



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 29

Monday, March 14, 2016

Pages 1559 – 1627

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Health; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1559
Ministers' Statements	1559
Members' Statements	1560
Returns to Oral Questions	1567
Oral Questions.....	1567
Tabling of Documents	1580
Notices of Motions	1582
Motions.....	1583
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1583
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1626
Orders of the Day	1627

A.

Daily References

Monday, March 14, 20161559

B.

Ministers' Statements

093 – 4(3): Clinical Nurse Educator Certified to Teach Courses (Ell-Kanayuk).....1559
094 – 4(3): FPT Ministers of Environment Meeting in Ottawa (Mike)1560

C.

Members' Statements

198 – 4(3): Tribute to the Late Stuart Hodgson, C.M. (Taptuna).....1560
199 – 4(3): Success of Arctic Winter Games Participants from Arviat (Savikataaq)1561
200 – 4(3): NTI Board Meeting in Gjoa Haven (Akoak).....1562
201 – 4(3): Supporting the Mianiqsijit Society (Mikkungwak)1563
202 – 4(3): In Remembrance of Meeka Kilabuk (Angnakak)1563
203 – 4(3): A Recent Youth Suicide in Taloyoak (Qirngnuq)1564
204 – 4(3): The Passing of Inusiq Nashalik (Quassa)1565
205 – 4(3): Tribute to Inusiq Nashalik (Mike)1565

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 248 – 4(3): Medical Travel Escort Policy (Ell-Kanayuk)1567

E.

Oral Questions

271 – 4(3): Role of Elders in Court Proceedings (Shooyook).....1567
272 – 4(3): Open Custody Placements for Young Offenders (Angnakak).....1569

273 – 4(3): Medical Transient Centre in Churchill, Manitoba (Sammurtok, T)	1571
274 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Strategy and the Niqittivak Committee (Akoak)	1571
275 – 4(3): Supporting the Mianiqsijit Society (Mikkungwak)	1572
276 – 4(3): Medical Travel Escort Policy (Enook)	1573
277 – 4(3): Status of Children’s Group Home in Rankin Inlet (Sammurtok)	1575
278 – 4(3): Legal Training Program (Okalik)	1575
279 – 4(3): Nunavut’s Water Supply (Angnakak).....	1576
280 – 4(3): Nunavut Arctic College Course to Replace CARS Training (Sammurtok).....	1578

F.

Tabling of Documents

101 – 4(3): Letter to Minister Bill Morneau, PC MP Regarding the Northern Residents Deduction (Peterson).....	1580
102 – 4(3): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report, January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 (Mike)	1581
103 – 4(3): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies, Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015 (Taptuna).....	1581
104 – 4(3): Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit Annual Report April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 (Taptuna)	1581
105 – 4(3): Nipiit – Canada’s Inuit Youth Magazine – 11th Issue (Enook).....	1581
106 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period July to September 2015 (Speaker)	1582
107 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December 2015 (Speaker).....	1582
108 – 4(3): Report to the Management and Services Board on Contracting Activity for the Legislative Assembly Year Ended March 31, 2015 (Speaker)	1582

G.

Motions

022 – 4(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Mikkungwak)1582

023 – 4(3): Addressing the Needs of Elders – Notice (Angnakak)1582

022 – 4(3): Extended Adjournment (Mikkungwak)1583

H.

Committee Motions

003 – 4(3): Deferral of the Consideration of the Proposed 2016-2017 Main Estimates of the
Department of Environment (Enook)1611

I.

Bills

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee1584

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Culture and Heritage –
Consideration in Committee1612

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Monday, March 14, 2016****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 093 – 4(3):
Clinical Nurse Educator Certified
to Teach Courses**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to provide the Legislative Assembly with an update on Qikiqtani General

Hospital's increased ability to train our health staff. The clinical nurse educator at Qikiqtani General Hospital is now a certified instructor in several advanced life-saving training programs.

Mr. Speaker, this instructor certification designation is a positive step to providing training to our health care professionals on site, on a timely basis, and offered with more regularity and consistency.

Our clinical nurse educator is able to offer advanced training in:

- Basic life support;
- Neonatal resuscitation for newborns;
- Pediatric advanced life support;
- Advanced cardiac life support; and
- Non-violent crisis intervention.

Previously, this form of training was only offered out-of-territory and at higher cost.

Mr. Speaker, the training certification speaks to the importance of promoting educational opportunities for our staff and Nunavummiut and offer health care skills development in Nunavut. Doing so also enhances our life-saving intervention capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Minister's Statement 094 – 4(3): FPT
Ministers of Environment Meeting
in Ottawa**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day,
Nunavummiut and people of
Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss the federal/provincial/territorial ministers of environment meeting on climate change that I attended in January in Ottawa. The two days of meetings with my fellow provincial and territorial ministers were hosted by the Hon. Federal Minister of Environment, Catherine McKenna. This was the first time that all of our country's environment ministers have come together to establish a pan-Canadian framework to address climate change. This framework will be developed over the course of the next year.

During these meetings, I spoke with my fellow ministers about some of the challenges that Nunavut faces:

- our reliance on fossil fuels
- Nunavut's high cost of living, and
- the impacts that other nations' carbon emissions are having on Nunavut's land, placing our northern region at the forefront of climate change.

I also emphasized the importance of incorporating *Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit* into these national discussions on our changing climate.

Mr. Speaker, my department is very concerned about the impacts of climate change and we are working closely with our federal leaders to ensure that they

are aware of our unique challenges and continue to support the climate change adaptation initiatives that the Government of Nunavut is leading.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to do its part to contribute to this significant national framework in order to ensure that it reflects the needs and concerns of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasie, will be arriving late this afternoon. Also, the Member for Aivilik, Steve Mapsalak, is ill today, so he won't be attending the session.

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 198 – 4(3):
Tribute to the Late Stuart
Hodgson, C.M.**

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

Mr. Speaker, the north lost one of its greatest admirers and advocates on December 18 of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stuart Hodgson, C.M., was larger than life. He was a Second World War veteran, a founding member of the federal NDP party, a Member of the Order of Canada, and of course, the first Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to live full time North of 60.

Mr. Speaker, in his role as Commissioner for the NWT, Mr. Hodgson visited every community at least once a year. He would hold public meetings and Mr. Speaker, as you may remember, every meeting was jam-packed with standing-room-only crowds. Community members would raise questions and concerns, they would ask more questions and make requests to Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Hodgson would deliver.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hodgson set up the beginnings of an elected legislative government for the Northwest Territories. He also introduced Project Surname, which led the well-known Abe Okpik to travel throughout the Northwest Territories and what is now known as Nunavut to record and register surnames for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, as a teenager growing up in Kugluktuk in the 1960s and '70s, a visit by Commissioner Hodgson was one of celebration and awe. He was an imposing man, he stood well over six feet, yet he was friendly and open to everyone.

He took a keen interest in the Franklin Expedition. He visited Beechey Island several times and took Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and even Prince Charles and Prince Andrew to the site.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to ask members to join me in remembering the late Stuart Hodgson and his contributions to Nunavut and the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 199 – 4(3):
Success of Arctic Winter Games
Participants from Arviat**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the success of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games participants from my constituency of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, all who participate in the territorial Arctic Winter Games, even if they didn't win an ulu, are still a winner in my book because not just anyone can go to the Arctic Winter Games. You have to be good, you have to be dedicated, and you have to be committed. Anyone who has made it to the Arctic Winter Games worked hard and they deserve to be there.

Mr. Speaker, we have 14 participants from Arviat and 8 of them brought home ulus for us. I would just like to read their names and what sports they were in. They were:

Andrew Bell in arctic sports in the one-foot high kick open males, he got a silver; on the two-foot high kick open males, he placed fifth; on the knee jump open males, he got a silver; one hand reach open males, a silver; head pull open males, a silver; and triple jump open males, a gold.

Benjamin Manik was in the male junior basketball team with Team Nunavut and they placed fourth.

Mahasi Nateela, female junior basketball team with Nunavut, they won bronze.

Ryan O'Connor and Connor Fudge were both coaching the male bantam hockey teams and they placed fourth.

Jillian Kaviok was in the female junior volleyball with Team Nunavut and they placed fourth.

Shelby Angalik was in wrestling and wrestling individual class up to 50 kilograms junior females and she got a silver; on the Inuit wrestling up to 50 kilograms junior females, she got a silver.

Sylvia Kablutsiaq in wrestling individuals up to 60 kilograms junior females, she got a bronze; Inuit wrestling up to 60 kilograms junior females, she got a bronze.

Mr. Speaker, overall in the wrestling team, Team Nunavut junior females placed fourth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to all join me in congratulating all these participants of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games that were held in Nuuk, Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Member's Statement 200 – 4(3): NTI Board Meeting in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

I rise today to welcome the members of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Board of Directors who will be meeting

this week in Gjoa Haven. I was asked to deliver an opening remark at that meeting, but since I am not there, this is why I am doing a Member's Statement this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, NTI's board meeting will be held from March 15 to 17.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the live proceedings of the meetings will be aired via live audiocast from NTI's website.

In a news release, Ms. Towtongie said, and I quote, "NTI is offering this service so that Inuit have the ability to listen to live proceedings of the NTI Board meetings while they are being conducted. The goal in hosting our Board meetings in communities was to bring NTI closer to Inuit. This is another step in that same process. We hope this initiative is popular and well received."

Mr. Speaker, a community feast will be held on Wednesday evening on March 16, and to let this government know, the size of their community hall is very small at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming NTI's leadership to Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 201 – 4(3):
Supporting the Mianiqsijit Society**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to lend my support to the ongoing work of the Mianiqsijit Society of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the Mianiqsijit Project was initiated in 1989 when an upcoming court case raised awareness of the limited resources available in the community to provide counselling, support, and assistance to victims of abuse and their families.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, the Mianiqsijit Society has expanded its counselling services by providing community-based workshops and supporting many individuals and their families in addressing past trauma, such as the residential school experience. The society has adapted to the needs of the community over time. Staff have been available to counsel court witnesses throughout the court process, provide grief and relationship counselling as well as crisis counselling in cooperation with the school crisis response team.

Mr. Speaker, the Mianiqsijit Society participates in many community events and youth programs. Last year, the society ran a sewing program for youth making sealskin mittens. This year, they are focusing on making hats and duffle socks.

Mr. Speaker, the Mianiqsijit Society has received funding from such sources as the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and the Government of Nunavut to carry on its important work.

However, funding is proving more and more difficult to access. As we have heard during this sitting, organizations which have consistently provided important services to assist Nunavummiut in achieving good mental health and well-being are struggling to keep their doors open.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the good work of the Mianiqsijit Society and encourage the government to give positive consideration to providing ongoing financial support for their activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 202 – 4(3): In
Remembrance of Meeka Kilabuk**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my Member's Statement, I would like to say "happy birthday" to my son, who is celebrating a birthday today, Matthew Angnakak.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and acknowledge an outspoken leader, teacher, artist, and politician who has, sadly, left us.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka Kilabuk, affectionately known as "Aunty Meeka," was born in Pangnirtung to Jim and Alukie Kilabuk.

As an adult, Meeka went on to become the first elected secretary treasurer of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the national Inuit organization that became Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka always had a role in politics when it came to Nunavut. She was a member of the Nunavut Implementation Commission, the group charged with planning for the new territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka took a keen interest when it came to helping the homeless, the sick, and the poor. She was a person who was not afraid to speak out on behalf of those who couldn't.

Meeka was also very active beyond politics and social advocacy. She was well known for her artistic abilities. She received first place in the North American Fur and Fashions Exposition in 2008 and came in second the following year. Meeka was the first Inuk woman to place as one of the eight finalists out of 300 worldwide entries to the International Fur Trade Federation's competition for emerging designers.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka was inspired artistically by her father to paint and draw and by her mother to sew. Her beadwork was done with techniques that were immaculately intricate and equally stunning.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka always had a place for you in her heart. Her smile, her laugh, and her boldness will always be remembered by all. She was the strength and foundation of her family and was truly one of a kind.

Mr. Speaker, Meeka passed away from cancer on November 7, 2015.

