nunavut's social safety net adequately supports all Nunavut residents who need such services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services coordinates and delivers Nunavut's income assistance programs which are directed towards assisting families, adult individuals, and seniors in meeting their basic needs. Committee members recognize that a number of policy changes have already been brought forward within certain program

areas and the committee anticipates that further changes may be brought forward as a result of the department's social assistance review that was recently completed across Nunavut's communities.

The committee notes that some of the proposed increase for social assistance benefit funding in 2016-17 will take into account an income exemption for income assistance clients with respect to the federal government's new child benefit program and applauds the government for its intention to no longer claw back this much-needed funding from low-income families which face increasingly high costs of living.

The Department of Family Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, administers a number of programs and resources related to adult and post-secondary learning. The department also administers financial assistance programs, such as FANS, Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, and the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program, which provide important support to individuals seeking to further their education. Committee members note that the department has made considerable progress with its career development initiatives to promote work readiness for income assistance clients. The committee encourages the minister and his officials in their efforts to promote self-reliance across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services faces many challenges in delivering services to children, youth, and adults in vulnerable situations.

The standing committee notes that the department proposes to add a number of new positions to this division, including family resource workers, social workers, and specialists in the areas of residential care and family violence. While committee members support the proposed changes, members urge the minister to ensure that newly hired staff have appropriate cultural awareness and relevant training.

The committee continues to encourage the minister to table updated Quality Protects Action Plans in the Assembly on a regular basis to demonstrate what progress is being made in the key areas of concern that were raised in the Auditor General's 2011 and 2014 reports on child, youth, and family services in Nunavut.

Members of the standing committee continue to express concerns regarding the number of clients requiring specialized services and support who are sent south to other jurisdictions for residential care. Standing committee members support the minister's efforts to work towards having more Nunavummiut stay in Nunavut closer to their families and communities and encourage him to work with his cabinet colleagues to develop more supports and resources for seniors and others who require long-term care in the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services provides funding and resources for the operation of shelter programs across Nunavut. While members hold varying views on the effective role of shelters and the policies that govern them, it was recognized that more work needs to be done to address issues relating to the use of shelters,

including homelessness, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The standing committee notes that the department has included additional funding in its budget for 2016-17 towards family violence prevention initiatives. Members look forward to updates on these initiatives in the near future.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask questions on the opening comments before we go to the page-by-page review, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, you can. My colleagues, I will point out to you that we are on page D-4. You may proceed, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we go there, I will ask for clarification. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. I would like to go back to the minister's comments for clarification on page 2. With this \$837,000, what are the duties of the seven new family resource worker positions, Mr. Minister? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the

member for the question. This provides assistance in social needs in the communities. These seven positions will be assisting the communities. My deputy minister will supplement on what exactly their duties are.

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

**Ms. Williams**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The seven positions that we're requesting will be going to the communities mainly because small communities have only one social worker and some communities don't even have a social worker.

We expect that the seven positions would all be Inuit beneficiaries coming directly from the communities. We are looking at providing more support to combat family violence, to reduce the abusive situations, to prevent suicides by earlier intervention, to be involved in brainstorming, and to work on strengthening their Inuit cultural foundations.

This will revolve around youth and young parents with children on how to strengthen their cultural foundation and how to incorporate traditional Inuit counselling practices by introducing the social service worker to Inuit cultural counselling practices. That is the goal for these seven positions and specific to communities that only have one social worker while some don't even have a social worker. We want them to be a pivotal foundation in that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What will they do? What kind of training and skill sets do they need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get my deputy minister to clarify that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The qualifications we want for these seven positions are that they can assist children, youth, and elders with their problems or if they can contribute to an initiative in the community.

They will have to take the suicide prevention module. We expect to train them upwards of six months. Once the successful candidates are selected, they will be trained on the various counselling methods and in facilitating different groups and working with them. This also involves the ability to work plan. They must also be able to work with various interest groups.

They must be able to write in Inuktitut or English and speak English, particularly in Inuktitut.

They must be aware of the different government programs and how to bring them into their work by using traditional Inuit practices.

Further, we would like them to be able to write reports on their work, either in Inuktitut or English.

As well, they must possess management skills in an office setting.

We also want them to be aware of societal and traditional means of counselling to service families in need.

We want them to be qualified to maintain confidentiality in privacy issues.

If there are emergency situations, they should be proactive and contribute to resolving those situations.

We want those seven positions to be qualified for those situations and train them for six months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Just to remind everyone, please be cognizant of the interpreters. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask the minister another question. The workers will have to know how to work with families in the Inuit way. A lot of us who are not elders are very ignorant of family counselling. I believe our elders are the only ones with that knowledge. These workers would be trained somewhere for six months and they have to be able to write both in English and Inuktitut. Our wise people, the elders, are cut off right there because they can't read or write in English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. There has been a concern raised about

the smaller communities. They have stated to us that they need more help today with social assistance. In looking at social assistance or counselling today, we know that things have changed over the years. We know there will have to be knowledgeable people. We also know that people run things through administration these days.

In the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, we are supposed to improve things. Obviously, these seven positions will not solve all the concerns, but with the request for family counselling in the communities, we wanted to improve that aspect.

My deputy minister can explain about the elders, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As soon as these positions are open, anybody in the communities will be able to apply for them. After the candidates are hired, we will be moving on from there. We are saying that they should be able to read and write in Inuktitut and English, but we want them to be more proficient in writing in Inuktitut and the Inuit way of working with others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the position is opened, although the requirements are as you stated, a capability to also write in English automatically disallows our most learned Inuit from being eligible.

Although the language may be well written, that you will consider unilingual Inuit, the reality is that never happens. It is only because the department wants it limited that the language is written in that manner. Once any position requires any written English capability, it is a barrier. Is it your requirement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister elaborated on this matter earlier.

Once the seven communities are opened for competition, the requirements we referred to are the most amenable to this field, as social work is not a simple process, especially in the communities. That is why we have the requirement for both written and spoken Inuktitut, as well as the ability to write in another language, English, I suppose, in this matter. These communities are pretty well operating with both languages, at least the chosen communities for these positions related to social services.

This has to start somewhere and the government believes that these workers will use Inuit cultural values and traditional counselling practices, and these have been identified in the advertisement. This includes Inuit societal values, as it is called in English. With that already a requirement, we will have to ensure we are carefully monitoring as this type of cultural bridge is needed and social services is very complex.

The clients who need this service are already undergoing hardships. Many



communities have social problems and we have to face them by starting at a point, at least with respect to social services. We are not trying to limit the eligibility of Inuit, but cross-cultural communication is needed and that is why this is a requirement for this position related to social services in the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Just to remind you to wait for the light to come on in front of you before you start to speak. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be absolutely clear in my understanding of these requirements and to ensure the public doesn't have false expectations, particularly our unilingual Inuit. I want to ensure that they don't falsely feel qualified for this position if they can't speak English.

I want to return to the minister's earlier remark about using Inuit beliefs being a part of this requirement. Mr. Shooyook is very adamant about the fact that real Inuit are very capable of counselling people in the context of social services and they can't speak a speck of English. If our government actually believes in that principle, it is largely dismissed by the comments that social service is not a simple process, especially in the communities.

In light of vastly capable and knowledgeable real Inuit who can provide life counselling, if our government believes that the Inuit belief system is a priority, why does this government always place a barrier in front of our foremost experts on these matters? Once the requirement is added

about the ability to write in English, that is an automatic barrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We totally understand that there is a concern and we are well aware of it. We are not trying to cast off those qualified people since the positions have certain requirements. We are not trying to leave anyone behind and we are not trying to stop anyone from applying if they don't have these skills or abilities.

What we are trying to state with that requirement is the position will be dealing with stressful situations related to social service provision in our communities. We are not saying to the public that you are disqualified from applying. Our intent is not to stop applicants but rather to ensure we have applicants familiar with stressful social situations and complex work environments. That is why these minimum requirements are in place.

What we are saying as the government is that we are trying to follow the directives to try to incorporate Inuit societal values on services considered of prime importance. With that being the case, many people still don't believe that this will ever result in changes whenever an initiative is brought forward.

However, our mandate is based on these principles, on what we hear as well as past statements voiced in the past. That is why we are persistently trying to improve support to these seven communities, as this will assist them to

improve the situation. Although there may be some hiccups, we believe the benefits will outweigh the costs related to social service provision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): I want to clearly understand that, so I will return to it later on. Let me ask this question in the meantime. As per your statement, these positions will be at the forefront dealing with social counselling, family relations, child services, and youth, as the deputy minister clearly outlined.

The minister also spoke about the importance of these positions, that they will handle stressful situations. Is it because you believe that dealing with stressful situations can only be handled by people who either speak or write in English? Is that what this government and Family Services' belief is? Were you insinuating that only people able to speak or write in English are the only capable workers available to you? Is that really a corporate belief? Is that why you are so adamant about applicants who can write in English? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we're saying is we want bilingual workers, not just one language. We want them to be able to speak and write in Inuktitut and English. I'm not saying that they should know just one language.

My deputy minister can explain further what these seven workers will actually be doing. She can give you an additional explanation if the Chairman can give her an opportunity.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The positions that we are talking about would go to the communities because they are really needed. If they can read a bit and write a bit in English, it would really help with working with the schools, the teachers, the police, the nurses, and other professional workers. They will have to work with people who cannot speak Inuktitut. I hope you understand it like this. If they can write in Inuktitut, it would be very good. If they can write in English, it would be good too. If they can write in both languages, it would be even better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move to another topic as I strongly disagree with that position neither do I understand it. In my eyes, regular Inuit are once again being discriminated against by this government as barrier after barrier is placed before unilingual Inuit who are our most learned experts in IQ.

