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Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 8, 2019**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>> *House commenced at 10:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook) (interpretation): Mr. Keyootak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. My colleagues, good morning. Nunavummiut, good morning.

Before we proceed to the orders of the day, I am very pleased to recognize International Women's Day with you today.

>> *Applause*

All our wives and partners really empower us. Our mothers, our grandmothers, our daughters who have children now and take care of their children too, and all the women of Nunavut everywhere, we're proud of you all every day, but we will be especially proud of you today. Thank

you.

>> *Applause*

Going to the orders of the day. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We are now directly going to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

At this time I ask that members remain at their desks so that we can proceed directly to the Committee of the Whole once the department is ready.

However, I would like to take this opportunity, my colleagues, to thank our pages who have been helping us this week. There are two pages from the Nasivvik School in Pond Inlet. They have to leave today, but they will be working here this morning. On my right is Samuel Ootoova.

>> *Applause*

And on my left Nadia Otoovak, who is my granddaughter.

>> *Applause*

Thank you very much, and I hope you have a safe trip home. Their chaperone, Agnowyak Kilukishak, is not here right now. Thank you as well for coming to take care of these students.

>> *Applause*

We will now proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): Thank you. (interpretation) Good morning to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates. Yesterday we were on page N-3 of Nunavut Arctic College and wish to conclude that page and proceed to the review of the review of the Department of Culture and Heritage, followed by the departments of Human Resources, Finance, and Environment, whose order of appearance is subject to change. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15? (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Go to page N-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$38,695,000. Agreed? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, is this the page we can ask questions on the courses that are delivered at Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Questions on each information page were already asked and this is the final page for approval. Thank you. N-3. Department Summary. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I would just like a clarification. There are no further opportunities to ask questions of the college? I believe we still haven't approved the budget, so I don't see why we're not allowed to ask questions on the budget at this point. We did end early due to weather last night. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, at the end of yesterday's proceedings of the

Committee of the Whole, we were on page N-3 of the 2019-2020 Main Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College immediately prior to reporting progress.

This is the department summary page and by convention and practice, questions are not permitted on this page, as the details of the budget had already been reviewed and approved at the branch level.

I note that we had quorum throughout yesterday's proceedings. At the time that the motion to report progress was considered, a number of members had left the House due to the conditions outside; the general city closure that had been announced.

As a consequence of these circumstances, I will exercise my discretion and permit one more round of general questions for those members who had left at the time of adjournment but who had been present at the start of proceedings. As with other departments, a maximum of 10 minutes will be permitted. Do some members have questions?

Thank you. I would like the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College to proceed to the witness table. Minister Netser.

Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Netser: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good morning. It's a new day. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to

let the minister's officials go to the witness table? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Netser, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased this morning that our President, Pauloosie Suvega, can be here today, who is to my left, and Ms. Becky Mearns was to my left yesterday, but she's on my right this morning. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome. (interpretation ends) For the record, only Mr. Main, Mr. Lightstone, and Ms. Angnakak will be permitted to ask questions. Questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask some questions. Yesterday the weather was getting pretty bad, so a few of us had to leave.

I'm going to work my questions from a page I have that says the "Nunavut Arctic College 2018-19 Academic Programs." I'm just interested in getting some updates on the type of programming that is being delivered.

My first question, when I look at the programming that is currently being delivered, I see where it says, "Adult Basic Education" and then there is "Adult Basic Education Essential Skills"

in some communities and some it just says... Just for clarification, is that the same course that is being delivered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): One moment, please.

(interpretation ends) Could the member reiterate that question? Is it that AB Essential Skills, and what was the other one, and Adult Basic Education? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I'm asking is: what's the difference? In some communities you have Adult Basic Education Essential Skills and then in other communities it just says, "Adult Basic Education." I'm just wondering if that is the same course or not, or are they different. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person to my right says she can answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are some differences just in the courses offered between the Adult Basic Education and the Adult Basic Education Essential Skills. Depending

on what the needs are, one or the other will be offered. We have both available, but there is work ongoing to enhance the adult basic education offerings that we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me if, for example, the Adult Basic Education Essential Skills is the more enhanced one? How are they different in what they deliver? Is it the length of time? Is it the level? I'm just trying to get a better idea on why some are getting this and others aren't. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really get into details, so I am asking Ms. Mearns to respond to that question again.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have the details of the course offerings for both of those programs, but we can certainly look into that information to identify what the differences are in the ABE and ABE essential skills. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't need the course outline; I just kind of wanted just in

general how they were different.

In going on, the fur production course is always very popular. When I hear people who have taken it, they're always really happy. I see that you have delivered and it has ended now. It started in September 2018 and ended in December 2018 in Pangnirtung and Clyde River, and the one in Baker Lake has been postponed. It says first term only. Why would you only offer the first term? Is it a two-year program or is it a one-year program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand with the new facility there that we will be reintroducing the two-year program and we will fill the vacancies as per the instructors for that program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand that. These courses were held in Pangnirtung and Clyde River. Do they have new facilities or are you referring to the new learning centre that is in Iqaluit? I'm not sure. I'm wondering about Pangnirtung and Clyde River. It was the first term only. Is the second term going to be offered there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite detailed, so I'm asking Ms. Mearns to respond to that through you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently the offerings in Pangnirtung and Clyde River were the traditional sewing skills. That is a part of the curriculum for the fur design program. That is the first term of what is a two-year diploma in fur design. Currently there isn't an offering of the second year, but we are looking at that for the future. We are running the community offerings of the first term and when the second term is available, it will be here at the new campus where we have facilities for fur design. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are popular programs, so I hope that you can offer the second part as soon as possible.