We all miss her very much and I am happy that she was my friend, a member of my family, and that she included my

family and me in her life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 203 – 4(3): A Recent Youth Suicide in Taloyoak

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an event that occurred last week on Thursday. On that day, Taloyoak residents underwent a trying time when a youth committed suicide. This person was 15 years old, who acted as a leader amongst his student peers and was a good leader. Further, the person was also one of the officers for the Junior Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, Taloyoak has experienced two acts of suicide recently, which results in grief and misery.

Mr. Speaker, as Inuit, we cannot control another person's life. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how we can deliberate on this important issue here in this House, to try to lower the numbers of youth contemplating this act.

I want to share in remembering this youth and his act of suicide. Colleagues, the residents of Taloyoak are mired in sadness due to this action. Let us remember them in our thoughts as well as in our prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 204 – 4(3): The Passing of Inusiq Nashalik

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and residents of my community.

Undoubtedly for those of us who are Nunavummiut, our elders are a significant part of our cultural knowledge, as they are the last generation who practised the real Inuit traditional lifestyle and our ancient pooled knowledge, but whom are dying off as we live the cycle of life.

Let us ensure we remember the legacy of these real Inuit elders who lived with only Inuit knowledge and ancient customs as their foundation. When they pass on, we lose an immeasurable pool of knowledge related to Inuit traditions. Some of us older generations experienced a tiny portion of this traditional lifestyle, but these true Inuit elders didn't just hear about it; they actually practised this past, pre-colonial lifestyle.

Although this elder is not a fellow community resident of mine, we share the sense of pride as Nunavummiut. This man was Inusiq Nashalik. He was an aged elder, attaining 98 years of age before passing on just recently in his home community of Pangnirtung.

This man was a camp leader. If people can recall our traditional leadership practices when we were nomadic and had seasonal lands, which are associated with outpost camps today, we always had a "wise leader" and this man was one that exemplified that role at Qimmiqtuuraarjuk across from

Pangnirtung. We recall this man's life with respect. He had six daughters and two sons.

These elders, who are our last great sources of knowledge, are slowly dwindling in numbers and that is quite noticeable. Nonetheless, let us practise our traditional respect and admiration for our elders as well as extend our appreciation.

We are here today only because of our elders' undying commitment to protect the younger generations, even to today. That is what I wanted to express here in recalling this good man and that is why I rose to voice these feelings, Mr. Speaker.

If you were brought up in the real traditional Inuit way, you were never to say an older person's given name and to even practise that is culturally inappropriate, but as is the custom today, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Inusiq Nashalik's legacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 205 – 4(3): Tribute to Inusiq Nashalik

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung. I will talk about the elder that was just mentioned some more.

Inusiq Nashalik was a good advisor of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and everything

you can imagine about the ice and the animals. He will be missed. The people of Pangnirtung will miss him a great deal because he was always on the community radio.

He was my late father's older brother-in-law and I have followed my father's and Inusiq's footsteps. They went hunting and I followed them through some rough ice and Inusiq left his qamutik behind, not knowing the qamutik came off. I couldn't catch up to him through the rough ice while he was travelling by snowmobile. I finally caught up with him and his qamutik was miles away by then. I just couldn't catch up to him, even though he was really old at that time, he was an elder. That's how able he was.

Especially around December, when we were in Pangnirtung, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association had a 40-year anniversary celebration. When they were trying to get land claims, they needed four committee members from the communities. At that time, Inusiq was one of them, representing the elders when land claims was being worked on. I was asked to be there. I was quite young then and there were four of us, like I said.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Mike, please proceed.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

There were four of us on the committee and Inusiq represented the elders, Norman Komoartok represented QIA, and Jaypeetee Akpalialuk represented the HTO. They have also passed away now. Inusiq participated fully. I was representing the hamlet. He was very important back then during the negotiations.

He passed away when he was 98 years old. He experienced things that we have never seen or ever experienced. He was there from day one. At the time our land claims agreement was being worked on, if we were getting confused, when he started talking, he would put things in perspective, not just the Inuit perspective, but the government perspective as well.

We got an award in December just last year from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association when they recognized us. Even though some of our committee members were no longer alive, they were awarded posthumously.

He has helped a great deal for the South Baffin. He helped the land claims for the South Baffin and he enabled us to get the largest land parcel. We managed to get more than 22 percent of Baffin Island while the other regions only got 18 percent. I know that he was fully involved with that.

We love the family that he left behind. We have lost a big person, Inusiq Nashalik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 248 – 4(3): Medical Travel Escort Policy

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Return to an oral question asked by Joe Enook, MLA for Tununiq, asked the Minister of Health, me, No. 248 – 4(3), on March 9, 2016 on the Medical Travel Escort Policy.

Question:

“Do I understand correctly that a nurse or a doctor, when they want a sick person to have an escort, that decision can be taken down by a director, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

Response:

Practitioners send escort requests to a health director for approval. Health directors may seek out more information if necessary and will approve or deny an escort request according to Health’s *Medical Travel Policy* escort criteria.

Medical travel clients are eligible for an escort if they meet one of the following criteria:

- There is a need for legal consent by parent or guardian; or
- The client has a mental or physical condition of a nature that he or she is not able to travel without additional assistance; or
- A unilingual Inuit language-speaking client requires travel to an approved centre where interpreter services are

not available. The client escort will be required to speak both the client’s language and English; or

- The client escort will participate in the client’s treatment program and receive instructions on specific and essential home medical/nursing procedures that cannot be given to the client only; or
- The client is a unilingual Inuit language-speaking client age 65 or older. The client escort will be required to speak both the client’s language and English.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 271 – 4(3): Role of Elders in Court Proceedings

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut and Arctic Bay, our Premier, and my colleagues. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed, as per instructions from one of my constituents, to the Minister of Justice. One of my constituents wanted me to query the minister during one of our sessions about elders who are involved in local court cases.

Elders are now usually included as participants in the trial of an accused. This person asked me about his role. He wanted to know exactly for what

purpose our elders are asked to sit in on these court cases. Can the minister provide some clarification on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get a clear translation. If the member could repeat his question and if I could get a clear translation, please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister didn't understand your question. Please clarify your question, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking about the roles during court proceedings in the communities, where certain elders are involved in the actual court process. I was talking about when a person is facing criminal charges in our justice system.

This elder, who is usually appointed to take part in these court trials, wanted a question asked about the actual role of elders when they are included in these proceedings. He conveyed his experiences during these trials. He stated that he seems to be there just for show, as he is provided with a seat but isn't allowed to try to assert his opinion or to defend the accused. He wanted to find out the reason why elders are included in these court trials. That is what he wanted to understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still not quite sure what the member is asking, but if he is referring to their role on justice committees, they have a very important role. If the individual is diverted to the justice committee, whether it's a youth or another person in town, they could appear before the justice committee and have the justice committee talk to them and then present their decision on what the justice committee recommends, either their punishment for whatever the charge is. The elders have an important role.

I'm not sure if the question is about legal aid, but with respect to legal aid, I can certainly check and get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it is the first time this issue has been brought up, so this is the first time he deals with it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister about this matter. What I am enquiring about is not related to justice committees, but it is specifically related to elders who are included in trial proceedings with a judge and listening to case arguments. The elders involved can provide advice to the accused. I was asking about the actual elders and not the committees the minister alluded to.

My constituent relayed the fact that he is given a seat, yet he is not allowed to offer any advice or reasoning, so he does not know what purpose his role entails.

That is what he wanted me to ask about. If the minister cannot respond now, since this is ongoing, he can perhaps provide the answer at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. I appreciate the question and raising the concern from the elder. Certainly, the elders do have an important role in justice within the communities. If he's referring to the court circuits and sitting with judges, I'll certainly have my officials in the Department of Justice look into that and provide some clarity through our courthouse to the communities on what the role is of elders when they sit there with the judges so that they know exactly what their role is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for saying that he will have his officials provide information later on.

These elders in our community have been involved in this process for quite a while now as part of the court system in various roles to assist the court workers. This government usually makes the statement that elders are involved, but as the elected representative for that constituent who is an elder, he wanted to get a clearer explanation of what is expected of him.

In questioning this government, it is about *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit*. However, it seems this is just used as ammunition, so do we as elders play a meaningful role? We do not.

Is it possible to provide our elders with more authority that is not so legally complicated to try to protect those people on trial before a judge? Can the minister please look into this matter and provide information via correspondence whenever he has the answer and time to do so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank Mr. Shooyook for raising the concern. Again, I will have my officials review this issue and we will provide clarity. I will write a letter to Mr. Shooyook that he can present to his constituent to show them that they have an important role in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 272 – 4(3): Open Custody Placements for Young Offenders

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is also for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister is aware, section 28 of the *Young Offenders Act*, provides that young offenders may be placed in a designated facility for open custody. Subsection 28(1.4) provides that this type of facility “may include a private

residence, a community residential centre, a group home, a child care institution, an outpost camp or a forest or wilderness camp.”

Can the minister describe the steps that his department takes when determining if a young offender can and will be placed in an open custody facility?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. She is quoting a chapter and verse from the *Young Offenders Act*. I was just counting this morning and there are 83 or 86 laws that the Department of Justice is responsible for. I don't think I've got that one reviewed in detail yet.

Mr. Speaker, certainly the Department of Justice would like to see young offenders diverted from the criminal justice system rather than be incarcerated. I believe they consider the individual, what their history is, whether they are a minimum-risk or low-risk candidate for open custody versus a higher risk, and then they would take the necessary steps. There would be counselling involved, interviews, then talking to their case managers, and then they would make recommendations on where they should be placed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with interest from his

business plan I see “open custody” that sparked an interest in me.

Mr. Speaker, in the case where a private residence is designated as an open custody facility to house young offenders, it is important that residents of that home are trained to work with the youth to understand their behaviour and to facilitate their rehabilitation.

Can the minister explain how a facility is designated and prepared to hold young offenders in open custody? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, Ms. Angnakak. I have only been here for a week as Minister of Justice. I just don't have that level of detail, but I can assure her that officials from the Department of Justice are going to put young offenders in open custody in a facility that's conducive to them being rehabilitated and turning away from a life of crime. They're not going to put them in a facility that doesn't meet certain standards. I will have to follow up and get that information for Ms. Angnakak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it's a little early for the minister to also answer my last question, but he could probably include it when he comes back to me with the other.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of measuring the success of rehabilitation programs in Nunavut has been raised in this House on a number of occasions.

Can the minister explain how his department measures the success of its open custody programs in rehabilitating young offenders in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. In the volumes of information I have read in books, manuals, reports, and everything else I have read in the last week, I did read about recidivism. One of the concerns with recidivism is that the department doesn't really have an adequate tool to measure recidivism, but they are working on that. Again, I think it would apply to open custody. I will look into that again and we will respond to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Question 273 – 4(3): Medical
Transient Centre in Churchill,
Manitoba**

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

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Government of Nunavut continues to operate a medical transient centre in

Churchill, Manitoba. There are over five GN employees in Churchill. However, the majority of medical clients from the Kivalliq region travel to Winnipeg for medical services.

Can the minister clarify why we continue to operate a medical transit centre in Churchill, Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. I'm not sure of the current situation in Churchill, so I will have to get back to him. I'll take the question as (interpretation ends) notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice. I shall proceed to the next. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

**Question 274 – 4(3): Nunavut Food
Strategy and the Niqittivak
Committee**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2014, the 2014-16 *Nunavut Food Strategy Action Plan* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This action plan indicates that the Department of Family Services is the lead for the Niqittivak Committee, whose purpose is "to explore the factors that influence the cost, quality and

accessibility of food in Nunavut, and to make policy and program recommendations with the ultimate goal of improving access to market food for Nunavummiut.”

Can the minister describe who sits on the Niqittiavak Committee and can he indicate how often the committee meets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. I will have to get back to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice. I shall proceed to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Question 275 – 4(3): Supporting the Mianiqsijit Society

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

In my Member’s Statement earlier today, I spoke of the important services being provided by the Mianiqsijit Society to the community of Baker Lake. Services such as these, which help to promote and support good mental health and well-being, are very important, especially when the services offered by our government are so limited.

Can the minister provide an update on how many such non-governmental organizations or societies across Nunavut receive financial support from the government for the good work that they do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, there are so many programs out there that support mental health and addictions programs, one of which the member has quoted. These are organizations that are funded through a government program to the hamlet offices.