Let me ask this question on page 2 of the minister's opening comments. The funds that you are requesting refers to... . Let me preface that with this practice I can never quite grasp. In this House, as regular MLAs, if we raise a question in particular, if it is not a tangible issue, the

ministers automatically refuse to answer and here I refer to possibilities or (interpretation ends) hypothetical (interpretation) situations we fear may occur.

I believe this is similar to that particular practice which is disconcerting to me since it seems to be speaking to hypothetical situations and I refer to the \$700,000 contingency fund because the department feels the fund may be inadequate. I automatically understand that to be in the same vein as the ministerial refusal to answer hypothetical questions about possible events or not. Why do we have to approve potential possibilities without any proof that it may turn out that way? This is (interpretation ends) hypothetical, (interpretation) the true definition with that English word, of which I know may happen or not.

If I was in those shoes and I was a minister, I would refuse to answer as we are told not to ask about potentialities, but correspondingly I feel the same here. Why do I have to approve of the exact same type of (interpretation ends) hypothetical (interpretation) situation that may or may occur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there's a big difference between potential and the other word that was said. This is potential. (interpretation) It's potential. With regard to the funds, I will have the person who works and deals with the funds, Sol, respond.

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

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$700,000 was based on the 2014-15 expenditures we have. That is what we have seen is that we were short by \$700,000. That is the reason why we are asking for that for the 2016-17 fiscal year. This is based on the applications and demand-driven income assistance payments. We pay it as we go every year. In 2014-15, at that time, when we were planning in early summer, it is what we were seeing as a projected shortfall and that is the reason why we are asking for the request for the money for 2016-17. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, it is due to my self-identity as a real Inuk that I tend to fall back on my Inuktitut language. I just follow what is presented and written for our review. The language is speaking about a potentiality that may or may not occur. Perhaps if one is expertly fluent in English, you may understand the real linguistic meaning.

Why is this included? We already have a process to deal with projected shortfalls of departments, as they will submit a supplementary appropriation request. We also know that the Minister of Finance will be submitting a supplementary appropriation request. Why are you submitting projected shortfalls through that process? Why isn't this included in that request? At this time, it seems there is nothing in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): I'm sorry. Sol will respond.

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

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why we did not ask for a supplementary request this year is because we are able to cover any shortfalls this year within the budget within our department. We are able to manage that. This is a planned expenditure or "projected" might be the right way to say it. At this time, we are seeing a projected shortfall in our social assistance payments based on the 2014-15 records. During 2015-16, we did not ask for supplementary money because we are able to manage it within our budget year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I have time to return to the topic, I will do so later on.

I wish to ask questions on a different topic referred to in your opening comments on page 4. Within the top paragraph, it speaks about 1.5 PYs the department wishes to create in Ottawa and Edmonton.

I would ask the minister this question then. As regular MLAs and Nunavummiut, we are constantly expecting the repatriation of services back to Nunavut at the earliest possible moment to ensure that these clients are closer to home and can be visited by their relatives. Is it because this

department isn't even close to even thinking about repatriating services that you are now trying to open up these residential care client liaison positions in the south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the member's question, for the positions in Ottawa and Edmonton, at this time, we have around 90 elders staying down there and around 60 children are residing there.

The Edmonton and Ottawa homes are residential care facilities, whether it be for mental or physical disability. For example, they provide different services like mental services and they provide services to take them out to the various hospitals, especially if they are physically or mentally disabled.

Since we have a lot of patients staying in Ottawa and Edmonton, the person in Edmonton can probably go visit Winnipeg or Saskatchewan because there are fewer patients staying in those provinces other than Ottawa. It would be better if we can have positions in those provinces.

To date, we provide contracted services, which is a lot more expensive than having positions. They go visit the

patients and if there are large sums of funds that are expended, these positions will be able to provide and visit the patients. They can provide visitation services to the clients. We are using the contracted services and it's more expensive than what we're requesting today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are well aware of those facts since we constantly hear that refrain from the departments and we know the reality here. What I was trying to ask about and what I'm trying to ask about is how we can start repatriating services into Nunavut. It seems this department is absolutely dead set against this, as they don't have any long-term goals to achieve that.

I see nothing anywhere, except the continual departmental pretext that since we don't have the facility or service, we have no choice but to send them south. What people want to see, if at all possible, is to move these services to our territory. I gather that as a government, we have no long-term goals in that regard. I wanted a response to that question.

Nonetheless, this issue I just heard now is very concerning to me. We have heard time and again, minister, that these patients are checked up on regularly in the south by workers representing your department or tasked to do that. We have heard in this House that our clients get regular visits to check on the level of care. What I heard shook me when the deputy minister stated that workers do checkups to ensure the facility is up to

par. I thought we were already doing that. We have heard many times in the House that clients from Nunavut are visited regularly. Isn't this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I didn't say what I was trying to say properly and I apologize. What I was trying to say was sometimes these facilities that we use are very good facilities, but sometimes these facilities move or change. We have a monitor in place because we are quite far. When I was in Edmonton, I visited seven facilities because I wanted to see for myself.

If I can say it in English, (interpretation ends) in our business plan, the priority is for us to explore for people to come back from south to be placed in Nunavut. Currently, it's difficult to do that. We may have a building, for example, but we have no resources like behavioural therapists, different types of psychologists, or other types of those kinds of resources that we don't have yet in Nunavut. In the business plan, we are exploring how many of them could we accommodate to come back for them to have the proper care that they need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Following the list of

names, Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments on page 2, the last paragraph, \$470,000 for operations and maintenance for a new homeless shelter is just planned for Cambridge Bay. I have a question on the (interpretation ends) “\$470,000 for O&M for a new homeless shelter planned for Cambridge Bay.” (interpretation) Why is this in there when it’s just being planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. When I first alluded to it, I asked my deputy minister to explain how this will be operated. The homeless people are starting to surface. We need to improve the homelessness situation. Cambridge Bay is in need. There are interested parties and we need a temporary homeless shelter. That’s why we have included that in our plan.

Mr. Chairman, if you will allow my deputy minister to explain further on that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s not just being considered; there’s a plan already. That’s why there is a proposal for \$470,000 for the operations and maintenance of the homeless shelter in Cambridge Bay.

In the Baffin region, we use the services of Uqutaq Shelter and many people

from the community and other communities use it. We provide over \$377,000 to that shelter.

There is no homeless shelter in the Kitikmeot. The Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre has been requesting a homeless shelter and it has been planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, to ensure I understand this clearly, is this a new construction project? Has it already been built or is this planned for this upcoming fall when we will review the approvals for the capital estimates? Will we have to approve it then if we approve of the O&M funds for this facility?

Further, to refer back to the statement the deputy minister made, the department is working closely with an organization in Cambridge Bay called the (interpretation ends) wellness centre (interpretation) in English to determine the facility to be used. I only see a proposal without identifying a facility. I would like it clearly explained. Has an existing facility been identified that is already available and standing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) The minister has referred that to his deputy minister. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have definite plans to provide funding. We met on February 15 on this matter with the group that requested it for their community and their region. They have

stated that there are two existing buildings. It will be up to them which facility they want to use, but that \$470,000 we are requesting for operations is a request to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to tell the minister that if he is going to turn it over to someone else, it will need to be recorded. We will proceed. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. I don't totally understand it, but I will have other questions later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): You can proceed, (interpretation ends) Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): The questions I have will be on (interpretation ends) other branches. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's clear. We are dealing with Corporate Management. Family Services. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Acting Minister of Family Services. My sister, welcome, to the House. Welcome to the other staff member as well.

I have been withdrawing my questions whenever a colleague brings up the question I had in mind. I don't want to repeat any questions because social

service is something I am very committed to changing. I refer to the \$837,000 fund my colleague Mr. Joe Enook asked about that I also had a question on, so I will proceed with it, but my question will be very brief.

Social service provision is very critical in Nunavut and due to its importance, we often hear about the requirement of positions to be able to speak in both Inuktitut and English and that requirement is a necessity. When a position is advertised, the successful applicant is usually a unilingual English-speaking person who is unable to speak Inuktitut or even write in the language. This is the exact same situation an Inuk faces, but the non-Inuk is hired here in Nunavut.

Due to the importance of this field, I am very adamant about this matter and I want you all to know this fact. First of all, let me offer this tidbit. Inuit, especially elders, need to be involved in social service provision and this is one of the areas I am seriously working hard on. The western social counselling practices, even if it is used by a bilingual person, results in cultural degeneration. Many Inuit have committed suicide, even though we assert western counselling practices.

I urge the minister further to incorporate this in the 2016-17 business plan to have Inuit elders involved. Albeit not all elders are able to conduct counselling, but we have learned experts throughout Nunavut who are extremely capable of counselling their fellow Inuit and who are already well versed in Inuit cultural practices and lifestyles. I do understand the requirement for the ability to speak both English and Inuktitut for this

position, but I tend to place a caveat on that requirement.

Is there anything within your business plans related to suicide prevention that can incorporate these expert counsellors who may not be able to speak in English? Can you add this as a requirement when the plans are being implemented in the future so that life in Nunavut can become healthy? Can you elaborate on this issue and whether you agree or not with this need? I really want to understand this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you talk about human resources, it's not the responsibility of the Department of Family Services. When we are talking about social workers, we are just talking about positions. It's human resources that can consider my colleague's question. As the Minister of Family Services, I can't control human resources. I just wanted to state that. That is why I'm stating that Family Services is following human resources practices within the government.