My other question is to do with pre-courses. I see a number of pre-courses, but I think all of them happen in the regional centres. I'm wondering why you don't offer any pre-courses in the communities so that they could have that kind of foundation before they come to the regional centres to take the main course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We offer college foundations in our CLCs throughout the territory, and we're working on that to improve that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I was kind of referring to more is the pre-apprenticeship programs, just the foundation towards these specific programs, not a general foundation program like ABE, but more of if you're going to become a teacher but maybe you need to upgrade your skills a bit before you come to the NTEP program, or I know the Nursing Program has a pre-program. It seems to be all in the regional centres when maybe some of them could be offered in the communities. I don't know. I just want to get your thoughts and your position on that as the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a variety of programs. In terms of pre-programming, I will ask the person to my left, Mr. Suvega, to respond to that further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If and when we do receive requests for assistance or some sort of counselling from individual students, we try our best to accommodate them as much as we

can in their home communities and, if not possible, then those will kind of spill out into the regional centres or the main campuses depending on the availability of resources, whether that be a counsellor or someone who is qualified to provide instructional upgrading to get up to the required levels for entrance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that response, it makes me wonder: are you delivering courses depending on what qualified teachers you have? If you don't have a qualified teacher, then you're not going to fly anybody in; you're going to just choose what... . It makes me think that that's how you're running the show.

Also, is there any thought to maybe looking at doing this so that you can have people who may want to become a nurse or a lawyer or whatever, that you have some specified training in the community? I know that you do the environmental tech in Pond Inlet. That has seemed to be very successful. I think we need to think more like that to try to see if we could educate people without them having to leave their communities for so long, if possible. Just your thoughts on that, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question was answered yesterday. The official to my left said that he can supplement the

answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe part of the question was answered yesterday in terms of how program designs are delivered.

I want to assure the Assembly that it isn't at all by any means an ad hoc kind of method. There are studies that are undertaken from time to time as well as surveys, including community learning assessments as well. There are lot of factors that are taken into consideration as to try to look at what are the available resources and not just instructors but things like classroom spaces, financial resources, as well as students and accommodations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must apologize. I wasn't here yesterday for a lot of the questions that came because of the weather. I'm still concerned and I don't know; I just heard some general comments that people wanted to do a bit more in the community, but they can't. They have to come more to the regional ones. I guess my interest was just how the college is beginning to think about, as we go forward in the years, not everything should be delivered only in the regional centres. I think there are real opportunities to get into the communities. We've got to start thinking like that; thinking bigger. This is just an encouragement.

I'm just interested in this about the trades. The new trade school has been

open a few years now. How are things going with the school? What are your biggest challenges when it comes to running that school efficiently and successfully? How many graduates have you had? I might as well ask my other question right away. What is the most popular trades course there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official to my left and I went to Rankin Inlet in January to meet with our employees there to try to figure out what improvements can be made so that our students can succeed.

One of the things we did outline on that and through their office is the need for instructors. They are usually on a two-year contract. Once the two years are up, is the contract going to be renewed? This is one of the problems when they are on contract. They are very good instructors. This is one of the areas I see in terms of the term contracts to make them indeterminate and possibly to hire more Inuit through this process.

We have just been here for 20 years. Some of the institutions have been around for a lot longer. They do support us. If we look at changing how we deliver programs, it is something we are committed to. The instructors are truly helpful and they help the youth.

If the official to my left wants to add to that, he can do so, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister just spoke to, we did have a fairly good visit in Rankin Inlet recently.

Not to kind of trump one course over another, I think they are all equally well attended. We spoke to a number of students. In terms of the graduation rates, we are trying to pull some of those numbers together as we speak. I hope to be able to report some of those numbers fairly soon.

Some of the bigger challenges that we tend to face particularly in that region is competing with industry as we try to hang onto qualified instructors. Competing with the private sector can be challenging at times too, but we also find pockets of success while we do work with the private sector and industry to try to meet some of those gaps too. We always try to meet up with some of those challenges.

Having said that, and spending time with the learners and the faculty, as well as the staff, you could clearly see the dedication and the pride from each of the students who were there. I'll point to one of the recent accomplishments that the students themselves were able to undertake recently where they created a custom-built projection screen for the new facility here all by hand and all by the learners. It's something I hope that is going to be replicated in all the other campuses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister confirm: how many years has the college been open for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Not college; trade school, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure exactly when it was open, but I was an MLA at the time and as we became aware that mining would become a big industry in Nunavut and we didn't have a trade school, it is when we established it. It opened in 2010. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been nine years, going on to 10 years, so I find it a little... I guess I'm surprised if you don't have graduation rates after this many years. Can the minister explain why you don't have those rates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to her question on (interpretation ends) the apprenticeship examination, (interpretation) we provide the training at the college, (interpretation ends) but the apprenticeship examinations are

independently administered by the Department of Family Services and therefore the college does not have complete numbers on our graduate success, but we do have graduate successes. There are successful graduates out there working.
(interpretation) We know for sure they are increasing because they go to Rankin Inlet for training.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then how do you evaluate whether or not your programs are effective if you really don't know how many are actually passing and becoming tradespeople? Maybe the Minister of Family Services might have that information about graduation rates. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with Family Services. I think we will soon have names of people who are becoming journeypersons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister get these graduation rates? If the minister is not prepared right now, are you able to give us those rates, working with the Department of Family Services?

Also, I spoke about evaluations. Who does evaluations on your courses? Is it an outside entity, or how do you know if

a course is working well or not, or what needs to be changed or anything like that? How does the college go about evaluating their courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): On the first question, I will work with the (interpretation ends) family services minister (interpretation) on the number of graduates.

The person to my right can elaborate (interpretation ends) in terms of evaluating the programs. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The trades programs specifically are accredited and recognized nationally. These are accredited through Alberta. The curriculum is reviewed and has to meet the accreditation for the trades as those entering the trades are going on to journeymen and Red Seal, which are nationally recognized. Our curriculum and the facility have to be accredited to those standards. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think a few years ago you provided culinary apprenticeship, but I don't see it on the list anymore. Can I get an update on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): The person on my right said that she can respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the Red Seal culinary program, the plan is to have this offered at the new facility which is being built in Cambridge Bay, which will have a Red Seal approved kitchen that will allow us to offer that program as we currently don't have the Red Seal accredited kitchen right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. It's my last question, Mr. Chairman. When you don't see a community listed on here, does it mean that there are no courses being offered, for example, Resolute Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person on my left said that he can respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If this is generally for all courses throughout the college in one particular community, we are trying to ensure that

we are doing our outreach as well. Some of that is going to depend on the availability of students who have applied on different programs. If there is no uptake, we don't just want to sit on it either. We want to try to ensure that we're working proactively with community members and groups to try to ensure that we're getting the word out about the availability of college programs and services to communities like Resolute Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to ask our questions.