We continue as Health supports community-based service development through grants that are available to local hamlets and other organizations. There are things like healthy children, families and communities, parents and tots, and the Inunnguiniq parenting program. The list goes on, one of which he mentioned, Mamisainiq Wellness Centre, and I commend all those people who put these programs in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Department of Health is working very hard to increase services in the areas of mental health and counselling. However, it is clear that community-based organizations, such as the Mianiqsijit Society in Baker Lake, bring an extra dimension to providing

support to residents who need counselling and assistance.

Can the minister clarify how her department supports the ongoing work of community-based organizations which provide such services as mental health counselling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There are lots of services that are available to Nunavut communities; mental health assessments, mental health monitoring and case management, counselling, addictions counselling, crisis intervention, suicide risk assessments, safety planning, appointments with visiting psychiatrists for patients, referrals to treatment within Nunavut, referrals for out-of-territory care, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, as we have heard throughout this sitting, a number of organizations which provide important counselling services are facing financial uncertainty. Will the minister commit to giving positive consideration to funding requests submitted by such organizations so that they can continue doing their good work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. In 2015-16, Health made \$1.3 million available to the hamlets for the delivery of alcohol and drug counselling services. Health is still developing an addictions treatment model that will be used to inform capacity development and we continue. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, Health has made another \$1.3 million in grants available to hamlets for alcohol and drug counselling services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 276 – 4(3): Medical Travel Escort Policy

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. To Pond Inlet residents and fellow Nunavummiut, good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) I have some excellent questions to the Minister of Health today.

(interpretation) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. It is regarding a written response to my oral question. In reading the response, it does not even answer my question.

Mr. Speaker, let me preface this question by referring to my question as written in the Inuktitut *Hansard* for March 9 on page 30. I will read the question, and I know that these are the *Blues* and not the final version.

Nonetheless, this was the question I was asking, and I quote, “Do I understand it correctly that when a nurse or doctor wants a sick person to have an escort, that decision can be taken down by a director, yes or no?” That was my question at the time. Due to the lack of response to this question, I am asking it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am unsure of what to add to my previous response, Mr. Speaker, but the (interpretation ends) director (interpretation) positions have the final authority to approve or deny a request. The recommendations are submitted to the directors, but as the department’s financial authority, they are the only ones who determine if the doctor or nurse is following policy directives. Even with an escort request, their responsibility as the financial manager requires that they review each request individually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. That clarifies the matter.

Let me now ask this question: if the director, who is the financial authority, denies a request for whatever reason they consider valid, who can the patient appeal to if they feel they need an escort? Is there an appeal mechanism in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. Yes, a patient can make an appeal if their request for an escort is denied. The director also reports to a supervisor. A denied request for an escort can be resubmitted by the nurse or doctor who submitted the original request. The second request is further reviewed and if it is denied again, you would then appeal to the director’s supervisor, who is the (interpretation ends) regional director. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question. Perhaps I’ll use myself as an example. If I have to use this appeal process and I believe I should be escorted and wish to appeal to the regional director, how long does a decision take for these types of requests to appeal these denials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regional director has to provide a response right away. If they have to look into it, the response would take longer if it’s complicated. If it’s a simple matter, it would be decided on right away; if not, it should not take too many days from the time of the request. I will repeat that it’s not only the regional director. If they want to appeal

a decision and they are not satisfied with the response, it would be good to also approach the (interpretation ends) patient relations (interpretation) staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 277 – 4(3): Status of Children’s Group Home in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Rankin Inlet.

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

Mr. Speaker, the government’s 2015-16 capital plan included \$1.1 million for renovations to the children’s group home in Rankin Inlet to turn it into a mental health transition home. Last summer, the Department of Community and Government Services completed an assessment on the facility with respect to the work and costs needed for this renovation.

Can the minister provide an update on the results of this assessment and indicate what the final recommendations were? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member from

Rankin Inlet. I have not yet had a briefing, so I will (interpretation ends) take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice. I shall proceed to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 278 – 4(3): Legal Training Program

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College related to an announcement earlier about the law program that will be offered in 2017. I would like to ask what the status of that program is today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that program. It is a very good question. It is our wish to continue the law program. To date, the replies to the RFP that was issued are being reviewed to determine which institution will deliver this program.

We expect that during this winter of 2016, an institution will be selected. Further, the (interpretation ends) evaluation committee (interpretation) is comprised of representatives from the college, the Department of Justice, and

the Department of Community and Government Services. The committee will evaluate the proposals.

In addition to this committee, we have an advocacy group for the program, which is the (interpretation ends) Law Society of Nunavut, (interpretation) and we will include them when we are contemplating the actual choice of a partnering (interpretation ends) university (interpretation) that will offer this course.

To date, there are two proposals. One is from the (interpretation ends) University of Victoria (interpretation) that, as you may remember, was part of the inaugural Akitsiraq Law Program. (interpretation ends) The University of Ottawa, (interpretation) has provided the only other proposal for the RFP for the continuation of the law program we are planning.

We expect later this winter to identify the program as well as the goal that we have committed to, which is September of 2017. This is the information I have regarding the law program and our plans to continue offering it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is good to hear. I hope to see it succeed as a program. Members are asked quite often about the program and when the start dates are, including when selections will be made and where people can apply for the program. Does the minister have a rough timeframe for the program opening? I would like to know so that I can

encourage the people who wish to apply to this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for continuing with that question. In response to the member's first question, I can state that we have plans to fund up to 25 students for the law program, but that has not been finalized yet. Our expectations are to have 25 spots open.

Interested people can apply to Nunavut Arctic College starting now. When the applications are screened and reviewed, as per my earlier statement, in collaboration with (interpretation ends) the Law Society of Nunavut, (interpretation) students will be selected to then take this course. We will work together to identify up to 25 students, which is our goal for this course when it is being offered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 279 – 4(3): Nunavut's Water Supply

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, water supplies vary across Nunavut's many communities. In some

communities, there are concerns that current water sources will not be adequate as the population grows and demands increase. In every community, there are concerns over water quality and the safety of supply.

Mr. Speaker, we seem to have strategies for everything. Can the minister inform this House whether or not the Government of Nunavut has a water strategy to address such issues as source, quality, and supply of water across Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. There are two separate issues here, water quality and water quantity. I'll deal with the water quantity first.

I think most, if not all, communities have a reservoir and the capacity of each reservoir is monitored by the hamlets and CGS hears about how much is left at the end of the season. The end of the season means the lowest point of water because we all know that all the reservoirs freeze over. When there is a concern brought up that the quantity is not enough, we take measures to address the issue.

For quality of water, we have checks that are always made. I believe they are made daily on the chlorine levels of the water that is actually pumped out of reservoirs. We have had a few instances where some municipalities have been short on water. Those issues are addressed through here by asking for funding to

either increase their capacity or build a new reservoir, whatever it may be.

I don't think we have an overall strategy right now in terms of dealing with the issues of water as a territory as a whole. It's more or less dealt with on each community base because most communities' water supply and water quality are monitored and are okay. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Mr. Speaker, reports of water contamination in other jurisdictions are quite frightening and it seems they may have been avoided if proper testing had been done in the first place.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of contaminants are tested for in Nunavut's drinking water and how often? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I know that the chlorine levels are checked daily by CGS workers. Biological samples are also taken usually when the reservoirs are being filled and then after they're filled.

We're luckier than most cities in Canada that we have good water quality up here to start off with, so we don't have to worry about our water being so contaminated and we don't get our water

from the ground because well, we don't have any water in the ground. It's frozen solid, even in the summer, so we're lucky in that way.

We do monitor the quality of the water because water safety is a big issue and it's a health-related issue. It's checked thoroughly. If there are any indicators that the water quality is not what it's supposed to be, then it is acted on immediately. As the member may be aware, at times, there are boil water advisories until we can correct the problem for the water quality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the minister says, although in Nunavut, comparatively, we have clean water and the contamination risk is low, water in most communities is treated to prevent the spread of bacteria.

Water treatment activities have the potential to include such additives as fluoride, which has been shown to prevent tooth decay, a significant problem for Nunavut's younger generation. Can the minister clarify whether all Nunavut communities fluoridate their water and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't confirm whether all communities get fluoride treatment in their water source, but I believe they do.

This is my understanding of it. The fluoride is put into the reservoir and if your reservoir is a lake-bearing reservoir that has fish in it, well, you're not going to put fluoride in there. The fish have pretty good teeth anyway, so I don't think they need any fluoride.

>>*Laughter*

We are just concerned about people's teeth. There are issues with it, but as far as I know, most communities do have fluoride in their water. Thank you.

An Hon. Member: No way.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 280 – 4(3): Nunavut Arctic College Course to Replace CARS Training

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, Nunavut Arctic College in the Kivalliq offered courses for the CARS program so that local Nunavummiut could get the appropriate training to fill positions at community airports. Now that the CARS contract is no longer in place, Nunavut Arctic College no longer offers this program.

Can the minister indicate what courses are being considered to replace the CARS training and provide Kivalliq residents with training for job opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, as you will remember, it is true that they used to offer CARS training in Rankin Inlet, but it is still not a part of our jurisdiction. It is offered by others and they have made a decision that this training program be in Fort Smith. We just followed the request because we're not responsible for that. To date, the CARS training program is still in Fort Smith. We are trying to consider it, but we don't have jurisdiction over it.

Even my son took that CARS training program in Rankin Inlet and he started working afterwards. However, we want to have a discussion on that. This is out of our jurisdiction and they make their own decisions. It is operated by them, but we will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We totally understand that (interpretation ends) CARS (interpretation) was not run by Nunavut Arctic College. However, what I am asking about is related to this issue.

Are any other training courses being considered similar to the program that was offered in the Kivalliq region so that Nunavummiut can learn the skills they need to fill jobs in the region? Has the institution looked at offering other

related training programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for continuing with his line of questioning. We should recall that there are different courses and programs offered by Arctic College. As a matter of fact, I have asked Arctic College to research courses we have not offered previously that can be offered here. I refer to courses that were not available during high school, so that initiative is under development related to our colleague's concern.

Part of the reason for looking at new courses that our college can offer is to provide choices. We have looked at courses such as policing to allow Nunavummiut to become police officers. This is amongst the new courses we are considering, such as the (interpretation ends) by-law officers (interpretation) in our communities. These are the types of new courses we are looking at including at Arctic College that didn't exist previously. We are trying to do a comprehensive review.

With respect to (interpretation ends) CARS (interpretation) for air traffic control, it is specific to aerodrome communications between the aircraft and the local radio communicators. It will most likely be offered, but it won't be offered here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is important that adults are able to stay close to their home and families when it comes to getting training for employment. Can the minister clearly describe what efforts are being made to identify and offer courses at Nunavut Arctic College that will provide individuals with the skills they need to fill jobs available in the region? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have 25 communities in Nunavut and almost all of them have a community learning centre. The instructors in the community learning centres are supposed to ask their communities every year which programs they would like introduced in the college. "What new programs would you like taught?" is what the community learning centre instructors are supposed to ask every year in their communities.

We're very open to the communities and we would like to see new things, but let us be aware that we will need to get instructors for whatever new program we introduce. That's what we have to consider. We're very open to the communities and to what each community wants taught.

If we can remember, in Rankin Inlet, it's not just a community learning centre; it's a trade school as well. They teach you

how to make things or learn how to drive different kinds of vehicles, including heavy equipment vehicles. We have a training school there and they can learn different things such as oil burner mechanic and different trades like that that are available in the Rankin Inlet training centre.

We're very happy about having different programs available. For the different communities, for example, in Pond Inlet, we are looking at working with Baffinland. We want to create new programs. That's what we want to do. That's my response to my colleague's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 101 – 4(3): Letter to Minister Bill Morneau, PC MP Regarding the Northern Residents Deduction

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table a letter to Minister Bill Morneau, MP, Privy Council, regarding the Northern Residents Deduction. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Tabled Document 102 – 4(3):
Environmental Rights Act Annual
Report, January 1, 2015 to
December 31, 2015**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 103 – 4(3): Report
Respecting Benefits Paid to
Ministers under the Ministerial
Benefits Policies, Fiscal Year
Ending March 31, 2015**

**Tabled Document 104 – 4(3):
Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit
Annual Report April 1, 2012 to
March 31, 2013**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tabling documents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policy for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 *Annual*

Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Joe Enook.

**Tabled Document 105 – 4(3): Nipiit –
Canada’s Inuit Youth Magazine –
11th Issue**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am happy and proud to announce the tabling of the 11th newsletter from the National Youth Council of Canada called “Nipiit.”