We can make recommendations to human resources to consider these questions. Candidates have to be capable in both languages for those positions and we already talked about the reasons. What I can't answer as the Minister of Family Services is the qualifications of these positions. They can't be unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people. This is not the responsibility of Family Services, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me that opportunity and I will use it to ask my last question. It is on the opening remarks. Indeed, the witnesses stated that the requirement is there for the ability to read and write in Inuktitut and English, and that is the written statement.

What I am asking you is about the people who can speak fluently in Inuktitut, but who may not be able to write in English. Will this be your excuse not to incorporate the elders in this field? Once again, if the corporate bias prevents unilingual Inuit from being involved in counselling, I will take that as a slight and be regretful. I would like to understand if real Inuit will always be prevented from counselling their own people. This is a very regrettable position because of our needs to have an Inuk well versed in traditional counselling, even if they can't speak English, to be involved with social service workers.

Will the Department of Family Services and the social workers ever be able to accept traditional Inuit counselling as a real skill? I really want an answer to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, these positions we are opening are not trying to close any doors and I want that clearly understood. There will continue to be positions created, which is obvious,



but the positions we are creating now which I don't want misunderstood are not meant to place a barrier to our unilingual Inuktitut speakers or English for that matter. That is not what we are trying to state here and this is not the future we want to see from this department. I want that known by the members. We are not trying to close off any opportunities by creating these positions and I don't want any misunderstanding on this front.

As I stated, the regulations we have to follow are imposed by the HR division and we can speak to them as the Department of Family Services. Human resources are responsible for enforcing them. We are not trying to create that and we want members to understand that these seven positions that were previously requested by the communities aren't meant to close any doors to unilingual Inuit or even English only speakers. We will not close the doors for them. I would like to be clear on that.

My deputy minister would like to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The applicable regulation of the government is that it be open to any citizen without discriminating against anyone. The applicants who express interest will submit their qualifications and selections will be made from that list. When we finally complete this process, it will be easier to divulge that, as we cannot also stop certain segments to not apply for positions in our department. All citizens

have to have the opportunity to apply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have questions on the opening comments, but I would first like some clarification. Where was it? On page 4, it states that you have earmarked \$6.8 million for use in supporting the federal National Child Benefit Supplement to ensure there is no deduction of funds following past practices.

The minister also stated in the opening comments on page 4, I believe, that "The current practice is to deduct the income that families receive from the federal National Child Benefit Supplement from our social assistance calculations. The plan is to exclude this income from our calculations, which will increase the financial assistance for families who need it the most."

As an example, if they have two or three children, is there any information that can show us by how much their assistance would increase? 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 that question. What that is saying is, in my opening comments as minister, the people who receive income assistance and low-income families get the National Child Benefit Supplement. Their child benefits were clawed back

and their income assistance decreased by that amount. That won't be the case anymore.

For that reason, the \$6.8 million will provide assistance to low-income families. The National Child Benefit Supplement was deducted from their income assistance. The amount is about \$6.8 million and this is an estimate. In today's government, Ottawa still hasn't directly identified, but I will know by July about how the National Child Benefit Supplement will be identified at that time.

Even though that's the case, we have set that as a government or the Department of Family Services today. With the National Child Benefit Supplement that will be introduced by the federal government, we have already decided that we won't be clawing that back. The new child benefits will be increasing and your social assistance will be increasing because the child benefits won't be clawed back anymore. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, to ensure everyone understands exactly what we are discussing, is this referring to the federal government program? In English, it is called (interpretation ends) the Universal Child Tax. (interpretation) Is that what you're referring to here in this paragraph? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister can supplement my response, as there are different programs we are referring to here related to child assistance programs. Both the old child benefits as well as the new benefits will be explained in greater detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié. (interpretation) My mistake. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The newly elected government made a campaign promise to amalgamate the different programs into a single child benefit program, as I believe there are three different programs that provide benefits to parents. They promised to unify this into one single program. The Canadian government has now decided that they are going to be making a bunch of changes to money that is given out to families with children. They want to centralize it so that it will be easier and better to track. It will be good news. On March 22, the federal government will be announcing the budget and it will be part of the announcement.

What we are planning is for the \$6.8 million to go to low-income families who need additional support. I was asked how much money per child would be given. We don't have that information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the

Department of Family Services for recognizing that need and the fact that low-income families need additional support, that money won't be taken away from them anymore.

Let me move on to a different question about homelessness. You were saying you planned to develop a shelter for homeless people in Cambridge Bay. If that facility is being opened in Cambridge Bay, have you made any plans to do the same things in other communities that have the same need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut government works with communities that initiate things like this to deal with homelessness. Because we have been working with Cambridge Bay along those lines, they initiated the project. They did the planning and we approved of their plans. Whenever communities initiate projects like that and they have a good, firm plan... This has to be started in the communities. Each community has to get its own people because they know their own people. It has to start from the communities. As the minister, I am aware of that. If another community wants to start something like that, then we will be able to help them as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that there are no plans to spread this to other communities? Has

anyone come to the Department of Family Services requesting help for homelessness initiatives? Have other communities approached your department about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a staff member who works on homelessness in Nunavut. That person has spoken to all the communities asking them what they want and have spoken to the absolute homeless people. We have looked into this in all communities of Nunavut and up to now, Gjoa Haven has said that they are interested and we are working with them. Whenever a community wants to initiate this on their own or if they have a society or a building available, then we're quite able to work with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines, there was a survey done about the absolute homeless people. You stated that you went to the communities. I forget what the actual number was, but it was around 96. Has the number of absolute homeless people increased after you visited the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Mr. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the MLA has understood is true. There are still around 90 plus absolutely homeless people. Some of them were surveyed by phone and were not actually visited in person, but all the communities have been spoken to about this issue. It's one of the mandates of the Department of Family Services to make it so that there are no more homeless people, but we do know that there are still 90 plus absolute homeless people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on to another subject. There was going to be a review of income support. As the minister said on page 5 of his comments, "Our Nunavut-wide community engagement with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation allowed Nunavummiut to provide feedback on how we can help improve our approaches to social assistance in order to promote self-reliance and provide help to those who need it the most." They anticipate that the report will be tabled in the House by the spring sitting.

Can the minister explain to me what the Department of Family Services has been considering in terms of improvements to income support after the review? What have you decided needs to be improved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate that question. The community visitations were quite useful for disseminating the information that communities needed to hear and understand.

Due to that reason, with the various assistance programs under the family services department that they need to aware of, perhaps if I first explained which programs we are referring to and they are: the Income Support Program, the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, the elders' supplementary benefits, the day subsidies, and other programs of that nature. Yes, the review of the programs went quite well and our staff have started to incorporate the feedback they received from the communities.

The report is still being developed and if any changes result, then we will introduce them in the future. At this time, we cannot provide a report on the consultation tour that transpired this winter, but it is obvious, once the report is available and no longer a draft, this government will have to consider various options on those required changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the minister can indicate whether significant changes are anticipated or if nothing major will result. Can the minister explain both to the members and the listening audience in Nunavut who hold certain expectations what to expect? Based on your assessment, the report will be ready for the spring session. Perhaps you can provide a short summary of the report after this review has been completed as to what preliminary results the Department of Family Services has found from this process. Perhaps just a brief summary as to whether we need to anticipate major changes or not, can he respond to that request? 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. Yes, I can respond to his request. As per my earlier statement, a consultation tour was undertaken over the review of the Income Support Program offered through the Department of Family Services. What I can state now, which I already referred to, is the feedback is being reviewed by both our staff and our partner agencies and it seems obvious that once this review is completed, I expect the report to be completed. It will be at that point that we can divulge the types of changes, if any, that this review will result in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman**: Thank you. It's also indicated in the document in the opening remarks that it will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the spring sitting. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is why I brought it up since I expect to see it tabled in the spring session in the House. I wanted to see if he could briefly summarize the possible changes, which is why I asked about that matter.

Let me move to another subject. I want to ask about the poverty reduction plan, as that plan exists and you have partnered with Nunavut Tunngavik as well as other groups, such as the regional Inuit associations. What is the status of the Makimaniq Plan? I would like to know the future direction of the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally forgot to respond to the earlier question. As per my deputy minister's earlier statement, in this month on March 22, the Government of Canada will be presenting their first budget. This is kind of appended to that event, as the review obviously has to wait for the announcements. Due to that reason, we cannot divulge any information, as we have to wait for that.

With respect to his other question, my deputy minister will respond to it. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We call that (interpretation ends) poverty reduction (interpretation) that deals with issues related to poverty. This has a

requirement for an annual report based on the recommendations passed in previous meetings held in the communities, with the most recent one held in Cambridge Bay this fall regarding the Income Support Program review.

The report called “Makimaniq II” is currently under development and it would be tabled in this House once it has been completed. I know the report will have interesting issues, but I can’t elaborate on the details due to its incompleteness. You should be expecting that Makimaniq II report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. You have 36 seconds, Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that.

In your business plan, one of your priorities for 2016-17 below what we just discussed, Makimaniq, it states, “Explore options and develop mechanisms to strengthen the governance of local non-governmental organizations and community groups.” How are you going to provide support? What is that about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is our utmost priority within our business plan. Even

when we identify priorities that are listed here, sometimes we can’t deal with them directly due to various reasons.