I believe that the Legislative Assembly does need to review its office closure policy, but obviously now is not the time to discuss that.

Welcome, Mr. Suvega. I hope you're feeling well.

I would like to applaud the college for their efforts over the last year in posting and advertising their course offerings in advance. I think that's one avenue of success where you guys have definitely made improvements. I'm glad to see that the fall program offerings are online and available.

I did not see any part-time course offerings included in next year's academic schedule. I would like to ask if there are any plans for incorporating part-time course offerings in the upcoming academic school year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person on my right says that she can respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our planning is ongoing for the next academic year. The full academic plan will be up on April 1. We are looking at options for part-time studies and continuing studies at the college. As our planning is ongoing, we will be sharing more of that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's definitely a very high demand for financial specialists in all of our communities, and I also believe that it's extremely high in the communities that do have campuses. I would like to put forward a recommendation for the minister to consider. I do believe that the college needs to collaborate with our departments but also other agencies to fill the demand for financial specialists.

What I'm trying to get at is there's a high demand for accountants in our territory, and I would like to see the college collaborate more with CPA and enable those in the territory that are trying to work towards their accounting certification to do so. The way that it works now, individuals have to work independently, which can be very difficult.

The way that CPA works, it's intended to be done during evenings and weekends, outside of regular scheduled office hours. Doing that independently is extremely difficult, where down south, there are many CPA students taking a single course in the community at any given time and they do work together and assist each other a lot. I really think that Nunavut needs to do something similar to allow our CPA students to work collaboratively.

I think that Arctic College has so much potential in doing that, in offering weekend courses to potential CPA students and allowing scheduled weekend course class time as well as scheduled weekend group sessions to work on studying and conducting the weekly assignments. I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising this. One of the first things that I spoke to the staff about that I would like to see going down the road are courses in our communities or through the college campuses, courses like that, this very needed profession in the territory. That's what we're planning to do. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. My next question is, for those CPA students who

are currently studying in the territory, I was wondering if the minister would be willing to open up the college facilities on the weekends in those communities where there are multiple students studying the same course, as I'm sure it's difficult to find study space in pretty much every community. I would like to ask if the minister would take that into consideration as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that question. The college is to help our people get educated and if it's available, then we certainly will open the doors for the member's request. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to seek some guidance or clarification for the general public. For those individuals who are studying evenings and weekends and other non-profit organizations that do provide training in the territory, how would they go about requesting the use of Arctic College facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They can reach out to our staff and they will do their best to accommodate whoever is calling for help. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic and that's the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. I understand that the college offers a great program and is moving our territory towards to producing our own teachers, but I was curious: who would take the lead responsibility in promoting the NTEP program? Would it be Arctic College, the Department of Education, or what I have been seeing quite frequently, the Nunavut Teachers Association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To that question, Ms. Mearns would like to answer that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently it has been the NTEP program that has been advertising as and when they can. This is our staff that are working in the program that have been doing that.

As part of the request that we currently have in front of us, there are four positions for a communications and public affairs branch for the college. The support would be for marketing from them that would then also provide additional support to our staff to design and market materials for each of our programs, including NTEP.

That's a part of what we're doing and we are looking to better promote the programs that we have available and

where the course offerings are taking place. With our marketing team, that's the goal that we have at moment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the topic of NTEP, what are the criteria for high school grads to get into NTEP and also, in what grade would a high school student have to decide that a teaching career would be right for them and then base their high school selection of courses to get those specific criteria? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are processes that the applicant must go through. I don't know all the details to that, so I'm asking Ms. Mearns to answer that question for the member. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As you are aware, we are in the process of completing a memorandum of understanding with our new university partner. The first program that we will be offering will be the NTEP program with the new university partner at Memorial University.

Part of the work that we're doing right now is looking at the admissions requirements for this new program, so that work is ongoing. As we have more

detail on that, it will be shared, but because we are in that process at the moment, we don't have the details right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the current admission requirements for NTEP? I'm assuming, if anything, that they would probably be going up with the new MOU, or increasing. With the current admission requirements for NTEP, again, when would a high school student have to decide at what grade to ensure that they get those requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To that question, Ms. Mearns would like to elaborate a bit more on that.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently the learners that we have in the NTEP program were required to meet the admissions requirements for the University of Regina, which is currently our university partner. I believe it's a 65 percent average in the select courses from high school. The University of Regina does provide a list of the courses that that can be. That would be at the grade 12 level and with a 65 percent average, but there are different options for the courses that can be used to meet that average. (interpretation) Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going forward, another recommendation, would the minister consider sending adult educators to every high school to meet with grades 10 and 11 students to encourage them to get those required grade 12 courses to enable them to meet the admission requirements for NTEP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good suggestion and we will take it. I will say that we want to see our youth graduating, taking courses, and taking control of our future. What the college wants to do is to see our youth taking on leadership roles. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'll move on to my next topic. Many jobs in the territory do require driver's licences and at the minimum, class 5. I was wondering: when will Arctic College begin to assist Nunavummiut with achieving the basic driver's licence and, if possible, the more advanced, I believe it is air brakes licence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the instructor in Rankin Inlet went to Coral Harbour, Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake. We're working on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to request the minister expand on that a little bit. What specifically did this instructor do in those communities and are there plans on introducing that into the other communities as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time he teaches air breaks and his students are able to drive school buses once they complete the training, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the air breaks instructor is assisting those students in achieving their air breaks licence. When will the college expand that to incorporate the basic class 5 driver's licence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently reviewing this course. I can't tell you what date or year it is going to

start, but it is in the plans. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity. I will make my questions as short as possible. Good morning, minister.