This newsletter was created specifically by Inuit for youth and by our youth. The National Youth Council of Canada approves and produces this newsletter. Currently, Canada’s Inuit Youth Council is led by one of our own, a person from Nunavut, Maatalii Okalik, and she is the president.

Mr. Speaker, the primary reason for tabling this document is to showcase a particularly commemorative article relating the story of the first Nunavut Inuk who has become a medical doctor. Her name is Ms. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of

Documents. I have one. Actually, I have three items to table today.

Tabled Document 106 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period July to September 2015

Tabled Document 107 – 4(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December 2015

Tabled Document 108 – 4(3): Report to the Management and Services Board on Contracting Activity for the Legislative Assembly Year Ended March 31, 2015

The first item is the Annual Report of Ministers’ Indemnities, Expenses, Benefits, and Allowances for the Period of July to September 2015.

The second item is the Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December 2015.

The third item is the Report to the Management and Services Board on Contracting Activities for the Legislative Assembly for the Year Ended March 31, 2015. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 022 – 4(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 30, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Motion 023 – 4(3): Addressing the Needs of Elders – Notice

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that this House formally urges the Government of Nunavut to develop an updated and comprehensive strategy, action plan, and financial framework to address the needs of Nunavut’s elders, including the thematic areas addressed in this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of

Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Motion 022 – 4(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 30, 2016.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the

Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Akoak 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.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:02 and Committee resumed at 15:35*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, Inuit, Nunavummiut, and MLAs.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 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. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Environment, followed by the departments of Culture and Heritage, Justice, and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we continue with the

main estimates for the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: *Iqsuqtii*, please assist the staff to go to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister, please introduce your staff. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, my colleagues. I also thank you for the opportunity to have the Department of Environment appear in front of the committee. First of all, my Deputy Minister of Environment is Gabriel Nirlungayuk and the Director of Finance, Nikki Nweze.

Chairman: Thank you. We did all the opening comments on Saturday. Are there any general comments? Seeing none, turn to page I- 4. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want further clarification on an issue that was brought up earlier. If you would allow me, I have a question on the opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. On page 5, I didn't see it in the business plan or maybe I just missed it, but you state that "In 2015-16, we provided training to residents of Pond Inlet with a focus on turbot." It just ends there. So what's next? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just pointed it out in the opening comments. That was for 2015-16. Quite a while back, there was training provided to people of Pond Inlet with a focus on turbot. That's the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my question because that's the way it is. Is any follow-up going to be provided or do you have some kind of future planning for turbot fishing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. We have been fishing inland and offshore. We have provided that training on turbot fishing because the residents of Pond Inlet asked for it. It indicates here that the Department of Environment did provide the training to the residents of Pond Inlet with a focus on turbot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on general comments. Turn to page I-4. Branch Summary. Environment. Corporate Management. I-4. Mr.

Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on L-4 in the Inuktitut version?

Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. I have a question. For the 2016-19 business plan of the Department of Environment, it says that they had 131.5 positions as of September 30, 2015. Can you indicate how many of these conservation officer positions have been filled?

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I heard the question correctly. Is he asking about 2015-16?

Mr. Shooyook: 2016-19.

Chairman: 2016-19.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. To date, if you are referring to positions, there are 43 vacant positions and 88 are filled. That's what is written there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): In your business plan for 2016-19, department is "considering organizational changes to the department to enhance Inuit employment in field officer positions." Can you clarify what specific changes your department is considering and how these changes will allow it to enhance Inuit employment in field officer positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is one of the projects that is ongoing that would result in improvements, especially related to the staff housing for positions we advertise since our department isn't identified as a priority for government staff housing initiatives. This is why the number of positions filled seems rather low related to Inuit employment and non-beneficiaries.

There have been some changes in our staff levels, particularly in the Igloolik offices, which is a (interpretation ends) decentralized (interpretation) community and we have created jobs that include on-the-job training components. This is continuing and our focus on managerial positions related to territorial parks has been part of that initiative.

If I didn't answer the question directly, the information was also identified within our 2015-18 business plan as a priority and we have just continued that in the 2016-19 business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. This aspect apparently has not changed drastically as I seem to understand. I will again ask whether the initiative is being implemented, as I did not hear that response.

In your business plan for 2016-19 concerning the Environmental Technology Program, the Department of Environment states, "Many graduates of the program have gone on to work for

the Government of Nunavut in various capacities.”

Can you provide further details about the Environmental Technology Program and how many graduates are currently employed by your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for asking that question. We utilize Arctic College and we’re trying to train more Inuit in the Environmental Technology Program. Once they graduate, they work not only with the Nunavut government but also with other employers. The graduates are also hired by the Department of Environment.

Mr. Chairman, up to and including 2016, there are a little over 131 positions and only 88 of them are filled. Out of those 88, 31 are beneficiaries. It’s only at 35 percent. We would like to increase that number. There was also a training program in Arviat and we sent a graduate to Igloolik so that he could receive on-the-job training. We use a variety of options.

However, government employees need to be provided housing and the Department of Environment is not a priority when it comes to staff housing. There are other departments that are placed as a priority.

You have asked me quite a number of questions on this issue. There are 18 casual positions and nine of them are filled by non-beneficiaries. Some of the positions with on-the-job training are

also vacant, but we are trying to keep that going through *Sivumut Abluqta*.

With your question and looking into the future, we would like to see those positions enhanced, but the Department of Environment is not a priority when it comes to staff housing. That’s the main issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. I’ll ask you another question. In the past, I have raised a number of issues concerning vacancies in your department’s office in Igloolik.

The government’s September 30, 2015, quarterly employment report indicates that 7 of the 43.5 vacant positions in your department are located in this decentralized office. What specific actions is your department taking to address this issue? Will all the vacant positions in Igloolik be filled, as per their concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we are well aware of the vacant positions that have not been filled for a long time, even those positions that are to be filled by Inuit. It has been like that for a variety of reasons. We are always trying to find ways to deal with this issue. Even though this has been the focus of action, it seems nothing much could be done.

We are really working hard to have those vacant positions filled in Igloolik. We sent a person to Igloolik. Wildlife

issues may be very important, such as when it comes to the *Wildlife Regulations*. That is why we keep sending people to Igloolik because of the constant failure to fill the position there. We would find a beneficiary here in Iqaluit, send them to Igloolik, and hire them as trainees, taking on-the-job training. That is what we are trying to do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To further clarify that, Mr. Minister, you stated that you are always giving it consideration. Please indicate to us what exactly you are doing to work on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'll restate what I just said. We're working with other departments and divisions concerning management positions. As I just said, the field officers in wildlife will be training on the job. We have moved it from Arviat to Igloolik to further develop this so that beneficiaries can start getting into these positions. This takes a lot of work. The problem is we are not filling these vacancies, but we're always considering better ways of furthering this. This has taken a lot of work, but it's slowly moving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, you probably

have the numbers for environmental officers. How many of those positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for asking that question. Since it's an operational issue, my deputy minister will respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. From what I can remember, there are vacant positions in Coral Harbour, Kimmirut, (interpretation ends) Grise Fiord, (interpretation) and the position in Gjoa Haven is now posted as well as in Kugaaruk. These are the vacant positions as of today.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why are they vacant? Do you advertise them? Are there no applicants or is it, as the minister stated, because of a lack of housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is an operational issue, my deputy minister will respond.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Yes, some of that is due to lack of housing. However, in the case of Gjoa Haven, staff housing

is available. With respect to Kugaaruk, Coral Harbour, and Kimmirut, we do face this challenge of housing, but we are looking for units for these positions.

With respect to the second matter, I can state that we now have what we call (interpretation ends) wildlife guardians (interpretation) who already reside in the community. We have one working in Coral Harbour. We are negotiating with the communities related to the (interpretation ends) conservation officer II. (interpretation) For the (interpretation ends) conservation officer II position, (interpretation) due to the unavailability of housing, we are trying to hire (interpretation ends) wildlife guardians (interpretation) who live in the communities that can assist our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first I have heard of (interpretation ends) wildlife guardians. (interpretation) I have to try to translate it into Inuktitut. What do they do and do all communities have them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. This being a day-to-day thing, I'll give it to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Enook. The communities need day-to-day assistance in different areas like the issuing of tags. They provide support

to us that way. The communities need to be visited. For instance, a (interpretation ends) conservation officer (interpretation) from Taloyoak travels occasionally to Kugaaruk. When the conservation officer visits there, they are provided assistance, but they don't live in that community. We haven't provided them training, but they assist us as (interpretation ends) wildlife guardians. (interpretation) If they want to, they apply as (interpretation ends) conservation officers (interpretation) in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll ask the minister a legal question. It is not really a day-to-day operational issue. One of you stated that there is housing available in Gjoa Heaven for a conservation officer. The minister stated earlier that the Department of Environment is not a priority when the GN is allocating staff housing. Our government has policies that conservation officers are provided housing in some communities, but it is not approved in other communities. Is that the way it is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are differences there, as I understand it. As I stated earlier, the Department of Environment is not a priority unlike the departments of Education and Health. Those two departments are given top priority and the Department of Environment is not up there. That's why

I stated it that way.

Some positions come with housing. In the case of when a conservation officer resigns, we have to reopen the position to competition. If a unit is available, then that position can be advertised right away. However, some communities don't have housing available. Many positions are available. As I said earlier, we have 131 positions in the Department of Environment, but only 88 of those are filled. I'm using that as an example. Yes, there are different reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Are there different rules under Government of Nunavut legislation related to the conservation officer positions? Does that mean that each community is treated differently? As an example, the minister alluded to some positions that are provided with housing while others don't qualify for this benefit. Why is this government arbitrarily treating each community differently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Long-term employees who retire are easier to replace with the housing benefit because housing becomes available when their government unit is vacated. What I spoke to earlier was that in some communities, there is absolutely no housing available.

I cannot answer the part of the question related to government positions and allocation of housing, as I don't speak

for their respective departments. I am just stating that once we are informed of an available housing unit for a position under our department, we can move ahead with hiring. This is how it was set up. For government employee staff housing allocations, we are not responsible for determining that and I want that clearly understood. I do understand that members know we don't have that authority over unit allocations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, when I spoke to that issue, I doubt I referred even once to government staff generically. I was only referring to conservation officers and I was trying to be consistent. I also kept using that Inuktitut title when speaking about conservation officers, as I was not even referring to any other departmental staff, at least I don't think I was.

What I have been trying to get at through my questions is, based on my understanding, units are available for these conservation officer positions in some communities, but this department doesn't provide housing for others. That is what I think I am being led to understand. What is your current policy now? As the department, can you or can't you provide housing for conservation officers? If you can provide housing for some positions, why isn't this applicable for every community?

If the answer is that this department doesn't provide housing, why does this department provide housing in the other communities? I really want to be clearly understood here. I see a big discrepancy

between the departmental approaches to certain communities on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated before, housing is very complicated for the Department of Environment. As the Department of Environment, we have nothing to do with housing allocations. What I did say was that if an employee resigned and the unit they are housed in is kept towards the Department of Environment, it is possible to allocate housing as that unit is available.

With respect to government housing allocations, the minister responsible can provide greater clarity as to how the process is laid out so that members understand how units can be allocated. To reiterate, the Department of Environment does not have any discretion in allocating units that are identified as (interpretation ends) GN staff housing (interpretation) for public servants. That is run by another department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I doubt we will ever come to a common understanding between you and I on this subject, so I should move to another issue. Apparently, you cannot get the gist of my question. Let me move to another issue I want to ask about.

In May, you stated that you had completed the review for the Harvester Support Program. During your review, how closely were you working with

Nunavut Tunngavik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Environment was contemplating the review on the Harvester Support Program. As the previous co-managers of the program, NTI and our government, we thought it would be a joint review.

NTI made an announcement that they would conduct a review of their Nunavut Harvester Support Program in 2014, which pretty well stopped the review process in its tracks. We then proceeded with this review unilaterally, although we kept NTI informed as it proceeded and requested NTI's report on the review of their program. NTI did not present any information regarding that other than their announcement to stop the program for some time, and that was the reason.