What I want understood is that poverty reduction is not implemented in our communities nor has any funding or (interpretation ends) programs or (interpretation) services been identified for this. What the purpose of this plan is, through the different departments, in collaboration with private businesses, airlines, and stores, it is the only way we can handle poverty reduction planning.

Perhaps if the member rephrased his question, I can provide further details because I don’t think I quite understood his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** If you can rephrase your question. At the same time, I would like to remind members to wait for your light to go on so that whatever you are saying is recorded and at the same time, the interpreters can pick up what you’re saying. Rephrase your question, Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m sorry. I asked in regard to your business plan on page 127 under Priorities (2016-17), fourth bullet, in English, (interpretation ends) “Explore options and develop mechanisms to strengthen the governance of local non-governmental organizations and community groups.” (interpretation) How are you going to provide support services to the local non-governmental organizations? According to your priorities, how are you going to be dealing with this when you’re exploring options? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): The light has turned on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) I'm glad that you waited for the light to turn on. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While the member was asking his question, I was on the wrong page, but I now understand his question. It is in regard to the positions I alluded to earlier about various organizations in the communities, such as the hamlet councils or different local bodies.

Some funding is also provided through contribution agreements on how improvements can be made, especially in offering clear direction both for this government and the Department of Family Services so that the direction is clear to the local bodies working on poverty reduction issues and to provide more support mechanisms to them.

Further, how can we support the local frontline workers and the local organizations so that these local initiatives are strengthened and supported locally through specific support programs and here are some areas we think we can provide that, to use this example we used earlier, to develop policies that combat absolute homelessness through our contribution agreement services offered.

To allow for deliberation with the local organizations so that we arrive at a common understanding was the original

intent of this language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind my colleagues that if you would like to receive proper responses to your questions, please indicate what page you are referring to.

Before I go to the next name on the list, we will take a five-minute break. Thank you very much.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:08 and resumed at 18:14*

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are on Family Services. Corporate Management. The next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief question at this time on page 2 of your opening comments. It's with regard to the budget of \$837,000 for family resource worker positions. The positions here are as social workers and I believe I understand it that way. The positions of client liaison officers are listed for Edmonton and Ottawa. I need clarification from the minister. Are these positions available or are these positions filled already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we're here to propose and get an agreement from the members to ensure that we can establish these positions for \$837,000. We spoke about seven new positions. The positions for Ottawa and Edmonton are on a different budget line item. I hope that I am coming across clearly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's clear that these are on different budget line items in looking at the positions, but I hope it will be understandable.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question on the opening comments. If I get out of line, please stop and inform me. The question I want to raise is related to our Legislative Assembly's esteemed elder's previous comments, which I understood clearly. When a real Inuk elder is an expert under life counselling, they can handle any situation. We all know that social counselling is a very difficult field.

When an elder and a young person arrive at a common understanding, it is very noticeable. That is why he asked if a position could be created within the division for a real elder, who may not be able to understand a word of English as life is a teacher, and those of us from the younger generations don't have the wisdom resulting from our elders' traditional lifestyles. We are all following the paths they walked.

With that in mind, I will join in working passionately to incorporate changes to our social services. This is with respect to those positions on this issue, so I would like the minister to respond to my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, trying to create employment opportunities in the communities is part of our request here. With regard to the language requirement, including our legislation pertaining to languages enacted by the government, if this requirement did not comply with these laws, then we are breaking our own laws. How we can incorporate social counselling into our communities and how it could provide any further benefits with the seven positions we are requesting from you, they were created to provide a benefit to the communities. That is contingent on you, the members, as to whether you approve or disapprove this request. That is your legal mandate.

Nonetheless, I want to state here that this request from the Department of Family Services isn't meant to derogate current community practices or to alter their wishes for future practices. It is not trying to change the way communities practise certain things, but rather to allow for further opportunities for employment that we wish to create in the communities related to social counselling methods. That is why we have requested approval to create these positions.

I wholeheartedly believe in traditional knowledge and values. I know and I believe that if there are interested people



out there, they can consider these aspects very carefully. We are trying to establish these positions at this time so that we can provide adequate services. If they can speak and write in more than one language, it would be our preference. We believe that it's better. If you are interested in providing those services, we are not closed to the option of coming up with new positions and proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is about whether or not a unilingual elder can be allowed to provide counselling services. Our youth live an alien culture compared to what Inuit traditionally practised for generations. Our youth, if not all of them, are using technology and modern lifestyles. This is what is creating the problems. To them, our ways are alien, which is why it is important for a real elder and our youth to arrive at a common understanding.

A statement was made earlier that even a unilingual elder who may not be able to speak or write in English shouldn't be ineligible solely for that reason. That is why we have interpreter/translators who provide that service, either in spoken or written formats in both languages. Any commentary can now be transcribed by interpreters skilled in multi-language disciplines, especially in written English. Although it may incur additional costs, the benefits would outweigh that. Isn't this something that can be considered by our minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. In Nunavut, social services deal with different organizations and communities and this will carry on. Yes, I understand what our elders are asking for when it comes to counselling. The people who are filling the new positions will have to work very closely with the communities in collaboration with the elders.

We are stating here now that since we started, when it comes to these new positions, these social workers for the seven communities are going to be a little bit different. We're trying to come up with something a little bit different. The social work or counselling that is provided today is different. We definitely want those seven positions to be created so that the communities and different organizations within and outside of the government can be involved and so that the youth can be involved.

My deputy minister will supplement my response, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I held a social worker position for over ten years and I actually am an elderly person, as I am getting quite old now. What I gather from the statements of our elders is primarily the reason why we are trying to create these positions. I really want to see workers in the communities who are intimately familiar with their communities. It would include the direction the community is advocating.

In fact, one of the things we have considered is that part of the challenges we face in our lifestyles relate to alcohol and drugs. Perhaps a real Inuk elder wouldn't be able to relate to these substances and how to cope with them. Perhaps it would not be relatable to that generation and to teetotallers such as me with respect to those substances.

Those are the reasons why we would be able to have requirements for the applicants to be fluent and literate in both languages. They should speak Inuktitut and English, if possible. This is our difficulty in trying to be in the middle of these diverging interests. I am also very grateful that MLAs have provided passionate arguments here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final question. If the preference is to not respond to this question, I don't mind that either. This will most likely be party to social counselling. I'm referring to the Inuit language. Has that consideration been included in their plans for future budget estimates? That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. I don't think I quite understood his question. If it is not related to his earlier question, then it will become obvious that I didn't quite understand his question.

In relation to these positions and concerning future employment positions wherever and whenever they are created, it is becoming a larger consideration, at least based on what I am hearing. I have heard the direction members wish to take. I don't think many positions created beforehand underwent this kind of scrutiny. The comments made are very poignant and relevant to our deliberations and negotiations, which is what democracy is. This is something I am quite familiar with.

Many positions within the Nunavut government have existed for quite a while now. I take pleasure in hearing members advocating for that. What I want to add is that there will be a need for people to be trained and educated in working with children, elders, and youth. This has been an ongoing discussion in the House on how Inuit can be provided more assistance in the communities. This contains quite a lot of past concerns.

Once the positions are filled, they will have to be available to the communities that don't have services presently. They will be able to deal with things like income support recipients and people who receive counselling, which isn't available right now. Presently, social workers are not able to deal with all the problems within the communities. I know they want to do something about that, but with their workload, they end up dealing with only part of it. Family support workers will have to work on community problems when it comes to wellness or social conditions in communities.

If I didn't quite understand my colleague, I apologize. Perhaps my deputy minister can supplement my

response on how much work we do as the Department of Family Services with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To further elaborate on that, Family Services directors went to Clyde River. We have heard about the Iisaaqivik Society counsellors. They were able to tell us what more we can do. We consulted them and visited them before I went to Family Services. We were told how the counsellors talk about further training. The Iisaaqivik Society has trained counsellors. We want to train them further. Some of them speak Inuktitut, some of them speak English, and some are unilingual. There are many issues within this and our expectations are to have applicants who want to fill these positions. Our considerations will be using your comments and their needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think they responded to my question. This is outside the first way I asked the question. My question is on the traditional Inuk's language, the written language, and their training needs. Will there be anything within the request? If the minister didn't understand my question, he will ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My new colleague, I think, knows exactly which buttons to push to make my seat a little hotter.

When speaking about languages, at the appropriate time, I will speak about language issues as I also hold that portfolio, but at this time, I think it is outside the purview of the Department of Family Services, if I understood correctly. This can serve as relevant comments when we are dealing with the language department in front of this committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on Family Services. Corporate Management. Following my list of names, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being one of the last, my questions have largely dried up, as many questions I had were answered. However, on this same subject, something that is confusing me now that I want to ask about is what the witnesses attempted to respond to, but it seems like it was not answered. It is regarding these seven positions that I now want to ask about.

I understand certain segments of the earlier responses. When a question was asked about the applicants and the requirement to have the ability to speak and write in English, that seemed to be the common thread in all the answers, but in my mind, they responded in the opposite way of the question posed. The usual answer is that they are not part of the HR department and that the HR department will have the discretion to screen the applicants for the job positions. What is the intent of this

response about the requirement to speak and write in English, yet when asked about that requirement, they respond that they are not the HR department and cannot screen the applicants for these positions?

Perhaps a clear answer should be provided on the question about the applicants for these positions. Are you saying that your department will have no input into the screening of the applicants or does it only apply to the requirement for applicants to have the ability to speak and write in both English and Inuktitut? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a government, we deal with human resource issues when positions are open. When the positions are open, they are dealt with through the human resources department and the Department of Family Services goes through that route.