In regard to staffing, the minister indicated that they are currently happy with (interpretation ends) term employment. The Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation) was talking about looking after their staff independently. (interpretation ends) Is the college interested in taking on its own HR function? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were allowed, we definitely would. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I just encourage the minister to look into that because it sounds like, and I'm looking at the employment summary, 35 percent vacancy rate, they are having some serious problems retaining their instructors. If this is going to benefit the college...I will leave that as a comment. I would encourage the college to look into this, of course with the new HR, and see if it would make sense and see if it would benefit the college because it is very important that

we can fill those instructor roles.

My next topic on page 21 of the business plan, it talks about a pilot project in Naujaat, heavy equipment operator module course. It mentions a contribution agreement with the KIA; long-term funding for heavy equipment training. I look on the next page and I don't see anything about where these will be delivered, so (interpretation) I would like to get an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College has partnered with Kivalliq Partners in Development for delivery of heavy equipment operators and drivers' training for class 1, 2, and 3 with air breaks in multiple Kivalliq communities.

We are working on that file. Twelve members took part in class 1 with air breaks drivers' training in Kangliq&iniq. Seven enrolled: two withdrew, one failed, five passed on class 2 with air breaks (school bus) that was held in Coral Harbour. The success rate is pretty good from reading my notes. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is there a plan in terms of which communities will see the delivery of this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I believe we also work with the hamlets as to how many people have applied for jobs, but they don't have the training to drive their water or sewage trucks, etcetera. We have course offerings which will be available April 1 of this year.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder how you can sign an agreement with the hamlet council in Arviat because they try to work independently on education and mining. I did work there and they recognized that there are employment opportunities in that sector. Would you be able to have a meeting with them or come to some sort of an agreement? That would be a tremendous help to the hamlet council. That's just a comment.

(interpretation ends) On page 11 of the business plan it mentions "...a rolling strategy to update or replace Community Learning Centres." I know it's capital and it talks about the capital planner, but it's in the O&M plan here. A needs assessment, so a rolling strategy, so we know that this is needed. It's not in the priorities for this year on that page.

I would just like some clarification because I note that one of the priorities is working on phase 2 of the Rankin Inlet trade school. If you look at this, it seems to illustrate that community learning

centres just continue to be an afterthought. The community learning centres are there and the focus seems to be on the regional campuses.

I would just like to hear a little about what the plan is with the "rolling strategy." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever we have a strategy, we attempt to follow through with what the plans are in the strategy. I believe we have a capital planner hired or in the works, but I would like to ask the president to respond more to that.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our capital planner has indeed been very busy these last few months, travelling to various communities, conducting assessments of various community learning centres. We are very appreciative of the support we are receiving from departments like Community and Government Services and the Department of Finance as we work together to try to figure out what the plans could and should look like going forward.

Obviously the need is much greater than I think what can be derived from within the territory. Some of this may need to be some fundraising outside of the territory. There is going to be a need for a lot of advocacy work going forward. These capital needs assessments or building needs assessments are going to be very key as we look forward and try

to source different sorts of support in and outside of the territory.

We hope to have a lot of these needs assessments done by late spring that take a complete look at building and some of the support systems, the staff, the communities, things like water and sewer, and so on, as we try to build what a comprehensive plan might look like going forward that can be plugged into things like the GN's capital planning process. Where there are gaps that need to be filled beyond that, obviously a lot of fundraising going forward as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that information, minister.

I would just like to comment that I hope that when you're doing this, you take into account the size of each community. It shouldn't be one size fits all, and I hope that you also take into account the need for child care. I mentioned the learning centre in Arviat doesn't have an attached daycare. Anyway the minister will see it for himself when he visits there. It's quite small. It's not mouldy, the floor is not falling through or anything, but the fact that the very size of it in relation to the size of the community is not good.

My last question or comment...I have two comments and not even questions. The first is regarding the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium that the college works with. As I mentioned yesterday, that model is the way to go for mine training. We

should set up a mine training society as soon as possible for the whole territory and let industry play a big role in communicating, "This is the course that we need and these are the jobs that we can fill if we get these courses completed," the low-hanging fruit. That is the model. Yesterday it was indicated that the fisheries and marine training consortium is actually under the college or controlled by the college, but I think it's important to allow industry to drive the agenda when we're talking about these types of careers.

I note on page 26 that one of the priorities is to do "a Feasibility study for a Third Delivery of a Law Program." I hope that the college will seriously consider the cost effectiveness of such a delivery. Looking at the budget for the law program, it's back of the envelope \$250,000 per student over four years. That doesn't include a lot of the other costs that are incurred. I have nothing against the law profession; I just think that if we're going to spend \$250,000 over four years for a law student, we should do the same for any other profession.

If somebody wants to go and become a pilot, go into a pilot school, and it's going to cost them \$250,000 to become a pilot, okay, well, we should be funding that because we are already doing that with this program. That's just a consideration that I would encourage to be taken into account for that one. (interpretation) It's just a general comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) The points are well taken. We do an assessment on all the programs that we do. If it's cost effective and we see the results of it, then we go on from there.

As for the Nunavut fisheries training consortium, I believe they use our licence to deliver their programs. We're certainly looking at introducing some kind of mine training program for Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) N-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operation and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$38,695,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Certainly the last couple days or yesterday was a deep learning curve for me, and I want to assure the floor and the viewing audience that next around it will be different.

I want to thank my staff here for fielding all the questions for me yesterday and this morning. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Someone once said, "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened." And Oprah Winfrey said, "Turn your wounds into wisdom." I certainly use this experience to gain experience, and next time around it's going to be a different ball game.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Joanasi: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasi.