As a government, we only reviewed the Harvester Support Program within our mandate and we worked with the communities and regions during the review. That's all. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you elaborate for us what the key areas were during your review of the Harvester Support Program? Can you highlight some of the issues of that review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. I believe that they consulted with us very well in regard to your question. It turns out that there have been some support programs that are no longer being used and they wanted to enhance others that they are interested in using.

Let me identify the areas that we reviewed. They were harvesters and HTOs, what they were interested in and wanted to know about especially. They wanted to find out about some of the support that is no longer going to be continuing.

During our review, the biggest one seemed to be the harvesters' compensation for loss of equipment. That is what we heard. This includes the HTOs and RWOs needing more financial support. These were some of the issues brought to our attention under this review.

The local organizational systems used by the communities related to representing the hunters no longer became an issue afterwards. Those were the concerns that were highlighted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, you were apprised of these concerns related to the needs of the local organizations that have been at the forefront for quite some time. You also said earlier, which piqued my interest, that apparently some programs have been continued that are not even necessary. What examples can you provide in that regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I can provide further details here. As the local HTOs stated, the funds for the (interpretation ends) community organized hunt (interpretation) has not been used for quite some time. Actually, we knew that this fund allocation was included in their annual budgets, but it was used to compensate hunters who lost equipment. Since the compensation assistance provided is considered inadequate, the funds were moved from this line item to alleviate the funding challenges and it was moved from (interpretation ends) the community organized hunt (interpretation) funds to their general funds for that reason. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, with respect to your departmental review of the programs, when do you expect to table the report outlining the review findings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): With respect to the review, we have planned to complete the report and make it available by April 1 and that is still our goal. Some issues have surfaced leading us to believe that it will be completed not too long after April 1, within a few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recommendation was to table this by April 1. You won't reach

this target date, but you added that it should not be too long after that date when the report can become available. Can you provide an indication of what new support programs you are planning to implement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There really are not any new support programs. We have focused on the needs identified by the communities, such as increasing the funding provided from the current amounts. The budget allocated to the organizations will not change, as it does not increase nor decrease.

The only possible new program that I expect would be specific to full-time hunters who depend solely on their harvests to support their lifestyle and how the Department of Environment can better support them. We have explored ways to try to assist them and that would be the only new initiative that has come out of the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll return to this matter once again. As I seem to understand that there are no specific new programs, I heard that the department will not seek additional funding nor did you request any increases. Now that leads me to ask about your existing programs and the proposed amended programs related to the policy applications. Is that regulations or departmental objectives? Have you had to change the program criteria?

I would like to cite this example based on the minister's comments. We received correspondence from Pond Inlet about an elder who is 73 years old, who is a full-time hunter, and who lost their snowmobile. The letter this elder received stated that loss suffered due to personal risk-taking or hunting during times of dangerous conditions does not qualify for compensation. This was the response given to a 73-year-old elder, who has been hunting his entire life, and you belittle him with that type of bureaucratic nonsense? This elder was identified by the local HTO as qualifying for compensation, as well as by the conservation officer, but this is too much.

Are you going to remove these barriers when you implement changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This, indeed, is a complicated matter and we all know that. In this day and age, compared to then and today, conditions sometimes cause incidents. After the review, we expect to have some recommendations to improve the current programs that tended to be barriers in the past. That is my expectation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will this just be another expectation, as you stated, or will this actually occur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): The budget for compensation to hunters who lose their equipment will be increased quite a bit. We know that it's going to be a bigger budget for that item. However, with the policies and all the things that we heard during the consultations, we have to promote that more. Although it's easy to do, we're running late in some aspects of this. Our target date is April 1 and that's one of the reasons why it's running late. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact that you're going to be increasing the budget quite a bit is good to hear. We're happy to hear it. However, with the details and if the policies that make it impossible for people to get money aren't changed, then it won't matter if you add more money to it.

You have heard that there's all this money available, but here are the barriers that prevent us from getting it. That's what we hear in the communities. You tell us that there's all this money and then you tell us there are these barriers that will not allow you to get this money. Will all these roadblock policies be changed as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have used up the entire compensation budget in the past. Please be aware of that. We even had to take money out of other budget items to transfer to that budget

item because of the requests for it. It has been depleted a number of times and that's why we're increasing it.

As I stated earlier, the things that we hear through the review from the communities is the reason why we have increased the budget. Hunters are losing their equipment and need support. It came from what we heard from the communities and that's what's going to happen. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Your 24-second question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. Just so that we all understand and the hunters will have the same expectations, I'm trying to ask this question. Once you increase that budget, it will still be impossible to access if you don't change your policies. It will remain impossible to get money from it. I'm trying to ask if you will amend your regulations or policies so that the money will be more accessible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Like I stated earlier, we have spent the whole budget in the past for compensation support for people who have lost their equipment and we are adding 100 percent to it. That's the request that we got and that's what we're going to do. As I said, the policy will be looked at and it will follow what we have heard from the communities. What we heard from the review will help us improve things. We know that previously, there was not enough money in the budget.

In Coral Harbour, they once lost 10 snowmobiles along with all their equipment and the Kivalliq Inuit Association helped because we couldn't pay for all of them. The Coral Harbour hunters were helped because we didn't have enough money in our budget to help them all. We got help from the Kivalliq Inuit Association. The government and Inuit organization worked together very well on behalf of those hunters.

Let us be aware that we have spent the entire budget before. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments from yesterday, I just want it clarified. On page 2, it says, "The increase includes \$360,000 funding for climate change initiatives..." It sounds like the Nunavut government will have a lot of work to do under that. I just want more information on that. What is it for exactly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I thank my colleague for asking that question. It has been raised, and not just here, the fact that we need workers to monitor climate change and so we're requesting money to hire two people for climate change initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, if you have any more questions on climate change, it's on I-5. Mr. Qirngnuq.

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

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq, if you have questions on climate change, I'll recognize you on page I-5. If you have other questions, please ask them on I-4. Thank you.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask that question at the appropriate time. I have another question on that topic as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The positions were mentioned earlier. I wish to get further clarification related to vacant positions. You identified these 43 vacant positions earlier in answering questions to our colleagues. With respect to these 43 vacant positions at the headquarter level, what exactly are these positions? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Perhaps I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) It's for different categories, from executive, senior management, middle

management, professionals such as biologists, paraprofessionals, biologist helper, and administration support. It varies. With senior management, we have 3 vacancies; middle management, we have 9 vacancies; professionals, 10 vacancies; paraprofessionals, 19.5, so don't ask me about that 0.5 position; administration support, we have 3 vacancies. That averages to about 43 positions, I believe. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to your budget, under salaries, there is \$3,336,000 budgeted, but there are no changes to the figures from last year to this year. If these vacant positions were filled, do you know if that would result in increases to this budget line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the person who handles that kind of work, Nikki, to respond to that, please.

Chairman: Thank you. If I mispronounce your name, Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The salaries in the amount of \$3.3 million on I-4 is just for corporate management positions. We have 15 positions in corporate management, we only have about four positions vacant, and we are currently doing interviews on the two positions. Only two positions are vacant after for corporate management. That's what the \$3.3 million represents.

It's not the entire vacant positions in the department.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. Things are becoming a little confusing, to say the least. Now, about this statement on page I-4 where it speaks about dealing with legislative requirements under the Planning and Legislation Division, what are the types of activities you plan on undertaking here or what legislative amendments are planned here? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I would like Nikki to respond to that again, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the legislation developments is on that policy division and they do policy work and planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I don't think you understood my question. (interpretation ends) The question I had here was legislation development. What legislation are you considering as development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Mikkungwak. We have wildlife (interpretation ends) regulations (interpretation) in place that are slowly being implemented once approved. There are regulations required for some species and we've had to employ specialists to deal with issues such as the caribou management, wolf issues, and other terrestrial species that are part of our mandate. As more regulations appear or if we need to amend the legislation, to use an example of polar bear management zones and if these changed, we would have to amend our legislation. That position would be responsible for that.

If I didn't answer adequately, it may be because I didn't understand the question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That was understandable. With your response, what is the priority when it comes to legislation development or if there is a need to amend legislation regarding wildlife management in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If the minister is willing to answer that question, it's almost a hypothetical question. Do you want to rephrase it, Mr. Mikkungwak?

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official identified possible legislative amendments regarding wildlife and a number of wildlife was identified. Which one

would be prioritized as number one? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. I'm not able to say at this point, but we are currently working on Baffin caribou and that is one of our priorities. As we have an ongoing monitoring of polar bears between Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven in the (interpretation ends) McClintock Channel and western Hudson Bay, (interpretation) I can't tell you exactly which one is going to be of high priority, but those are the two that we're currently working on.

We work closely with NWMB and once the drafts are completed, I can tell you that those two are of high priority. Baffin Island caribou and polar bear management would be the priorities. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the last paragraph, strategic planning for the department, I would like to know exactly what your department is going to be doing about the vacant positions. What are you doing in the office to fill vacant positions? There are 43 vacant positions. Looking at that, is that one of your priorities? What kinds

of plans do you have in your office?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand your question and neither did my officials. Could you rephrase your question?

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your overall strategic planning for the department, what are you entailing in that particular sentence/phrase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have our official from the (interpretation ends) corporate office, Nikki, (interpretation) respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategic plan entails organizing the programs we will do during the year. It includes our financial planning, human resources planning, and all the planning that the department will be working on during the year. That's what the strategic plan is for in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

You touched on it earlier, but again, where would compensation of equipment for hunters fit in the itemized lines here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk: Mr. Chairman, can you give me one second?

(interpretation) Thank you. I also thank Mr. Mikkungwak. It would be under grants and contributions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much. The minister indicated earlier that in Coral Harbour, 10 hunters had lost their vehicles and all of their equipment last year. With those types of losses, I think that number should be higher than what it is now if it is to benefit more Nunavummiut. It is \$25,000 for one whole year. Is that going to be enough? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you are referring to the (interpretation ends) Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. (interpretation) The member seem to connect all of these together with the assistance provided to the Coral Harbour hunters who lost their snowmobiles, as this is covered in the

(interpretation ends) Disaster Compensation Program. (interpretation) For example, if damage is caused by a polar bear, funds have always been available for compensation. These are two pots of money under grants and contributions that are accessed for compensation for damage to hunters' equipment. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated earlier, there was going to be an increase to the damage compensation for hunters, but under I-4, the official indicated that it will be under grants and contributions. I don't see any increases in the amount to date. Looking at the numbers under I-6, it's the same number right across the board. Could you elaborate on that? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is appropriate to discuss those matters. From what I know, there are three different components of the program that can be accessed for compensation. One is for wildlife damage, one for natural disasters, and one for the loss of irreplaceable equipment, which we call a different name. It's something that is very close to your question. Ms. Nweze will elaborate further on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$25,000 grants and contributions under I-5 is contribution we give for

Students on Ice, a contribution annually. If you go back to our grants and contributions summary under I-6, you will see that we have Disaster Compensation, which is \$40,000. It is our budget for that. We also have Wildlife Damage Compensation, another \$40,000 in our budget. We also have Wildlife Damage Prevention contribution, which is \$50,000. We have different, specific contributions for different programs in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how much more simpler I can make it.

An Hon. Member: Try.

Mr. Mikkungwak: I'll give it a try with the time allotted here.

When you look at compensation for property damages or property replacements, and the minister and officials have identified that there are going to be increments, but when you look at I-6, Revised Estimates 2015-16, \$1,838,000, and then when you look at your Main Estimates 2016-17, \$1,813,000, that's a decrease of \$25,000. Where can I find the increment on the compensation in the grants and contributions considering that when you follow all the numbers, there seems to be no changes but actually a decrease, in fact, compared to the revised and main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

commented on this the first time I was asked questions, there was an increase and decrease, but for the compensation programs, they are provided \$500,000 in total and that amount will not change. That is why I stated earlier that we can move them around. As I said, we will be making an addition after April 1. The figure will not change. Once we amend it, the government will have to approve it, but this is how they are written right now. We're just following our main estimates, but within that budget, the figure of \$500,000 will not change, especially for compensation programs. I hope I'm clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll have to review the document more.

When we look at compensation, are you only considering property damage? As the minister is well aware, last year, I believe I had asked the minister regarding loss of life while out in the wilderness. Currently, the compensation that we are discussing is just in reference to property. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main things I talked about were the monies we are able to control internally, which will not increase or decrease.