As I stated earlier, the positions we want will have to be filled by bilingual people. Today, if I speak to a young person, they won't understand part of what I'm saying. There are many people like that now who cannot totally understand. I think all of us know people like that. I think we have to consider those people and the majority of our population in Nunavut are young people. It's for that purpose and for people who only know Inuinnaqtun, who have not been educated that way. I think it is for that purpose that we are requesting that they need to be bilingual. I think this is the best route to go today.

We state that we are concerned about how we can improve communications within the government and within the Department of Family Services. There will be others that will be involved. If I say it in English, (interpretation ends) family resource worker, (interpretation) it is specific to families and they will make other avenues available where communities can work together to pool their resources and collaborate based on what they bring to the table.

What I stated earlier was related to the HR policy and the entire policy cannot be dealt with by the Department of Family Services since legislation already governs that process. That is why I made that statement earlier and I am reiterating that now. We are not playing favourites or throwing anybody under the bus. What we are trying to do is to alleviate the challenges by providing the services requested by the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this question to the same witness regarding the positions. When these seven positions are open for competition, will it be open to everyone, Inuit and non-Inuit, or will it be specific to Inuit? Will this be open throughout the territory for anyone to apply? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it will be open for anybody to apply. Whenever

jobs are advertised through newspapers and other means, it will be advertised the same way. *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* beneficiaries will be the priority as usual because that's normal practice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being the situation, I perceive it to only be open to a certain segment and not everyone. It will not allow unilingual elders to be able to apply, although the statement was made that it will be open to the general public. This is based on my understanding of the reality due to this requirement to speak and write in English. That automatically cuts off a large segment of our population. If it is only open to bilingual citizens, then unilingual Inuit won't be able to apply to these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. It's good that it is turning to this kind of debate. This is rare for a minister to hear this kind of debate. Many jobs have been created for the Nunavut government and it's always been the case where it's necessary for the job to be filled by a bilingual person. It's great to hear what you're saying.

However, I keep repeating that these communities need someone who can work for social services. As a government, we can't create a job that is only available for a population that only speaks one of the languages. That's not

the case. These jobs have been requested especially for the smaller communities because they need additional help more so than others. If other communities can be assisted through this, then these jobs will help those communities. That's all I can say on the matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely understand the importance of these jobs locally and of the tremendous benefit they bring. It will be a boon to these communities, but I have a caveat to that understanding. By so doing, you are depriving our most experienced, most knowledgeable Inuit elders who are most expert at counselling of that opportunity simply because they cannot write in English. That is the regretful part of the concessions here and I find it personally demeaning.

With due respect to the applicants for these positions, we keep saying that life counselling isn't a game. It is a deadly serious matter, affecting a person's life. People with a different language and culture are given that authority. Inuit have a very different culture from those who have different languages. Whenever any type of life counselling is contemplated in Nunavut, such as these important positions, I personally feel our most capable people should be allowed to apply as well, even if they can't write in English. When an Inuk is wise in the old ways of counselling, they can surpass that barrier. I am extremely apologetic for that fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Indeed, when discussing the elders, we should be requesting their advice as to whether they would even be interested in such as position. That is the other side.

Another matter that I want to reiterate here is that we are trying to accommodate the communities' requests or needs. These new positions being created are not solely for dealing with social services. They will not just deal with income support or welfare. They will be heavily involved in the social counselling and services provided in their community, as they will work with various other frontline workers and elders. They will use elders as their foundation and they will also serve as a foundation for the elders via this position. Once the position has been filled, it will finally start towards that. They will not be abandoned or left. That is how we went about creating these positions.

There have been many other positions that went through this process, with the requirement to be bilingually fluent and literate. I want the members to know that we are not casting aside our elders. The Department of Family Services isn't casting elders or anyone aside, irrespective of whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit. Even if the people can't speak Inuktitut, we are not casting them aside nor are we doing that with unilingual Inuit who can't speak English. That is not the intent here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Be aware that you are encroaching on confidential issues. Nonetheless, if at all possible, if you can ask your questions carefully. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me then just comment on that remark about elders just being used as a foundation. The practice of placing elders as the foundation seems to be misnomer now. They should be deeply involved and not just used as a reference. In particular, when it revolves around social services, they should be part and parcel of the process, not just the foundation.

I have envisioned elders within our government system, to see how we can involve our elders in this day and age, and not just be thought of as the foundation and used. I wish to see them involved in actual jobs. Perhaps this is too deep for the system. I want to see them removed from just being an iconic foundation, but to be part of the government workforce, at least within this area. I think many of us share that concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I think we share that concern universally, which is why we are passionately debating this issue. The seven people who are successful in the applications for these positions are our first step forward.

We aren't just speaking about elders, as elders are included in the job description, including relationships with

youth, and it is in response to community wishes to create positions to alleviate our social ills, especially in the context of social services. That is why we have included this request. It will be a difficult proposition to hold that job, as there has never been a job much like the one contemplated here. The communities I referenced are where the jobs will be created and that is the reason why these were created.

The comments and concerns voiced will have another avenue, as this is the first time real debate has sprung up over language issues related to jobs and the wish to include elders in our workforce in our communities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Family Services. Corporate Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, minister, and staff. Your department is very important to all Nunavummiut. They're asking for your help, they want your help, and they do need your help. My first question would be I just want to know what the department's definition of "absolute homelessness" is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in those days when we lived in *qammait* (sod houses), I remember we all had homes. Now, even though people do not live in *qammait* anymore, everybody remembers living in a *qammaq* (sod house). Everybody had a home back

then. It's quite recently that I have lived in a *qammaq*. It's just an example of the way things used to be. I know we want to go back to the way things used to be and we want everyone to have an adequate home because we don't want to have homeless people out there.

I would like my deputy minister to respond to my colleague's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The definition for "absolute homelessness" in our department and the housing corporation is when people are living in a tent, in a shack, a sea can, or somewhere. That's absolute homelessness. The people who are living in an overcrowded home are the housing corporation's responsibility. This is the understanding between the housing corporation and poverty reduction, my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Just to understand and viewing people to understand, people living in overcrowded homes are not part of absolute homelessness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) I believe that was answered, but Minister Mike, would you respond to that? Minister Mike.

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

Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** It's the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Can I ask the minister? Okay. I'll just go on to my next one. In your business plan on page 127, fourth bullet from the top, it says, "Implement the Homelessness Action Plan...on Absolute Homelessness." That's Priorities (2015-16) and Priorities (2016-17), the second bullet says, "Begin to develop a Nunavut Action Plan on Absolute Homelessness..." Is there a difference between those two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand the question clearly. Can it be repeated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Can you rephrase or repeat your question, Mr. Akoak?

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 127, from the top, the fourth bullet, it says, "Implement the Homelessness Action Plan...on Absolute Homelessness." That is one of the lines, "Absolute Homelessness." For

the next fiscal year, Priorities (2016-17), the second bullet, it says, "Begin to develop a Nunavut Action Plan on Absolute Homelessness..." I'm just wondering if there is a difference between those two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the member's question, this is our priority. My deputy minister will supplement the response.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can update the House that work to date, as far as implementing a homeless action plan, has been to start streamlining contribution agreements that are provided to shelters by the department, and developing guidelines for homelessness initiative grants and contributions programs. Discussions between poverty reduction and career development are within our department. People who are in homeless shelters, we are working to give them programs so that they can start to look for housing. Instead of giving them beds, we need to do programming with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your priorities for 2015-16 was to "Implement the Homelessness Action Plan." Your business plan indicates that a strategic plan has been developed to implement the action plan. Can you describe the specific types of resources



and support services that will address homelessness in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is working with different communities and partners, as it states in that bullet the member is talking about, to determine needs and begin coordinating necessary support services. I just outlined the programs and other streamlines that we want to do with grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will continue with Mr. Akoak after a 15-minute break. We will take a 15-minute break as of now. Thank you.

*>>Committee recesses at 19:00 and resumed at 19:24*

**Chairman:** I would now like to call the committee meeting back to order. Family Services. Corporate Management. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the grants and contributions section on page D-9 of the main estimates, it shows that contributions for homelessness initiatives will increase by \$450,000 in 2016-17. How will this additional money be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize, but if you can clarify your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Akoak, please repeat your question. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the grants and contributions section on page D-9 of your main estimates for 2016-17, it shows that contributions for the homelessness initiatives will increase by \$450,000 in 2016-17. How will this additional money be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The director of corporate (interpretation) services will respond to that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** The increased funding is allocated to family violence shelters and that's for the additional support for family violence shelters.