Hon. David Joanasi (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Nunavummiut. If members agree, yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. For the record, Minister Joanasi, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Joanasi.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased... I'm sorry. I would like to introduce my officials. On my right is my Deputy Minister, Pujjuut Kusugak, from Culture and Heritage and on my left is Regilee Adla, who is the Director of Corporate Services for Culture and Heritage.

I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage 2019-2020 main estimates and 2019-2022 business plan.

Culture and Heritage provides strategic direction to the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, in keeping with Inuunivut as a part of our *Turaaqtavut* mandate, strengthening Nunavut as a distinct territory in Canada and the world, the department aims to work with our partners, including the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, to improve Nunavummiut's language skills and enjoyment of Inuktitut literature. Culture and Heritage will work towards the establishment of a territorial leadership forum where we could strategically coordinate and promote common approaches to strengthen the foundations of our language in our territory as envisioned in *Turaaqtavut*.

Within our Official Languages Branch we are continuing to coordinate the implementation of language programs and services across the government. During this year's International Year of the Indigenous Languages, Culture and Heritage plans to undertake a

communications campaign to promote the history, use, status, importance and diversity of Inuktitut in Nunavut. This year will see for the first time Nunavut host the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie and for the first time, translation services will be done in all of Nunavut's official languages.

Mr. Chairman, since the creation of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage has worked on strengthening our extensive heritage collections which include archives, ethnography, paleontology, archaeology, natural history, and the fine arts. This year we created a new Heritage Collections program to provide opportunities to showcase Nunavut's cultural richness throughout Nunavut nationally and internationally and make the collection more accessible.

Mr. Chairman, with the approval of *Iviqtippalliajut*, Culture and Heritage is ensuring that government programs and services are more effective and relevant through *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within Government of Nunavut legislation, policies, programs, and services. Culture and Heritage will assist departments in developing and implementing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* goals and initiatives outlined in the *Iviqtippalliajut* framework.

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

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

(interpretation ends) The standing committee notes the department's proposed 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget of \$26.8 million, which represents an increase of just over 4 percent from the department's approved 2018-19 main estimates.

The proposed number of positions in the Department of Culture and Heritage is 97.8 PYs, which represents an increase of six PYs for 2019-2020. Members were pleased to note that a number of these positions will be allocated to increasing the department's interpreter/translator capacity.

The Department of Culture 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 Minister of Languages' most recent annual report for 2014-15 was tabled in June of 2018. Members encourage the minister to table more up-to-date annual reports at the earliest opportunity.

The government's most recent plan outlining the second phase of objectives and strategies with respect to Inuit language use across government, *Uqausivut 2.0* 2018-2023, was tabled on June 14, 2018. Members fully support initiatives to increase the use of Inuktitut as the government's working language, including initiatives towards standardization and the development of terminology in collaboration with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. Members encourage the government to continue working with Nunavut's private sector to increase the provision of Inuktitut language services to the public.

Uqausivut 2.0 states that the Department of Culture and Heritage will continue to seek the national recognition of Inuktitut as a founding and official language of Canada within our territory. Given this objective, the standing committee looks forward to reviewing the government's formal position on the federal government's recently introduced Bill C-91, *An Act respecting Indigenous Languages*.

The Government of Nunavut began implementing its Inuit Language Incentive Policy at the beginning of October 2017. The standing committee was pleased to note that over 400 GN employees have undergone language proficiency testing to date, conducted by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, with the Department...

>> *Phone ringing*

Apologies for that. ...with the Department of Finance coordinating the application process and processing language incentive pay for the successful candidates. Members look forward to

regular updates on the ongoing implementation of this program, including information on the number of individuals assessed, in which dialects and how many applicants were successful at each level of proficiency.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the development and delivery of the government's archaeology, museums and archives policies, programs, and services.

The standing committee continues to support 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. Members look forward to announcements of where different collections of Nunavut art will be displayed across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services, in addition to dedicated grants and contributions packages, to support cultural activities as well as elders and youth groups across Nunavut. Members encourage the department to work with communities which have not fully accessed these programs to date and to assist them in submitting proposals and undertaking worthwhile initiatives. The standing committee urges the minister and his staff to increase their efforts to track, monitor, assess, and publish the results and successes of such initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for coordinating the development of the government's *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* initiatives. The

government's *Iviqtippalliajut* strategic framework document was tabled in November of 2018, and members look forward to regular updates on what specific initiatives are being implemented to increase and strengthen the use of Inuit societal values across government departments. The standing committee anticipates further modifications to the roles and mandates of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and the interdepartmental Tuttarviit Committee as the *Iviqtippalliajut* framework is implemented.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? (interpretation) General comments? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

The issue of the Inuit language is always a priority. It is our language and I want to see more in Nunavut, including road signs, signs on buildings that you see outside of businesses and institutions. I push for more Inuktitut. You did properly mention that the Inuktitut language is a priority and it was the original language of the territory.

Signs that are printed, whether they are printed by the government or for the road, should be Inuktitut first. We need

to push this issue and I know there is good work happening in this area, but I feel we need to do more to promote our oral and written language. That's what I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments. I have no more names on my list. Turn to page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5 million... . Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. Our chairperson already mentioned this earlier and looking at the numbers, they are a source of pride as they relate to our culture and language.

I want to be understood clearly, so I'm going to ask my question in English, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department contributes over \$2 million in funding for the Inuit Language Authority, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. How does the department work with the Taiguusiliuqtiit to determine priority areas for the development of official technology to be used in delivering government programs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. We have been working with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit mainly on the writing system and which writing system will be

better suited to use within the government. Taiguusiliuqtiit meets throughout the year. I just want it further noted that they are independent from the government but attached. They are at arm's length from us; they have their own board.