With line by line, we provide assistance to the hunters and trappers organizations in the communities, wildlife damage prevention for consideration, wildlife damage compensation for equipment or

material things, and then there are natural disasters that they lose equipment from.

There is the Community Organized Hunts, the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, and the Humane Trap Development Program that all fit within what I keep talking about under the \$500,000. Some programs will not carry over while others will. I tried to clarify that. The \$500,000 directed to assistance programs will increase, as I stated earlier, for equipment damaged by wildlife or loss of equipment due to weather. We have spent the whole budget for those programs in the past.

I apologize if I'm still not being clear, Mr. Chairman. That is where we stand right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have a couple of questions. My first question is, my colleague for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet tabled a couple of letters, one from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and one from the Chesterfield Inlet Hunters and Trappers Association asking the minister about the habitat protection for caribou calving grounds. Does the minister plan on responding to those letters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I think this is outside of our mandate. I'll have to respond to the letters I received. The letter of reply is being taken care of right now, if I understand correctly, regarding the letters that I recently received. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I believe we're in the correct area, corporate management. I'm glad that the minister will be responding. Can the minister commit to tabling those responses in the Assembly when they're done? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to look into it carefully on what we can do. I still don't know what my response is going to be. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I've just got one question on how he responded.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) The smaller communities like ((interpretation ends) Grise Fiord, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaaruk (interpretation) do not have conservation officers. Why don't they have conservation officers? Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'm sure that was asked that earlier, but if Minister Mike wants to respond. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. This was already asked, but we can respond again. My deputy minister will respond.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Sammurtok. There are different reasons. Some of them don't live in the communities and they have to go back home on occasion. It's unfortunate that the recent conservation officer who was in Grise Fiord works for our department now. There are different reasons such as resignations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about work that needs to be done in communities where there is no conservation officer? What do you do in that case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. As this is regarding day-to-day operations, my deputy minister will respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Sammurtok. If I understood it correctly, the communities need

conservation officers and I think we all know that. Some require a conservation officer II and a conservation officer III. Once positions are vacant, using Gjoa Haven as an example, we're advertising those positions right now. Right now in Coral Harbour, we have a (interpretation ends) wildlife guardian, (interpretation) but a conservation officer from Baker Lake visits the community. If there is no conservation officer in the community, it can be challenging, but we try to consider what to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Second round of questioning, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague already asked this, but in the main estimates, I would like to carry on that line of questioning to get a clear understanding. We all have to have a clear understanding. Firstly, I think MLAs present understood that in the case of a disaster, hunters can request funding for lost equipment and they will increase the budget once the policy is reviewed. My first question would be, right now, you have \$40,000. What will the new amount be? What will the limit be of that figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. For the year, it will be up to \$100,000. That's what we're planning. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you already know that it will be up to \$100,000, why is it at

only \$40,000 now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, we were planning to implement this on April 1 after the completion of the report, but it will be after that date now. The government will have to deal with it and once that's done, we will obviously need to amend these figures. That's where we stand right now. These numbers will be amended. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, the main estimates haven't increased by very much. You said that the line items will change. With that being the case, if we approve it this way, where would you take \$60,000 away from? Which line item? Will you just make internal changes from the main estimates? Where will you be cutting the \$60,000 from once that's implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will come from the funding that was not used in the past. That's where we will be moving them from, the line items in the main estimates that weren't spent, and then we will have to redistribute and move things around for the \$100,000.

As I said earlier, funds under community organized hunts and outpost camps are some of the line items that are not used

anymore. That's why there is no increase or decrease. I would like to be clear that we're not asking for supplementary appropriations nor are we asking for a decrease. What we're just asking is that we will be able to operate it that way once it has been dealt with by the government. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also don't see it or I just missed it. How much is in that line item for Community Organized Hunts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Enook. It is budgeted here for \$251,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps I am too overly concerned. Your proposed 2016-17 main estimates and what you are stating are quite different from each other. I do not understand it at all. I have to trust what's written down here. It isn't the same if you're saying you're going to be re-profiling some of these line items. If you expect to re-profile the line items, why didn't you already write it that way? Is it because it might not happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Enook. As you are aware, we have been dealing with this issue for quite some time by reviewing and consulting with the communities. As a government, we have to work with the (interpretation ends) Department of Justice or the finance department. (interpretation) Although we want to rush into working with those and we want to complete it, there are various reasons why we could not complete it.

I apologize I stated \$251,000 for (interpretation ends) Community Organized Hunts. (interpretation) It is \$45,000 and it has not changed.

In regard to the latter part of your question of why they are not completed, it's almost complete to 99.9 percent. We are just waiting at this time for the other departments. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very glad that you're aware that this line item will increase to \$100,000 and that you will transfer \$45,000 from Community Organized Hunts. If you were already aware and if you had already made a decision, why didn't you include it so that we wouldn't have to go through the lengthy process

of asking questions on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. The Harvester Support Program funding contains quite a number of things. We have it structured in a way that we're not asking for additional funds or reduced funds. It allows a line item not to change and that's why we do it that way. Additionally, in order for the review to be appropriate, looking at those reasons, if we look at the Harvester Support Program as a whole, the line item of \$500,000 contains many programs. It is for their support. It is not going to change and it will remain that way.

I understand exactly why you're asking why it was not already set that way, but all the changes have to be considered by the government and all the policies, as we discussed before, will have to be approved by the government. We have no other reasons because the government has to approve those requests. That is why it is the case. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, can you elaborate further? Can you tell me where this \$500,000 is? I can't find it. Can you show me where that line item is? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Our finance comptroller will elaborate further on that. The reason why I keep saying that it's not going to

increase is that the contents, the ones that require the most spending in particular, will not change. Thank you. Our finance comptroller will elaborate further. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the review, we are planning to reallocate some of our grants and contributions budget to different programs. One of the line items our minister mentioned here is Community Organized Hunts, which is \$45,000. We will move this to Disaster Compensation. We are also going to re-profile the budget for the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, which is \$250,000. We are also creating a new grants and contributions program called Supports for Active Harvesters Program. I don't have the whole figure because this hasn't been approved.

Once all the grants and contributions policies are approved, we will then re-profile our budget on the grants and contributions. There are some changes that have not been approved by FMB or the government. Once it's done, there will be more changes in our contributions, but we cannot make the changes before the policies are approved. That's why we didn't reflect it in our main estimates.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this will be my last question. We are to approve your proposed main estimates and what you're saying is different from the main estimates. I don't know what I'm going

to do now. The ones that you will be re-profiling... .

Well, let me ask this question. The \$500,000 you mentioned, I still haven't found it yet. Am I the only one who does not understand that? With the ones that were mentioned by the financial controller, it seems like there's still \$300,000 missing. You said that you were going to re-profile close to \$300,000. I still haven't found that \$500,000. There's about \$164,000. Where is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I keep mentioning, for the disaster compensation and wildlife equipment damage compensation and for the community harvesters assistance, the \$251,000, the \$150,000 that I first mentioned, if you look at the item in I-6 for \$251,000; (interpretation ends) Community Organized Hunts, \$45,000; and Wildlife Damage Prevention, \$60,000, (interpretation) they're a little bit over \$500,000 in total. There are going to be some changes on that. There's only \$40,000 at the top for natural disaster compensation for the harvesters. Wildlife damage prevention and community organized hunts would be included up there too. If you total them, it would reach \$100,000. Even though the expenditures can be approved, changes can be allowed and approved by the government. That's why I keep mentioning the \$500,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a difficult time understanding finances, but I'll probably understand them slowly. I believe that the department's budget has to be approved by FMB first before they come to the House and that the cabinet has to approve it. Was this not the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, we wanted to implement this on April 1, but at this time, we have no choice but to implement it after that date. I don't know how many times I have mentioned that when I explain the reasons for that. For that reason, there are no changes because we want to deal with that diligently.

We have also identified what you can expect to be changed in the main estimates. If you can approve the main estimates, according to the changes that I mentioned, they have to go through FMB. The funding will not increase or decrease. In total, we would use \$506,000. That's what I keep trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think I finally understand. If we're going to approve this, we're going to approve it. You have stated that you're going to be moving budget items around. This is after we approve it in the House and then the FMB will have to approve it because the House already approved it. You're going to be moving budget items around.

That's what you're going to do, right?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you. That's the way it has to be. It's now going to have to be after March 31. As we said earlier, the changes that were recommended in that review are the reason why we have taken this position now. The results of that review can only be available after April 1, as I said. It contains some very important items, which is also part of the reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that for me. We will be aware that this will be approved by FMB. The \$45,000 will be moved and \$251,000 will be moved to another budget item, as well as \$60,000 from some other place. I think it will be approved. We will know that FMB will approve that because it was already approved in the House and FMB cannot change that. I now understand that. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you. I think you understood it and I'm glad. When you're trying to control things and you have to follow policies, April 1 is the date for the Harvester Support Program review; it's really connected to that date. It really affects our work. We want this to proceed and that's why we have explained to you what kinds of changes we anticipate. There will be no requests for extra

money. That's why I'm requesting this support. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,408,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak, do you have a question that hasn't already been asked? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me, I'll give it a try. With all these budget line transfers on I-6, in listening to the minister, is it correct that all these other programs where the budget line transfers will be occurring will be deleted as programs that are provided to communities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the review was very difficult. It took two years. With the budget items that have been approved in the past, the money has never been all spent and some of the budget items were never even touched. The figures just stayed the same.

As I said earlier, because of climate change, we have added to the annual harvester support of \$40,000 from other budget items so that more money will be available because those other programs have not been used. That's why we want to be able to move them into this other budget item. Those programs that we're

thinking of cancelling have always had money in the budget and the money just sat there. That's why we feel that we can look at those items and move them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Alex Sammurtok, do you have a question that has not been asked already? Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just stated that some of this (interpretation ends) Community Harvesters Assistance, \$250,000, (interpretation) is never entirely used by the communities. How do the communities know that there is money available for these programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for that question. The regions are aware of this money. The municipalities and HTOs are involved and they are aware. That's what I'm saying. The review that was done with the Harvester Support Program calls for better communications so that people are aware of these programs.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has assistance for country food and even if we get rid of that program, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation can do something similar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,408,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page I 5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tried to ask this question earlier, but I was not following procedures. Getting back to the \$360,000 in funding for climate change initiatives, how exactly is that money spent? I would really like to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. That is one of the big things that we're requesting. It's something our government has started working on and it needs to be funded. That would enable us to hire two people. The Arctic is the most affected region by climate change. It has already been affected by climate change. We feel the effects the most. For those reasons, we need to hire people to look at climate change.

It has become obvious that we have to keep track of the effects of climate change. We have to make sure we're keeping track of climate change. Are we adapting to climate change? Things like the ice forming later and melting sooner, and the ice that used to be very thick and accessible is barely accessible now. The weather conditions have been changing. It's generally warmer. We have to make sure that we are aware of that.

We have to make sure that we serve the people of Nunavut properly along those lines and the only way we can do that is to have employees doing it, and that is why we need to hire two staff members. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that. I believe they are going to be newly created positions that will have to be set up properly. What about the smaller communities? How are they going to be involved or how are they going to be informed about the work that is being done for climate change? I would like to know that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the member for that question. The communities in Nunavut and all their people have to be involved, so that's why we're going to be promoting it. Even just in Nunavut, we can see that the land that was always frozen melts now. That is one reason. There are other reasons for this. We need to plan better for this if climate change is going to continue into the warming trend.

I would like my deputy minister to explain those two positions further, if you can give him an opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. Previously, we always used to have to request money from the

federal government. If this budget can get approved, we would be able to hire our own people.

In the communities, there are things that need to be looked at because of climate change like the foundations of buildings, for example. We need to be able to adapt to that and make considerations for it. In addition, we want to see what the other regions in the Arctic are doing along these lines and keep communications open with them. The communities have to be involved. We have to work with them on what to do when land is melting.

We know it's going to cost money to hire two people in addition to their day-to-day office work expenses. That is the way it's set up. I hope I responded properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask for clarification on your opening comments about the \$360,000 that I was concerned about earlier. Someone else asked about it. I still don't know what actual work they will be doing.