**Chairman:** Thank you. When you have completed your answer, please acknowledge the Chair and at the same time, a reminder for the little red light to light up prior to answering a question. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Mr. Chairman, did you hear an answer? I didn't quite get the answer on what she meant. Can you ask her to answer the question? Thank you. What are you implying on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. We were just rushing around a bit. In regard to the question, we're going to look for the response. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) The director of corporate (interpretation) services will respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Prior to transferring, he is referring to page D-9 on the homelessness initiatives contribution increment. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an increase of \$470,000 and that's for the planned homeless shelter for Cambridge Bay. That's for that amount, \$470,000. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** So is the additional \$20,000 somewhere? Is it added up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The director of corporate (interpretation) services will also respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That increased from \$837,000 in 2015-16 main estimates and it went up to \$1,307,000 in 2016-17. That is an increase of \$470,000 related to the

planned homelessness shelter in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In November of 2014, the Office of the Auditor General released a report on the audit of the Nutrition North Canada Program. Have the report's findings had any impact on your department's efforts to address issues such as food insecurity and the high cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I would like to ask the member where his question is from because it's not in our (interpretation ends) opening remarks. (interpretation) It's somewhere else.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akoak, if you can identify the page that you are referencing. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Sorry, page D-4. There was an Auditor General's report released at that time in November of 2014. Have the report's findings had any impact on your department's efforts to address the issues such as food insecurity and the high cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Our staff will respond to the question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Auditor General of Canada released a report on the NNC program in November of 2014. We have a coalition that is undertaking research on the store-bought food system. There's another plan for holding a meeting in late May or early June that will be focused more on the store-bought food system. That's what we have in our updates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question on that. It was last month or a few months ago, we had a meeting with the airlines and we talked about the high cost of living in Nunavut. With that, did you have any communications with the airlines regarding how they can help out with the high cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): We haven't had additional meetings since then. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans on meeting with the airlines? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Probably at the end of March, we expect to meet with them. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Family Services. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in listening to the proceedings, I was starting to conduct some research on what we are required to do. With respect to the positions that are being debated here, even though they can be bilingual with the ability to speak Inuktitut, the requirement is be functionally bilingual.

I started to review our legislation, specifically the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which we have to comply with as well. In particular, section 12 states that any employee of the government "has the right to use the Inuit Language at work" and that any person wishing to work shall not have barriers placed before them, as an example, by not being bilingual or not having the other language which is the requirement. The employer shall "ensure that management is able to communicate with and supervise the employee in the Inuit Language" and "offer Inuit Language training" if the employee can't speak or write Inuktitut.

Even with these legal requirements, we were advised at length that a bilingual person with the ability to use English is required for this position. This is reprehensible in light of our need to comply with our own legislation. I just wanted to remind the witnesses as they responded to concerns that legislation already exists with Inuit language rights enshrined.

I have had employees in the past who could not speak English within our

government, and it was very pleasurable. Issues I may not have contemplated or forgotten were brought back to the forefront. Therefore, I advise the department to follow through with the legislation. That formulates my first comment. 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 his comments. Human Resources has set up these qualifications. We requested that the positions be bilingual and we have said the reasons why they need to be bilingual in English and Inuktitut. They have to work with the staff who speak English and Inuktitut, and Inuktitut would be preferred. Mr. Chairman, that's all I can state. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to abide by the language legislation. We cannot just abandon this right as Inuit and we're not going to neglect that. Therefore, we have to follow that.

My MLA colleagues have stated numerous times that counselling has a great impact on Inuit. I believe it should be dealt with because many pieces of legislation that we have for counselling has been adapted from outside of our territory.

On page 126 of the business plan in the English version, it doesn't include any plans as to how we can phase in traditional Inuit ways. They have said

that income support issues are important, such as further training for income support workers, and that we should deal with legislation first within his department.

My colleagues have been mentioning in the House how we can ensure our legislation is based more on Inuit practices and processes and therefore better enforce them. That will be my first question on how we do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not sure what he's stating. I would like to ask if he can clarify his question so that I can respond. I would like to know which page he's on. I believe we are under Corporate Management at this time.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please clarify that, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the business plan under Corporate Management on page 126. It states that "The department has identified the *Social Assistance Act* and *Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Act* as priority legislation requiring review." Further on, they will be reviewing legislation in 2017-18, which is after our term ends. How are they going to turn more towards issues that affect Inuit tradition and culture so that they can learn about our culture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I believe it's clear now. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will elaborate on that. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have wanted to conduct a review of several pieces of legislation, as we use legislation in our work. When legislation is not present or rather, without laws, we would not be able to be anywhere. Now, if legislation were more readily available in Inuktitut, it would really help. Nonetheless, I cannot respond with a solution at this time with respect to that advice, as our department is continually reviewing ways to improve on a daily basis.

I can use an example of children. When children are abused or neglected and the caseworker has to handle the child's case, the parents, grandparents, and relatives are involved. The caseworker works with the family to resolve the case. Perhaps we don't ask ourselves often enough if we are practising the Inuit way and I doubt that is the case, as the focus is on resolving the problem in a manner most acceptable to the family. We work with the family at all times.

Actually, if legislation was passed and an Inuktitut version was presented, our department would review it to see the applicable sections. However, as I said earlier, we have started a review of the pertinent legislation such as the laws on adoption to see if there can be

improvements made related to social workers in the communities we have to support. This advice is something good to hear. Once legislation is in place, requirements change. We will keep trying to review legislation and try to brainstorm on meeting both the wishes of the communities and families and whether we can create them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind you that we have interpreters. Don't go too fast so that your comments will be properly understood. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the departmental business plan on page 128, it speaks to implementing current legislation only related to families and adoption, and it only states the review on implementation. It doesn't speak to any proposed amendments to improve the legislation. This has to be corrected.

We have to focus more on Inuit traditions and that is the only way families can properly learn. When families are relaxed and peaceful, the relationship improves. The current way is to separate families by advocating outside legislation, although we may have only adopted it prior to drafting new legislation. What we have is grandfathered and I wonder when legislation review will ever take place to adapt them to the traditional Inuit customs. 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 pointing that out. Indeed, these are what are important to Inuit and our cultural lifestyles, and of the need to incorporate them. With respect to the possible legislative adaptation, if I understood him properly, this plan will have to be clearly written in how Inuit traditions can be incorporated further. I totally agree with you on that aspect.

I now understand some of the considerations we ought to have considered currently within our plan that would have to be changed. That is what I understood. I agree with my colleague on that need, if I understood him properly, to conduct a legislative adaptation and I now understand his wish to incorporate more Inuit traditions into the planning and to consider it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will only have the opportunity to do that until the end of our term next year. I would like to see a proper way of how Inuit traditions can be incorporated further into the plan and legislation. They aren't even written here and that's what's lacking. We have people who can help us here in our Assembly. Perhaps we can deal with it next year. It's too late now, but that's just a comment to plan more towards that.

Regarding the minister's comments on our homeless shelters, there's more than one shelter here in Iqaluit. We empathize with the homeless people who have little choice but to use those shelters. How are they given more assistance? Most of the

homeless people are Inuit and could gain from more training so that they can better stand on their own feet. Are they given training while they stay at the shelters? After all, we don't want them to stay there permanently. Instead, we wish them to become more self-reliant. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are planning and it's an ongoing thing. I don't want to just do planning and studying; I want to implement the plans we come up with. When men who stay at homeless shelters receive income assistance, they are given counselling and direction on where they can get more training or education.

People in women's shelters with children are given assistance by the Department of Family Services and mental health services. Some people who stay at that shelter with children are not given as much training, but they do get counselling on how to improve their lives.

We have contribution agreements with the societies that provide shelters to the homeless and provide them with funding. We try to guide them on how to improve the lives of the homeless people and give them more training or employment counselling. We all know

they are capable. In particular, those who are going through really challenging times need more assistance.

Women in particular tend to stay at homeless shelters. Many of them don't get housing even while they're staying at the shelter, which is called the Sivummut shelter. We are trying to work with the federal government with what's called second stage housing and how they can help them get housing. We don't want them to stay permanently at that facility. That is where we're at currently.

The children of the homeless people are put in school. We sympathize with them, we see them every day, and we work with them. They're given sewing or on-the-land training. We try to get them in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please consider the interpreters. Mr. Okalik

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's good to hear and I want to see more of that and how we can provide more assistance. Some people are in those shelters for a long time, they have faced challenges in their life, and we need to think of providing more assistance to them. I would like to look further into that in the future.

When we get to the other pages, I'll ask more questions. I'll stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): I didn't hear a question.

**Chairman**: Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,404,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on page D-9, I would like to ask a question on grants and contributions. I would like to know what it's slated for. The first one is the Men's and Boys' Programming. I'm just reading the Inuktitut translation, so don't blame me if it doesn't make sense. What will the \$50,000 funding be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will elaborate on the details. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's only \$50,000 to start with. The reason for that is that young men and children need assistance too. There's assistance available for women and they're provided with shelters. We would like to start with this to be able to start doing something with children and male youth.

We have consulted with the men's group in the Kivalliq and a group like that here in Iqaluit. We were looking at women, children, men, and boys, not just one segment. That's what this is slated towards. If they could just start with a meeting and discuss what direction to take for the future, then we will be able

to provide more assistance. That's what we want to start with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. So that my colleagues all understand, the one they are referring to in the Kivalliq is called "Angutit Makigiarningit." Mr. Enook

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that you have no idea what that money will be used for? It may be used for meetings; it may be used for something else. So you still have no idea what the money will be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do know what we want to do with the money. We want them to have a meeting to start it off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I was asking is that you didn't seem to really know what the money was going to be used for. In your response, you stated that it may be used for meetings or it may be used for something else. It turns out you know what it's for. The reason I asked

again was that I didn't get a definitive answer from the minister. After you hold the meeting, what's next? How will that improve things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Quite a number of things can be under this program. After they hold that meeting, resources will be made available for action. Once that meeting has taken place, they would be able go from there. There are more than ten items involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that the \$50,000 would be used just for a meeting and maybe planning after? The minister said that they would proceed from there. Where is the money that will be used to do something after this initial meeting? Is it in one of the pages in your submission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that question.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money will be used for a meeting and then after that meeting, we will try to do other things.



We said that there would be seven new workers and some communities have social workers and some others have income support workers. The people who are already working in the communities can run a part of this program from this money, for example, hunting with young people who wish to do so.