They want to meet with me at the end of this month and I have agreed to meet with them. I want to work with them on identifying their priorities. The main issue has been what kind of writing system we will come up with. With involvement of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Taiguusiliuqtiit has been working in this area. That's my update, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get more information. There are different writing systems within Nunavut. If it becomes one writing system in all of Nunavut, will it be more understandable for all Nunavummiut even though we have different dialects? How will the writing system be introduced and when can we expect it? I wanted to ask that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our goal is to understand each other even if we have different dialects, but it will help once we have a single writing system. We have worked with the schools. We also would like to work with one writing system for teaching, although we have two writing systems, which are syllabics

and roman orthography. That is where we are at, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. The Inuit culture is already on display in the House. When we're asking questions, we shouldn't be pointing fingers and calling names. That's Inuit culture that started at home. How will it apply to departmental workplaces? I hope that made sense, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document that we tabled, *Iviqtippalliajut*, will be the guide in government departments for working Inuit culture and how we can engage and use Inuit beliefs when drafting legislation and policies. That's the purpose of *Iviqtippalliajut*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With *Iviqtippalliajut*, the Inuit language will continue to be taught to anyone. When will the Inuit language and culture be incorporated into our government? It's okay if I don't get a response to that; I just want more clarification on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand his question correctly, when Inuit language and culture is going to be implemented as a whole, using the *Iviqtippalliajut* framework and *Uqausivut 2.0*, there are four pillars: we want our language to be used in the schools, we want it used in the workplace, provide services in the Inuit language, and lastly, revitalization in different areas. We want to continue using the plans and framework on a daily basis, on an annual basis, we want it to be more exposed, and to have the Inuit language and culture be heard and used more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response, minister. That's very clear to me and good to hear.

I want to ask another question. I want this clearly understood, so I'll say it in English. (interpretation ends) The 2016-17 *Annual Report of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, which was tabled on May 31, 2018, indicates that language assessment for the Inuit Language Incentive Program had been developed for five dialects: Inuinnaqtun, Natilingmiutut, Paallirmiutut, Qikiqtaaluk Quttiktumi, Qikiqtaaluk Atsiktumi.

To date, have all GN employees requesting a language assessment been tested in the dialect of their choice? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The testing that is done through this language incentive policy is done using the Inuit Cultural Institute standard orthographies, either syllabics or roman orthography.

As per exactly the member's question, I don't have specific details, but in general we have had over 400 employees who have been assessed so far in their language competency. I can seek some further details if we are able to get them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two different writing systems for the Inuit language, roman orthography and syllabics. Which writing system seems to be easier to follow? That's what I want to know, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) They can choose whatever they are more comfortable with, either syllabics or roman orthography.

To add to that, there are currently 888 requests for assessment within the policy, but to date there are just about 400 that have been assessed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not really a question and it's my last comment. We like to see and hear our old language in our territory of Nunavut. I would like it to be promoted by our government. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, colleagues, minister, and staff.

My question is: one of the department's priorities for 2018-19 listed in last year's 2018-2021 business plan indicated that the department would "Engage Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop a method for incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles into housing design..."

What, if any, support has the department provided to the Nunavut Housing Corporation with respect to building housing for such groups as elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. If it's possible, I'll have my deputy minister respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and for that question. We will be having a meeting with the housing corporation. It's ongoing. As the Department of Culture and Heritage, we will be assisting in that work and that's a continuing process right now. That's how I can respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious to see if your department or the Nunavut Housing Corporation has gone to elders to see if they give any input towards any design into housing within Nunavut. Housing designs are designed for the south and not really designed for Nunavut, where we live in cold, harsh temperatures. I'm wondering if the department has gone to elders and if any elders have given any input towards any design at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we want to involve our elders on how housing designs can be more appropriate. For example, the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit within different government departments or corporations can also make recommendations to either the housing corporation or other entities on Inuit visions and ideas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: *Quanaqquitit*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) It's just a comment that our elders have a long history of Inuit traditional knowledge and they know how to make houses even in the long, cold winters because they have extensive knowledge of our land. I just wanted to say that we need to understand and learn from our elders in terms of Inuit traditional knowledge. It's just a comment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of assessments, the minister stated earlier that there were 800 employees who requested assessments on language proficiency and that around 400 employees have already been assessed. When will the remaining of the 800 assessments be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Just one moment, please. Thank you.

Thank you. Right now it's hard to tell. Some employees are situated in the communities and the assessors would have to travel to those communities. We don't know at the moment when the rest of the employees will be assessed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support that initiative. How can the assessors, even if they don't travel to the communities, come up with a way that they can do their assessments, either through the phone, on the Internet, or do the assessors have to be in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are only two assessors and that has been an issue. Even though they want to assess more people, with only two of them doing the job and continuous travel, I think that is a better way to do it at this time, but I will check with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to see if the assessments can be done via telephone or through the Internet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. This is just a general comment. To my understanding, if an employee was assessed this year and their salary was to be increased, they would have to be assessed again after five years to make sure that they are not losing their language. I don't completely understand how that is set up. It doesn't seem that our employees would lose their language. It's just a general comment.

I know this is within the Department of Human Resources and I will have questions on this for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further information on that, for Inuit who are just going into the workforce with the government, are they all assessed to see how strong their Inuktitut oral and written skills are? For example, you would want to know how proficient I am in both oral and written forms of Inuktitut. Would I get assessed once I started working? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would have to go on the wait-list. We've only got two assessors and there are quite a few people waiting for their testing. We have an application form for any employee to request an assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague had a question about the different dialects. There are Inuinaqtun, Nattilingmiutut, Paallirmiutut, Uqqurmiutut, and north Baffin. Are the assessments done in those different dialects? For example, if I was from the Kitikmeot, would I be assessed by a person who is proficient in the Kitikmeot dialects? As he stated, there are only two assessors. Are there any assessors from the Kitikmeot or Kivalliq regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taiguusiliuqtiit has developed assessments for five dialects and they are for (interpretation ends) South Baffin, North Baffin, (interpretation) Kivalliq, Inuinnaqtun, and Nattilingmiutut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You indicated that there are only two assessors. I believe you're looking at increasing that number to five. Do you have positions for those people to be hired? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taiguusiliuqtiit only has two assessors and I will have to check with them to see if they will be adding more, but there are five dialects that they have developed that can be used for assessments. I hope that was understandable. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture and Heritage manages the negotiations for federal funding under the Canada-Nunavut agreement on French language services and the Inuktitut language. When will that agreement be renewed? What specific

areas will the department be advocating for enhanced supports under the new agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Canada-Nunavut agreement for language services will expire in 2020 and we are currently working with the federal government to see if we can renew that agreement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will possibly be my last question, Mr. Chairman, and I'll ask it in English, but I know I can definitely speak in Inuktitut with the minister.