While we are on the topic of parks, let me try to translate what is in your opening comments into Inuktitut. "In addition, the department will receive \$431,000 funding that will help alleviate ongoing deficit to the Parks and Special Places..." and it goes on. Where are you going to get that \$431,000? Why did you keep getting a deficit for that item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that, if you can give him an opportunity. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Enook. We have to work with parks for (interpretation ends) Clyde River, Hall Beach, Sanikiluaq, Coral Harbour, Arviat, (interpretation) and Kugaaruk. They are making requests for funds. In the Baffin, we don't have employees. In the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, we do have employees. I can't really tell you why we don't have any employees in the Baffin region. We are requesting funds for a Baffin manager. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was with regard to the \$431,000. Where is that money coming from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this question to Nikki.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$431,000 we are requesting as new funding is not coming from our budget. It's new funding we are requesting to help us hire one manager for parks for Baffin Island, and \$300,000 is to increase the parks core funding for their operating expenses. We haven't had any

increase in the parks budget for at least several years until now. We have made that additional content for them to be able to operate effectively and efficiently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to remind the minister, we don't use the first name basis in the House. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked that question because you stated that you would get an additional \$431,000. You assumed that we would agree to it. In English, it says that you "will receive," but I haven't approved that yet.

Just for further clarity, the \$431,000 will be used for a PY and for operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that will be the case. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So which line item is it here in the main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Ms. Nweze. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We included all our programs in the main estimates in Program Management.

If you go to the business plan on that park, you will see the increase by \$131,000 and the operating expenses increase by \$300,000 in the business plan.

Chairman: Thank you. Can you give us what page? Ms. Nweze or Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Sorry.

Chairman: Sorry. We're just looking for what page Ms. Nweze is referring to. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Ms. Nweze will respond to that question.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I think I have a different business plan. I just printed our own business plan. It's on page 161. I don't know if you have the same page number that I have. You will see in Operations and Planning, 2016-17, it's \$1,596,000. In 2016, we have \$1,165,000. That's where the increase goes.

If you go to down to our main estimates, we have summarized all our program management budget under one summary here under program management. If you go back and look at the business plan separately, we break it down there by division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I wasn't listening carefully. What is this manager going to be doing again, if you would remind me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. This individual will be the Baffin Island parks manager. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Are you asking for a manager for Baffin? Is it because our parks are large and there's so much to do that you need someone to work solely for the parks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, today, it is. It's going to be established near Clyde River. We have the Pangnirtung Auyuittuq Park. We have a park between Iqaluit and Kimmirut, Katannilik Park. We also have some parks in tourist-related special places that are included in the parks division. We definitely need an employee to work on those parks and special places. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me say my appreciation to Ms. Nweze for your distinct accent, which sometimes I have a problem understanding and that's all it is. So if you don't mind me repeating a question, it's only because of that, and it's not a criticism of your distinct accent.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, for further clarity, in the minister's opening comments, the \$431,000 will be used to help alleviate the ongoing deficit to the

parks. Even though it's written like that, now we're saying that these monies will be used to hire a manager and to operate the office. How is that going to alleviate the ongoing deficit to the parks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Nweze will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That division's budget, every year, they literally have deficits. They don't have enough core funding. We decided this year to increase their operations and maintenance budget by \$300,000 and \$131,000 would be used to hire one PY for manager of Baffin region. That's why we're requesting \$431,000 to increase the budget. That's all it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another item. In your business plan, just for further clarity, under Environmental Protection on page 154, it talks about climate change adaptation. On page 155, under your priorities for 2015-16, the first bullet states, "...air quality monitoring to include Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities." My first question is: if it's related to climate change, is it because you're concerned about the air quality? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): For 2015-16, we knew that there was a dump fire here in Iqaluit and that was of major concern. At that time, we were concerned about air quality and, yes, it would be used mostly for air quality for 2015-16. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not talking about that at all. You stated that you're going to be monitoring the air quality in several communities in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. Are you concerned about the air quality in those regions that you would like to do monitoring? Have there been indicators that there is a need to do air quality monitoring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I'll refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Nirlungayuk.

Mr. Nirlungayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Enook for that question. If I understood his question correctly, for the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions, we have done air quality studies. We have baseline information to date. As the minister indicated earlier, we like to know what we're breathing in. We have to know how the air quality is in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I understood your question correctly.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a question. Some of us, since we became members, have had sandstorms in our communities. How can we get support for people with breathing problems? They cannot even be outside because of the dust. Even when there's no wind, dust is rising in the air from moving vehicles. It is not the case in every community, but there are many of people in that situation. Is that not a concern? Is that why it hasn't been studied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not sure whether the Department of Environment is responsible for dust being kicked up from the roads. I think it is somebody else's responsibility. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. At this time, we will be taking a 15-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:54 and resumed at 18:30

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Mr. Enook.

**Committee Motion 003 – 4(3):
Deferral of the Consideration of
the Proposed 2016-2017 Main
Estimates of the Department of
Environment**

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

I move that consideration of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates for the Department of Environment be deferred and that the Committee of the

Whole proceed with the consideration of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please provide a copy of the motion to the table. Thank you. As the motion is not translated, we will take a short break to have it translated. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:31 and resumed at 18:44

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. Order. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with the debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to the procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion is very clear and I would just like it to be supported. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Comments on the motion. There being none, I wish to inform the committee that I have no more names on my list. Does the mover have any last reply? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): No.

Chairman: The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour, raise your hand. All

those opposed, raise your hand. The motion is carried.

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please excuse the witness from the witness table.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would now like to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage if he has officials that he would like to appear before committee. Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. To my left is the (interpretation ends) Acting Deputy Minister, Stéphane Cloutier, (interpretation) and to my right is the (interpretation ends) Director of Corporate Services, Regilee Adla. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, colleagues and those who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage 2016-17 main estimates and business plan.

The department's main estimates for 2016-17 is \$25,697,000, which consists of \$11,784,000 for salaries and benefits, \$6,751,000 for operations and maintenance, and \$7,162,000 for grants and contributions.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as was recently reported in the news, my department has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Winnipeg Art Gallery. This agreement has been created in the spirit of the Manitoba-Nunavut MOU for Cooperation and Development.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, through innovative and collaborative education, training, and exhibit programs, we have the opportunity to provide greater public accessibility to the collections and to promote broader awareness of Inuit art and culture.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, in keeping with “Self-reliance and optimism through education and training,” the department aims to work with our partners, including the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, to improve Nunavummiut’s language skills and enjoyment of Inuktitut literature in an oral format through a computer text-to-speech program based on Greenland’s model. (interpretation) We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with the Government of Greenland and (interpretation ends) the Greenland National Theatre School in the development and delivery of an exchange program with Inuit students.

(interpretation) Within our Official Languages Branch, we are continuing to coordinate the implementation of language programs and services across the government, including the development of a set of guidelines and regulations on the delivery of communications and services in the official languages that implement the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, since the creation of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage has worked on strengthening our Archives program. We are working on the development of a guide to Nunavut genealogy that will complement Nunavut’s rich family and social history and to conform to comparable genealogical services of national, provincial, and territorial archives. This work will complement our family relations and genealogy workshops.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, Culture and Heritage brings focus to the

coordination and effective implementation of initiatives that incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into Government of Nunavut policies, programs, and services. Culture and Heritage will assist departments in developing and implementing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* goals and initiatives outlined in the IQ framework through the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit and Tuttarviit.

Those are my opening comments. I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the co-chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to deliver the standing committee’s opening comments on its consideration of the 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the Department of Culture and Heritage’s proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$25,697,000 has not changed since the introduction of its 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the Department of Culture and Heritage is 90.8. This number remains unchanged from the previous fiscal year.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members

took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is responsible for coordinating the government's initiatives to meet its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, including the tabling of annual reports on the government's activities, programs, and policies related to language of work, territorial and federal language promotion funds, and the provision of language services within the public sector.

The government's 2011-12 annual report on the administration of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 12, 2014. This report included information on the government's programs and policies to promote, develop, and provide Inuit and French language services in the territory. The standing committee emphasises the importance of providing this information to the public and encourages the minister to table the government's 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 annual reports on the administration of the *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* in a timely manner.

The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to update the government's *Uqausivut Plan*. This plan guides the government's work to coordinate, monitor, and implement its obligations as provided in the *Official Language Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing this updated plan with care.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is responsible for coordinating and providing translation services in the Inuit, French, and English languages. The department is also responsible for administering the government's *Translation Policy*, which expired on December 31, 2014. The standing committee encourages the department to update this policy at the earliest opportunity.

On May 6, 2015, the federal government issued a news release announcing the ratification of the 2014-15 *Canada-Nunavut General Agreement on the Promotion of French and Inuit Languages*. The news release indicated that under this agreement, the federal government would provide \$2,725,000 to promote the French and Inuit languages in Nunavut. Members look forward to receiving detailed information on how the department intends to distribute this fund within the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Culture and Heritage is responsible for the development and delivery of the government's archaeology, archives policies, programs and services, and for providing grants and contributions to assist community-based heritage initiatives within the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that a significant number of Nunavut's cultural artefacts are still in storage in other jurisdictions across Canada. While the standing committee recognizes that memorandums of understanding are signed to store Nunavut's heritage artefacts, it also recognizes that millions of dollars are

spent annually to finance this temporary solution.

On November 19, 2015, the governments of Manitoba and Nunavut issued a joint news release announcing the extension of their five-year memorandum of understanding. Under this memorandum, the Government of Nunavut has agreed to house thousands of pieces of fine art from Nunavut at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, which will develop special programming and educational opportunities through the display of this artwork.

According to the November 19, 2015 news release, each government will provide up to \$500,000 to support the research, documentation, and exhibition of this artwork. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on how the department intends to work with the Winnipeg Art Gallery to ensure that Nunavummiut will remain involved in the operation of this exhibit.

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

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services to support elders and youth in Nunavut. Members encourage the department to ensure that its programs and services related to elders and youth provide an opportunity for these two important sectors to collaborate and

address pressing social issues such as suicide or elder abuse.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for coordinating the development of the governments *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* initiatives and providing administrative support to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The department is also responsible for coordinating the interdepartmental Tuttarviit Committee.

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Arrange for an appointed IQ Katimajit member to travel to communities to share *Inuusiliriniq*." The standing committee encourages the department to explore more opportunities that will allow the government and Nunavummiut to access the expertise of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

The standing committee encourages the minister to ensure that the annual reports of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit are tabled in a timely manner to ensure that the recommendations of this committee are provided to the recipient departments and agencies at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): General comments. (interpretation ends) I see or hear none. Thank you.

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

I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5, 275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister. I will be basing my question on the minister's opening comments. I believe we are on page F-5, Official Languages. Although it's in English, I'll try to translate it into Inuktitut. It says, "Culture and Heritage holds a leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut." That is on page 1 on your opening comments.

Let me base my question on languages. In the main estimates on page F-9, Summary of Grants and Contributions, you stated, "...the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages..." On page F-9, Inuit Language Promotion and Protection, it is \$100,000. Why is there a reduction of

\$85,000, even though you said that you're seriously working on it and that it's very important? There's quite a bit of money that has been reduced. I would like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Give me an opportunity to find out which official can respond to the issue he's taking about. Thank you.

Sorry. Please repeat your question for clarity on page F-9. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in the minister's opening comments on page 1, it states, "Culture and Heritage holds a leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut."

My question is on page F-9. Since you have the leadership role for the preservation, development, and enhancement of our languages under Official Languages, Inuit Language Promotion and Protection, the budget line item has a reduction of \$85,000, even though you said that you hold the leadership role. Perhaps we will see it later on, but why is there a reduction, even though you hold the leadership role on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Adla will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Adla.

Ms. Adla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the issue that he is talking about, \$285,000, as you can see, there was a reduction in, as it's called in English, (interpretation ends) Archaeology and Palaeontology Research Support, (interpretation) because they requested inadequate funds. That is why we increased that and we transferred it to another line item. We re-profiled it to (interpretation ends) Official Languages' contribution (interpretation) and that is where you can see an increase of \$465,000. I hope I am clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we do not understand each other. On page F-9 of the main estimates, at the very top, just before the figure, it says, "Inuit Language Promotion and Protection" in the amount of \$100,000. In the last fiscal year, it was \$185,000. The minister's opening comments said that the department "holds a leadership role for the preservation..." Even though the opening comments state that, why is there a huge reduction in that line item? In the opening comments, the minister stated what he believes in, but when the main estimates come out, there is a reduction of \$85,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Adla to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Adla.