If a community requests to do a certain activity, then we will allow them. If they want to do real Inuit counselling of men, then they can initiate something like that. We would utilize the programs already in existence in the communities. We would work with them to see which kind of programs would be able to run off the bat. We would then shortlist it.

Once those seven new workers are working, we believe they can make real progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As that money will be used for that meeting, who will go to the meeting, where will it take place, and how many people will attend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the

\$50,000 yet. If you approve the money, then we will make careful considerations as to how we will use that money, as well as where the meeting will be and who will be involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you already considered what was going to be done with the money. You said that you were going to use the money for a meeting. What other considerations do you need to do afterwards when you have already allocated the \$50,000 for the meeting anyway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): It was explained that the Pauktuitit group and the Kivalliq men's group would take part, as well as other groups that do that kind of work. It's all about having healthy families and good relationships. Those who have gone through difficulties at home can become able productive again. Right now, we're talking about putting together something along that line.

I can only say that they have to hold the initial meeting first because that's the plan that has been set. After that initial meeting, there will be decisions on how to move forward and determine what activity will be the priority. That's how I understand it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me understand this correctly. You may not need to use the entire \$50,000. You haven't really decided how much of it you're going to use yet. You know that you're going to need to have a meeting, but you haven't set up any details yet, so you may end up needing to use only \$10,000 because you still haven't figured out the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$50,000 may seem to be too small, but we can use it to start something, to hold an initial meeting to hear what they want to see. Once we know what the representatives from the communities want to do, the employees that are already working on a variety of things will be able to do more things. I'm sure we will be able to brainstorm and come up with more ideas if more funding will be required.

With the \$50,000, I can't say if we're going to be only using \$10,000 of it or \$20,000 of it. We're saying that we need \$50,000. If I say it in English, (interpretation ends) it's our best estimate. (interpretation) We're dealing with the (interpretation ends) main estimates. (interpretation) That's what we're trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Let me move on to a different topic, but I'm very concerned about that. It's clear that you don't know and you can't say where the meeting will be held or who will take part. You say that your best estimate is the \$50,000. I can't see how you can have that as your best estimate because you don't even know where the meeting will be held. I don't get it at all. We will probably end up approving it anyway.

Also in the budget under D-9, Summary of Grants and Contributions, I'm reading what you have translated into Inuktitut as the Northern Student Initiative. What does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Were you asking about human resources or education? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Enook, please clarify your question. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It should be easy for them to understand because I'm reading their own document. It reads, the Northern Student Initiative. What is that all about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): At this time, we don't have the Inuktitut

copy and I apologize. Is it (interpretation ends) Getting Ready for Employment and Training? I believe that's what he is asking about. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): I'm sure there's an Inuktitut copy in your office. It's on page D-9, \$15,000. It's right below Career Development. If there's no other way than to say it in English, it's the (interpretation ends) Northern Student Initiative. (interpretation) What will that money be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): My apologies. I do apologize that we were in a big rush to come to this meeting, along with my officials. I apologize that I did not grab the Inuktitut copy. My deputy minister will respond to that question. I do apologize for saying that, but I was in a big rush to come to the House today. I only grabbed some of the documents that were readily available. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize too that I don't have the details on that right now. If it's okay with the member, we would like to respond later with the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What did you say?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please respond again, Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize that I cannot provide a detailed response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide the answer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I don't seem to have that information, so I can't respond to that question at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will need your direction. I know the funding of \$15,000 is minimal when you look at other items. Perhaps with your guidance, could you tell me what the process is to delete this line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. If you want to delete this line item, you will have to go through a motion. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister should know and I want my colleagues to know that we don't want to delete anything just for the sake of it. We absolutely need to have correct budget figures. If the department doesn't know what the funding is going to be spent on, I truly believe it should not be approved. If I can be provided an opportunity, I will draft a motion to delete this line item. Please direct me, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yesterday, you moved a motion to delete a line item. You can use the motion from yesterday, but it will be for this particular line item. Regarding the figure you are talking about, you will have to identify the reason. Minister Mike would like to comment. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The director of corporate, Sol, (interpretation) will provide an explanation. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. She's going to explain the matter. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$15,000 for the Northern Student Initiative is support to our students studying in a northern Alberta school and that is an ongoing \$15,000 grant that we provide for our students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Now that it's clarified, that's it for me.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,404,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. On to page D-5. Children and Family Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are on the proper page now to ask questions about those seven positions. I would like to get started by first asking: how many vacant social worker positions are there currently in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official from the Corporate Services Division, Sol, will respond.

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

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have 47 social worker positions across the territory, 32 positions are filled indeterminately and 14 are filled with casuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. A friendly reminder to wait for the red light to go on so that your answer is recorded and the interpreters can do proper translation. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier when we talked about the seven family resources positions that you were introducing, you mentioned one for Arctic Bay, Whale Cove, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Kugluktuk, Sanikiluaq, and Taloyoak. Are any of these positions for these community social workers currently vacant or filled by casual workers? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. The official, Sol, will respond. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These positions are new positions and they are not currently filled or filled by the casuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That wasn't my question. My question was, of those seven communities, there are supposed to be full-time social workers in these communities at the present time. Are any of these communities' social workers presently on a casual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Our staff will respond.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Please

wait for the red light to light up prior to answering. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these positions have vacant CSSW positions. One is Arctic Bay and Hall Beach in which we're waiting for housing to get those indeterminate positions filled. However, even though those CSSW positions are vacant, we are filling them in or supporting them through getting professional workers assigned from other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier, you stated that there were 14 positions that were being filled by casuals. Can you maybe tell us what stage you're at in filling these positions full time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These seven positions are not to replace social workers.

We are in various stages with the competitions that we have. As of yesterday, we are waiting for five houses for these social workers. One of the reasons why we have seven positions in these communities is because they are not decentralized communities. They

have a lot less resources than the bigger communities do. That's one of the reasons.

They're not to replace social workers; they are family resource workers who are to work with the communities along the line of prevention. If there was a social worker in that community, they will work with that social worker as well. They are not to be interpreters; they are to be doing outreach work or prevention work in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that these positions aren't being implemented to replace the social workers. I understand that quite well.

The fact that they're putting government positions in non-decentralized communities is welcoming for any of us that live in non-decentralized communities.

With these seven new positions, when do you anticipate advertising and filling these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the funding is approved, the positions will be advertised. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in questioning from other members, you talked about training

for these new positions and you said that it would take six months of training. How will this training take place? Will it take place in the communities one-on-one or will all these positions be taken to a central location where they will be trained for six months straight? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that question.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully we could do each region. We would be planning to do... . If there are more communities in the Baffin, they would get them together in the Baffin. There's one in Kugluktuk and maybe somebody would be able to go to that community.

We are in the stage of drafting the training plan, so it has to be finalized, but the core of the training, we have mentioned earlier, is what we are envisioning for the staff to do.

If there are more communities in the Baffin, they will do it in the Baffin in one of the communities, maybe a close-by community, maybe Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this is all said and done where you've got the hiring done and you've got the training completed and

these employees return to their communities, will the social workers that are in our communities become their immediate supervisors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each region or so many communities have social workers that are supervising these communities and we also have regional offices. There's a regional office for the Baffin in Pangnirtung, Kivalliq in Rankin Inlet, and Kitikmeot in Cambridge Bay.

Some of the communities are divided up to have one social worker supervising them. We are envisioning that these people will be reporting to the director of children and family services in Iqaluit. There are two things. One, let's say for example, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay, if they're supervised by one social worker, maybe that social worker could supervise that. If not, then the alternative would be for them to report to the director of children and family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll ask the question in a different way and I'll use my own community as an example where we only have one social worker in our

community. When you fill this position and this person is trained and placed in the community, what will the working relationship be between this new person and the current social worker? Will the social worker be the supervisor of that individual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will also respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are only talking about seven positions in Nunavut when there are 25 communities. There are only seven positions and I will use whom they would report to as an example. If I use Sanikiluaq as an example that the member uses, it would be better if that position didn't report to the social worker because the social worker already has so many duties. Perhaps both the social worker and the new position would report to the director of family services. I hope that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm understanding the department correctly, when these positions are filled and placed in our communities, it is basically two separate departments, they work independently of each other and they report differently. Am I correct in that understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will also respond to that question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to say is that, for example, Sanikiluaq is supervised by somebody. If there's a position in Sanikiluaq, a family resources person, they will report to the same supervisor. We wouldn't want to put extra work for the single social worker that is in that community because they're very busy. Sometimes they go on holidays. Sometimes when they go on holidays, maybe the resource person would be somebody to call so they could get help, but what we envision right now is that the social worker in that community does not supervise the family resources person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They make it sound like they're going to be run like they're totally... . How's the best way to say it? One can work out of one building, one works independently out of another building, and they both report to a supervisor, but not necessarily working together. In the same breath, she says, "If the social worker is out of town, then that person can perform some of their duties."

It's kind of confusing to me how exactly the two positions are going to intertwine within our communities. I'm wondering if the minister or his officials can explain a little better how both these offices will work together in providing better

services to the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a social worker, we see them working very close together. Whether they report to somebody else and if they are working in two different buildings, they are doing two different jobs. One is a social worker doing a lot of the children and family services duties, which they are doing now. These family resources people are to do prevention work, to prevent family violence, including suicide prevention, working a lot with the community. They have two different jobs, but they are connected very well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the explanation. With that being said, again we're in communities where we only have one social worker. These social workers go on vacation, go out for training and for other various reasons. In their absence, how much of the social workers' duties are you expecting these new positions to perform when they are in the communities on their own? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the social workers are training or on holiday or there's no social worker right now, there would be somebody that people could call to where they would know where they can call to get help. If we could use an example, first aid, somebody could call somebody and maybe they can find ways to find somebody else to help.