However, I'll say that (interpretation ends) the *Iviqtippalliajut* document tabled by the minister on November 1, 2018 indicates on page 10 in the English version that deputy heads of the departments will be "responsible for ensuring that the workplace is...built on a foundation of Inuit societal values." What criteria will be used to assess departmental progress in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my deputy minister can answer that question better than I can, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently determining the criteria that will assess the departmental progress and we make sure that the deputy heads of departments are informed about what criteria will be used and how they will be used. The Department of Culture and Heritage's (interpretation ends) IQ Division (interpretation) is currently working on the criteria. We haven't had a meeting with all the department heads, but we think that it will be completed by the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your officials. Welcome.

I have a question. The 2018-2021 business plan indicates that the department will "Engage Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop a method for incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles into housing design..." I have noticed that there are hardly any porches in elders' homes, and usually we have our country food on the floor and it looks like there is going to be a butchering room.

As the Department of Culture and Heritage, are you working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the elders on housing design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was asked already and a response was provided. Do you have another question? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize, Mr. Chairman. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has been working for quite a while on standardizing the writing system for Inuktitut in Inuit Nunangat. Can you give us an update on where that is now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

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

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. We have not seen a standardized policy, but Taiguusiliuqtiit is going to be having a meeting at the end of the month. I will ask them where they are at with that and I will provide my colleagues with an update. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a lot of questions, but my first question is about a section that I read. You indicated that there are 97 employees. I wonder where the six new employees are located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are four employees in the Languages Division. For the (interpretation ends) editor/reviewer, (interpretation) there is one in the Translation Bureau in Igloolik, two in Iqaluit, and one in Kugluktuk. We are looking to fill two

positions based in Ottawa where they will be under the Heritage Division, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Employment within Culture and Heritage is often desired, especially in the smaller communities. I wonder if you have plans to spread positions out to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we have not made any plans, but we currently have offices in Igloolik, Kugluktuk, and here in Iqaluit. We have no plans to open offices in the other communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. This will be my last question for now because the rest of my questions are in the other sections. As was mentioned earlier, there are assessments being made on how proficient government employees are in both written and oral Inuktitut. How does the Department of Culture and Heritage deal with employees who can't speak Inuktitut? How do you encourage those employees to take training for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different programs available and we urge employees to take them, for example, if they want to learn the Inuit language. We also want to make different programs available.

With *Uqausivut 2.0* Language Revitalization, we provide programs for people who have forgotten how to speak Inuktitut or for employees who would like to enhance or reclaim their language skills. We would like to provide assistance to Nunavummiut through that. For example, we work with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association where they do a lot of language work. There are different programs available regardless of their age. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

>>Committee recessed at 12:04 and resumed at 13:30

Chairman (interpretation): Good day. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good day, people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I just wanted to make a brief follow-up on some of the

questions that came up this morning regarding the language incentive policy assessment. Although we have a number of public servants on the wait-list to be assessed, when those people do get assessed for their proficiency, it is retroactive to the time they submit their applications. Just to make that clarification. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are now on page F-5. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start, I just want to say that I am very proud of the pages that we have here. My grandchild is one of the pages sitting over there and so I am doubly proud of Wayne Quassa.

Under section 15 of the *Official Languages Act* and section 27 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* state very clearly that the minister has to table an annual report for these two Acts. The most recent annual report for the year 2014-15 was tabled by the minister on June 14, 2018. When can we expect the next annual report? The last report was for 2014-15 for these two Acts. When can we expect the missing annual reports to be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The required annual reports are still being worked on. I can't say right now when I will be able to table those documents to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder why it is taking a long time for them to be completed. What are the main reasons for that? Is the office too busy? Do they have to contain a lot of detail? What are the reasons? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to look into the reasons with my staff. It could be the contents involved or a lack of capacity or other reasons. I have to look into that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will expect those reports before the end of our term.

Also, under section 3 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it requires that all organizations operating in Nunavut that employ people to provide services and communications to the public in the Inuit language. It came into effect on July 9, 2017. To date, what kinds of challenges have you faced in trying to implement that section under the Act that came into force on July 9, 2017 in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

my colleague for the question. That section of the Act came into force on July 1 and when it got enacted, we had created a grant for businesses to comply with the language legislation. To date there have been very few requests for that grant, although we want to get many more requests. Maybe it is the lack of knowledge that this is available, even though they may want to do more work in the language. Some businesses probably need help in doing that. Private businesses can request up to \$5,000 a year from our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first comment was that organizations or businesses produce different documents. It probably applies to that too. Do you encourage the businesses to do that? If organizations like stores produce documents and they have signs outside of the building, the Inuktitut language should be first or on the top. Those are the intentions of this Act. Does the minister's department promote that aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$5,000 grant is available annually, so private businesses can request that for different purposes, such as documents, (interpretation ends) posters, signage, and advertising. (interpretation) It will be for the needs of the private businesses, such as bills and invoices that they send out. When they are