Ms. Adla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand what you mean. I'm sorry I didn't understand you the first time.

The (interpretation ends) Inuit Language Promotion and Protection (interpretation) funding every year is \$100,000 and it was increased by \$85,000. I'm not sure where we got the increase from. However, we were requested more money than we had, so we increased it. We didn't increase it again for the coming year because we have to see what else we need to consider. Once we find out what else we need, we will probably need to increase it again. That's the response I can provide at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that there was an increase of \$85,000 that was just a one-time increase for one fiscal year? I just don't understand what the \$85,000 was used for because I don't believe you told us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. As my official stated, there were more requests for money than we expected. It was at \$100,000 and it has

been returned to \$100,000, but last year, there were more requests than usual. It is for that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Do I understand correctly that if there are many more requests than the \$100,000, it would no longer be at that amount? The requests might be below that figure or it might be higher if there are more requests than planned for, just as it happened in 2015-16. Am I correct to understand it that way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, you understand correctly. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This number might not be true. That's what I understand. It's a figure that you put down just because you need to put a number there. It could be a lot less or a lot more depending on the requests you receive or none of it could be spent if nobody requests money from it or it can be as high as \$500,000 if there are many requests. Is there a limit that you say that you will never go above or below? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I would like Ms. Adla to respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Adla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture and Heritage gets many requests and if we get more requests than we have in the budget and there's a surplus elsewhere, then we ask FMB for more money. That's what we did last year in 2015-16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Is this done internally in your office? Have you decided within your office what the maximum amount in contributions you will allow for, no matter how many requests you get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. The acting deputy minister will respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The entire Department of Culture and Heritage has a fixed amount of grants and contributions. As the minister mentioned in his opening remarks, that's slightly over \$7 million.

We do have various grants and contributions programs for official languages, but also elders and youth, heritage, arts, and so on. Some programs are over-subscribed and some of our programs are under-subscribed. That means that for some programs, we receive less applications, so we don't fully expend all the amounts that we have already budgeted in those programs. What we try to do internally is when we receive more applications for a specific program, internally with the divisions, we try to see if there is a possibility to reallocate some of the funds between programs.

As for a maximum, we do not exceed the total budget of grants and contributions that we have within the department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is: where do you stop? Last year, you stopped at \$185,000. My question is: was that an internal decision where you have a fixed number that says, "Okay, at this amount, we will stop."? What is it for this year? You must have an inside number that you say, "Whoa, no more." Last year, apparently, it was \$185,000. I am wondering if you have a fixed number that is not showing on here that would tell you, "No more under this." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Cloutier will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We go by the *Financial Administration Manual* that sets the rules with respect to grants and contributions. As much as possible, we try to not go over budget. We work within the budget allocated for grants and contributions within the department. There is a limit established already by FAM. I believe that's \$25,000. If that would exceed, that's when we can decide internally to move some funds. If it would exceed that amount, then we will need to seek approval from FMB before we can transfer the funds. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I take it that this number, the \$100,000, can be any number as long as the financial guideline or whatever it's called allows it to happen. It can be \$500,000. It can be \$10,000. If there are no applications, it can be \$10,000 rather than \$100,000. It can go either way. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I know we will try to abide by the budget of \$100,000. We have to

see how many requests we get. In 2015-16, we had to use \$185,000 for that budget line item, even though it started at \$100,000. It will just follow what requests we get from out there. It all depends on that. Even though I'm an acting minister, that's what happened before and it can happen again, and I know it will not go to \$500,000. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions for this department, but I have a main one. In your business plan on page 70, it mentions Taiguusiliuqtiit. Can you give us an update on the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit? They were having some difficulties in the beginning. Can you give us an update on them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you to my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Cloutier will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is a public agency. It functions and operates at arm's length from the government as of 2011. It has, at this point, five employees, including the executive director, a linguist, terminologist, the communications specialist, and someone that helps them

with the financial and HR issues. They have eight positions in total. Three are currently vacant, but they're under the process of being advertised or should shortly be advertised.

They have a number of priorities, including working with GN departments and public agencies with respect to terminology development to provide them assistance in finding the terms in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. They also work on developing language assessment tools, as well as one of their top priorities with respect to the writing system.

Recently, in February, they held a major conference with interpreters/translators that was well attended and well covered as well by the media. This is part of their ongoing work to consult with Nunavummiut with important issues such as the writing system and standardization. (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that branch is starting up, I guess. We haven't really seen them in the news or not a whole lot from them. Maybe we will see more of them as they get settled in this coming year. I would like to hear more from them this year to see what they have put together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our business plan for 2016-17, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's main

job would be to “create an Inuktitut synthetic voice based on the Greenlandic Martha synthesizer training program.” That is one of the improvements that they are trying to make for 2016-17.

I agree with you that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit needs to do more development along the lines of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have other questions, but I will leave it at that for now.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I didn't hear a question. Following my list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at page 73 of the business plan under Priorities (2016-17). The first bullet says, “Update the *Uqausivut Plan* for 2016-17...” I'm wondering how you're going to provide oversight to the implementation of this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Her question is on page 73 of the business plan, (interpretation ends) Priorities (2016-17), (interpretation) under the first bullet regarding languages. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this question to the Acting Deputy Minister, Mr. Cloutier. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the Minister of Languages has a mandate to coordinate the overall implementation, including the implementation of language obligations, policies, and programs by GN departments, including monitoring the results achieved.

With the *Uqausivut Plan* that was approved and tabled in 2012, there are a number of priorities that have been identified. We have a couple of mechanisms that we use to coordinate the work by various GN departments and public agencies. The first one is the funding we receive from Canada under the *Canada-Nunavut General Agreement on the Promotion of French and Inuit Languages* where they provide some funding with respect to French that is allocated to GN departments to deliver programs and services in French.

The Department of Culture and Heritage centrally administers those funds on behalf of the GN and we do regular follow-ups with departments to ensure that they are expending those funds and also doing the implementation activities that they said they would do.

Since 2013-14, we also have an internal Inuit Language Implementation Fund that is part of the business plan and the main estimates. That is another mechanism we use with respect to Inuktitut/Inuktit (the Inuit language).

We work with departments to implement the *Uqausivut Plan*. For some of the

activities, the departments need some additional resources, so we identify those projects and activities that are in accordance or in line with the *Uqausivut Plan*, and then we coordinate the implementation process and monitor the results achieved that way.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the reports that you mentioned that were tabled during the March 2015 sitting or the 2010-11 and 2011-12 reports on the administration of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, they did not include specific information on the government's to implement the *Uqausivut Plan*.

In fact, the government has not tabled the progress update on its work to implement the *Uqausivut Plan* since it was tabled on October 30, 2012. Will the minister commit to tabling a progress report on the implementation of the *Uqausivut Plan* during the 2016 winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind you that we have interpreters and you should make sure you are not talking too fast. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I can say yes to her last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's *Uqausivut Plan* also indicates that "The Minister will regularly monitor the performance of government departments and public agencies in implementing their language obligations, and will initiate periodic reviews or audits of their compliance.

Based on this information, the Minister will prepare an annual progress report and table it in the Legislative Assembly."

My question is: how many periodic reviews or audits of departmental compliance with the *Uqausivut Plan* have you completed since the fall of 2013? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Since the tabling of the first *Uqausivut Plan* in October 2012 and with the ongoing administration of language funds to assist departments in implementing their language obligations under either the Canada-Nunavut agreement or the Inuit Language Implementation Fund, we do regular monitoring with departments. We request information on their status of implementing their projects or their activities. They do it on a quarterly basis through the variance report.

As we progress in the fiscal year after Christmas, we do monthly follow-ups with departments. The information that we receive with the review, it's an ongoing dialogue, ongoing communications with departments to ensure that the results are being there. At the end of each fiscal year, we ask for a results-based report where the departments communicate to the Department of Culture and Heritage what they have achieved.

Just to give you an example, we collaborated with the Department of Health to provide medical terminology training workshops to medical interpreter clerks. What we would expect at the end of the fiscal year is how many students, how many employees, how many medical interpreter clerks actually received the training. We get numbers. We ask for the numbers of how many participants, how many employees and how many Nunavummiut actually benefit.

If it is about creating resources, another project is about developing language-learning resources like reading materials in Inuktitut. There is an ongoing project with the Department of Education on one of their key initiatives about guided reading and literacy for life. We get numbers of books and publications that they actually produce by the end of the fiscal year.

The minister's progress report will include that level of details.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just interested when you talk about French language training among territorial public servants. How many people are participating in that and who are they in general? Are they beneficiaries or non-beneficiaries or what and how many times per year?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have the numbers for the current fiscal year. If I remember correctly, and I don't have the information right in front of me, but last year, we had about 40 students, GN employees who took part in the program.

There's a good number of beneficiaries. I don't have the exact number, but there's a good interest from beneficiaries to take the training. Actually, I think my colleague, the director of corporate services, has taken some training this fiscal year. There have also been other beneficiaries within our department.

For the current fiscal year, we have been trying to aim at frontline service providers or people who deal directly with the public so that they can say "hello" or "bonjour" over the phone or when welcoming people. That's a way for people to feel comfortable and welcome when they enter a GN office.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does one go about applying for training? If somebody out there is listening to us and they work for the GN, do you have to be an intermediate or is it open to anybody? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this to Mr. Cloutier. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess the advertisement of the training is made through EIA, through Sivumuaqatigiit. When an ad comes out, it goes to all GN employees, and then any GN employee that has an interest can subscribe or register to the course, pending, of course, their supervisor's approval, just like for any training program. Essentially, any GN employee can apply for the course. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go to F-5. Under Materials and Supplies, there is a huge difference there. I'm wondering if you can just explain the big jump and

why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this to Ms. Adla. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Adla.

Ms. Adla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to look for it to respond to the question.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I apologize. I'll refer this to Mr. Cloutier. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry (interpretation ends) for going between the business plan and main estimates.

The difference between the main estimates for 2015-16 and 2016-17 in terms of materials and supplies is that under the Inuit Language Implementation Fund, when we work with key departments like Education, the Department of Education initially did not have much in terms of materials and supplies. (interpretation) I mean (interpretation ends) before, what we are expecting for things like the purchase of books and language learning resources, that is what is meant by this number. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we will be talking to the Minister of Education again. I don't have any further questions. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I made my first mistake.

>>Laughter

I also caused my colleague to make a mistake, so I apologize.

While we are here, their office exists to promote the Inuit language and they can issue directions to any department in our government. To my knowledge, they have different contracts on airlines and financial services. They can also make contracts on the Inuit language to implement them further. I want to ask if they can promote them more in the offices in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Culture and Heritage provides direction for Inuktitut and other languages on these affairs, and I'm glad you asked that question. Mr. Cloutier will expand on my response to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is a very good question. Under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, there is a provision to ensure that every contract awarded as a result of a call for proposals or otherwise, actually also that the third party service providers are bound by the provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, meaning ensuring that all the advertising, posters, customer services, and reception services are provided in the Inuit language.

Just to give you a couple of examples of what that means, for instance, recently, the Department of Culture and Heritage updated its *Grants and Contributions Policy* and it was approved a few months ago. Within the *Grants and Contributions Policy*, there are specific provisions to ensure that any individual or any non-profit organization that receives funding under our G&C Policy actually have obligations with respect to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to ensure they provide what is outlined in the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, so all the signage, advertising, customer reception services, and so on.

Another example is the latest contract for medical travel with the airlines also includes specific language provisions in the contract to ensure that the customer services and reception services are provided in all official languages. That means also in the Inuit language. That's a very important matter.

There are specific provisions under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and we

will continue to monitor to ensure that it is implemented in the GN, in government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. That's good to hear. What happens if an airline or bank no longer adheres to the requirement for the adequate use of Inuktitut when they have a contract with us? What would be the consequences if they stop following the rules we have established? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Cloutier will also respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis depending on which contract and depending on the provisions of the actual contract. If there is a breach of contract, of course, it would need to be remedied. It would be on a case-by-case basis depending on the various provisions of the contract. With any regular contracts, if there is a breach of contract, then there are some penalties or there will be some follow-ups. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I'm finished. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Speaker (interpretation): 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 would like to report progress and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tom Sammurtook. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 15:

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
 - Bill 15
 - 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) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 16 – 4(3), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:56*