When they're on holidays, these family resources people are not going to be doing apprehensions that the social worker does. Their jobs are different from each other. The community would be able to call on them for something where they would be able to know where to go get help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Branch Summary. Children and Family Services. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I finally get a say. There has been a lot of talk this evening and this afternoon, actually, about social workers in the community.

In looking at the job of the social worker, the social worker has a very difficult and challenging job, especially in the community. It can be very complex with family relations. What

kind of support does the department provide social workers, if any, let's say, in terms of counselling? They have to deal with a lot of dramatic events sometimes in the community. How do they get help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike,

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

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the communities that have one social worker, they sometimes work with mental health and they have somebody to talk to for support. We have a director of children and family services in headquarters. The staff there can assist and support.

We had a few that one of the social workers had to sleep over at the RCMP's house. Not too long ago, one of the social workers had to be relocated to a hotel because of the situation going on in the community where they were getting threats. This is a real situation that we get into.

They support each other if there is another social worker in the community. If there's two of them, then they can support each other. A lot of times, the headquarters director is on the phone over the weekends if they need support. We are doing what we can with the resources that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would imagine it would be one of the hardest jobs, I think, in the government.

The kind of support that you were talking about like counselling and mental health, is it something that automatically happens or does it have to be requested? Sometimes I think workers often don't know how stressed they are, I think, in situations like that. I'm wondering: which way does this work? Do you wait for them to come and say, "I need to talk to somebody," or is this something that sort of happens automatically or is this something that you check up on as a department? Maybe you can elaborate a little bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. With social workers and people who need their assistance, we don't want anyone to be in an unsafe situation, either anyone who is seeking assistance or the social worker. It is clear that they work in dangerous situations. This is an area of concern, especially when a troubled person is involved. The workers and those who need assistance are supposed to be in a safe environment, but that's not always the case.

I would like to turn it over to my deputy minister to respond further to my colleague's question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the time, we know what's going on in some of these communities when there's a situation going on. Let's say if there was a suicide or something else is happening in there, the director or the supervisors will call them to support them and support them along.

It's better when there are two social workers in the community, but many of our communities have one worker. When there is that one-worker situation, we would check to make sure that they're okay and we don't wait for them to call if we know the situation is happening. The director is on call with them and the supervisor is calling them as well. Sometimes they will call for help. Some of them would ask for stress leave or some help that they need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the turnover rate like for your social workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that question.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a high turnover. There are vacancies in the communities. We also have social workers that have

been there and they like the community, even though it's difficult. Some of them are there quite a long time. We have a director of children and family services who has been up here about 15 years in different communities. Now she is in headquarters. There are a number of people that want to stay here. They love being in the community.

We would like not to have a high turnover, but we do have a high turnover. It's less of an issue when there are two social workers in the community because they can share the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the reason why you don't have two social workers in every community? Is it a resource issue? Are people not applying? What is the reason for having only one in a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They apply and... . (interpretation) I forget the question now. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

The social workers want to live up here because they consider their careers very important. Some communities have only one social worker, as the member says. That has been the case for a long time

now. Nowadays, there are far more problems that crop up which are also more difficult to deal with. For example, I was a single social worker in a community for 14 years. I found that to be very difficult.

Normally in a community, there would be two RCMP officers, three or four nurses, and one social worker. Their job is similar to the police and nurses. That's why we want to increase the number of staff we have in the communities. To do that, we want to hire those seven workers that can help with social work in the communities. Their duties as frontline workers will hopefully alleviate the demand for social assistance.

Once these workers have been working for a year or two, we will be able to see how effective that approach is. It's preferable to have two social workers in a community, but it was normal practice to just have one social worker in a community for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I totally agree. I think there needs to be more than one social worker in a community. Some communities obviously are less complicated than others are, but I think it's a good idea to do that and it's an idea I would support.

The other thing I want to go on to now is about shelters. I know that it was discussed when it shouldn't have been before, but I want to ask my own questions about them.

One of the things that have come to my attention and it was because of one of my constituents that brought about the fact that our women's shelters, if they suspect you of being under the influence of any kind of alcohol or drugs, you're thrown out. The lady that I was helping was thrown out on one of the coldest days that we had. She came to me the day after that had happened after the spending the night at the RCMP because she had absolutely nowhere to go.

When I began to look at this in a little bit more detail, in Yellowknife, they're starting to have something called a "wet shelter" where people who are under the influence can go. Many times, people are homeless and jobless because of their addictions. That's why they are in that predicament, yet that's the very reason why you're thrown out of a shelter. In one sense, it just doesn't make sense at all. I'm wondering if the department has thought about this or looked into it or have you heard about this. Can you elaborate a little bit on what you know about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been meeting with the people who run those shelters for women or homeless women. As the member mentions, if a client has been drinking or has taken drugs or are otherwise not sober and no longer acting

normal, we are provided with a report saying that they are referred to mental health workers to try to help them.

However, with respect to the member's story, we have dealt with that situation. We have learned from that. When we tried different solutions, we were told that at the shelter in Apex and the Sivummut shelter, which is another women's shelter, many clients have children. That is why they don't allow intoxicated people there.

It would not be appropriate to have an intoxicated person with children in the shelter or anyone who is drunk or on drugs. They become abusive, start throwing chairs against the walls, and it sometimes results in verbal or even physical abuse towards the workers. When this happens, there are children witnessing it. This is very inappropriate. We are given that reason for not allowing drunks and drugged people there.

As the member says, this is something worth examining, as the people who take these actions also have to do something. At the present time, the shelters are not equipped to deal with intoxicated people when there are children on the premises. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I understand in one sense the fears, but on the other side of things, I think those with addictions don't want to have those problems. They're still people and we still need to help them. We can't say one is more

important than the other. I think the department really needs to look at this.

We need to find a way to help people that suffer from addictions, especially when it comes to homelessness, and people who have no family to look after them. We need to show dignity and looking at the police barracks and that is really not the answer, especially if you are under the influence. It's even more dangerous to be thrown outside when it is minus 40. If you're drunk, you know, it's a very dangerous thing to be left alone outside. Anyway, that's something for the department to think about. I hope that we could have this conversation, perhaps, a year from now and hopefully developments would have been made.

In regard to shelters once again, you did touch up on it about programs and services for those in shelters. I find that most people are told to leave by, I think, it's like 8:00 in the morning or 8:30, and then they hang around all day in Iqaluit anyhow at NorthMart and that. There's so much work that could be done with people who are homeless. For example, just looking at maybe working even with Arctic College to kind of see what can be done or career counselling or mental health counselling or addictions counselling.

When you review the contribution agreement that you have with the shelters, do you set goals, goals that you want to see happen or responsibilities that you would like to see carried out by the shelter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

minister will respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's a long-winded question, but you can give it a try. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very good point. In the past, in the men's shelter, we just provided beds and we didn't have any programs. Since I have been in Family Services, we have wanted to have programs, as the member is talking about. They would get income assistance. From there, they are streamed out to career development people because they are in the same office. We're trying that.

As you know, some people don't want to do that, but there are a few who can get into the workforce or maybe even get a house. There are a couple of people in Iqaluit that got units. They are very proud of it and they have been on the radio about how it is good to have a house.

We could do a lot more programming right now with the men's shelter. We don't have programming there, but we are working on contribution agreements. We are designing them a little bit differently to make sure that the people or agency or society that is getting the contribution agreement is going to be doing the program. Even though it's at a small scale, we need to start somewhere. That is for the people at the men's shelter.

For the people who are in the violence shelters, it's a little bit harder to do that. Some of them are just visiting here and are fleeing from violence. If we are mainly talking about the men's shelter or

a homeless shelter, we could do more programming with people who are living there and not just giving them a place to sleep. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you, Ms. Williams, for your answer. I totally agree and I think all of us could do a lot more and be more supportive.

I would like to go on to another area and that's the Child Protection Services. I see that the budget has gone up a fair amount. Maybe you might want to elaborate why the budget has gone up. Are you having to provide more services? Does that reflect the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Our other official will respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for Child Protection Services has gone up about \$1 million because of the additional positions we added there. It's 11.7 for family resources workers and for social workers. That is new funding. As well, we also re-profiled some money from other areas within the branch to support foster parent payments. That's why there is an increase of over \$1 million on that line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other budget that has certainly gone down is the one for Adult Support Services. Can you elaborate why there's such a significant drop? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. The person who has that responsibility will respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister alluded in the opening comments, we made a lot of changes in our budgetary amounts within programs to make sure that we are reporting properly of our expenditures and also making sure that we have the budget requirements for our planned services.

The reduction of \$3.7 million in adult support services, guardianship, and adoptions, all three of them were moved to Children and Family Services Headquarters. Some of them were moved to Child Protection Services, as explained earlier for those new positions, as well as we provide contribution funds to residential care facilities and that's where the money should go to make sure that we're properly reporting the budget against the planned expenditures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the next section. I

don't have any more questions now.  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress.

**Chairman:** I have a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) I will now rise... .

>> *Laughter*

All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keyootak. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for meetings for tomorrow, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus, both meetings in the Nanuq Room.

*Orders of the Day* for March 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters

- Bill 10
- Bill 11
- Bill 12
- Bill 13
- Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)

20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Wednesday, March 9, at  
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:01*