addressed to the people of Nunavut, the businesses can get assistance in producing those documents in the proper language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said that there is not much uptake on the \$5,000 grant, with just a few applications, so I further encourage the minister. It is an Act now and it has to be followed by businesses and organizations in general. I believe the minister should write another letter encouraging them and telling them that "My department has this money available to help you." I think that should be promoted more. Our spoken and written language is very important and it should be used in Nunavut. It is the law now. I encourage the minister to again notify the businesses of that because they are in Nunavut. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment, but we will try to work with the different organizations on this. Every year we try to inform the communities of the grants and contributions programs that we have. In 2018 in Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Chesterfield Inlet we informed them about the different programs, including this one that is for private businesses and organizations, where they are able to apply for funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. The Official Languages Branch of the Department of Culture and Heritage allocates over \$1.7 million in grants and contributions for groups in Nunavut. How many of these grants and contributions have been approved for funding for offices and other things like that? How many of these applications for grants and contributions have been approved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but I'm not sure which program funds the member is referring to in the question. Perhaps he can clarify that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll say it in English.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The Official Languages Branch of the Department of Culture and Heritage allocates over \$1.7 million in grants and contributions. How many of these grants and contributions have been approved for multi-year funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Thank you for the

clarification. We don't do multi-year funding through this branch, but I can get some details around how many projects over the last year have been funded with this grants and contributions under Official Languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We don't always frown; sometimes we smile.

Following the names on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, this is International Women's Day. I wish my grandmother and female cousins a good day. It's my older sister-in-law Rosie Ooloooyuk's birthday. Happy birthday, older sister-in-law.

My question is on the 2019-2022 business plan. The funding for the Translation Bureau will be increased to \$4.4 million in the coming year. What is the additional \$1 million going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm on the right page, it will be used to hire four more PYs at the Translation Bureau, and the other money will be for travel, IT, and other things, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Translation Bureau maintain a list of certified

interpreters and translators in the territory and, if not, would the minister commit to making this list available on their website? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. We will have to get back to the member on that question, Mr. Chairman. Some of the interpreter/translators in the government are through contract, so I will have to find out what we can show. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. On page 90 of the business plan for this year, there is an event to celebrate Inuktitut and it's titled "Inuit Pisingit/Inngiutingit." *Ajaajaa* songs are called *pisiit*, not *ajaajaa* songs. In the communities of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot there's an organization that promotes heritage and they raise their own funds.

I wonder if Qilaut, when they use those traditional *pisiit* songs... For example, when they're singing those traditional songs, they don't use the word "nanuq." They say "qakuqturjuaq" or "quqsuqturjuaq." Has the songwriting contest been brought forward with that in mind? The planning for that is to be completed by March, which is this month. I just wanted to ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qilaut traditional and contemporary songwriting contest has different categories. It promotes and shows the talent and it includes *ajaajaa* songs and other types of songs. I mentioned the winners of Qilaut and they had guitar songs. It's one of the most popular activities that we do in terms of language promotion. It seems we should do more in this area and we're open to ideas. Yes, traditional *ajaajaa* songs are included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like some clarification on this. I will say it in English so that I am clearly understood.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Culture and Heritage plans to host its second Inuugatta Inuktuuqta Language Conference in March of 2019. The draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that the findings of the analytical report on the use of Inuktitut and other official languages in Nunavut will be released at that time. Will these results be used to prioritize initiatives or activities to promote or revitalize Nunavut's official languages and, if so, have any specific initiatives or activities already been identified for the 2019-2020 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) For the first part of his question, yes; second part of the question, not necessarily. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he expand on what he meant by “not necessarily”? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report on official languages will assist us in planning our activities. The *Uqausivut Plan*, for example, is being used in the schools and the government with the public service. It will help promote Inuktitut. We want to better understand the state of our language in Nunavut and this is something we can do annually to see where we are going, whether it is lowering or rising. We need the assistance of Nunavummiut to increase the use of our language because we would like to strengthen it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the question my colleague asked. As you mentioned earlier, the Department of Culture and Heritage provides funds of up to \$5,000 to promote the use of Inuktitut for private businesses. Did I understand that correctly? Mr. Chairman, I would like to get clarification. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We set aside \$5 million for Inuit... . What’s the exact wording? One moment, please.

(interpretation ends) Inuit language implementation funding (interpretation) will help the different government departments with their planning. This is for government-based funding. There is other funding which the private sector can access. If I’m not mistaken, it is up to \$200,000 and each company can request up to \$5,000 annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I find it very useful that private companies in Nunavut that don’t seem to prioritize Inuktitut signage or language can access funds to promote Inuktitut. I wonder if the government has ever thought of putting Inuktitut first. Maybe the government doesn’t have the authority to impose fines on those companies that break the law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps to explain further, the total \$5 million fund is from the Department of Culture and Heritage, but the federal government provides an additional \$5 million to the government to promote the Inuit language. Through grants and contributions, there are other funds available for Nunavummiut to deal with

languages. That is for all Nunavummiut, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Before we proceed, I would like to welcome our former Speaker, Mr. George Qulaut, to the House.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think my question was answered. When people who cannot speak English approach or call the airlines, businesses, and hotels, they usually don't have Inuktitut-speaking employees available. Does the government not have any plans to impose fines in those circumstances? Inuktitut is supposed to be the priority. When it comes to official languages, it seems like Inuktitut is placed last. I'm wondering if you have thought about this. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If any private enterprise didn't follow the language legislation, it's probably better dealt with through the Languages Commissioner. In terms of where to proceed, we can help Nunavummiut if they feel they are not receiving the services in the official language of their choice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's partly

frustrating because the government should be responsible for that. If we are going to be the protectors of Inuit culture, then the Inuktitut language should be used everywhere.

For my next question, the federal government is working towards recognizing indigenous languages across the country. With Inuktitut not being recognized yet, where is the government at with that? Has the government written correspondence on that or do they support having Inuktitut recognized as an official language in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the way I understand it, I believe the Languages Commissioner can issue fines if a business is non-compliant with the regulations outlined in our Act or they can provide direction.

In terms of the federal government's proposed *Indigenous Languages Act*, we want to work with them. When the federal cultural minister was here, we discussed that and we indicated that the Inuit language lacks national recognition. We also have a desire to work with the Inuit organizations, even though the federal government has proposed that bill. We have also said that our two Acts in Nunavut are good examples if the federal government is going to proceed with their legislation. That's what we have done to date, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following the names on my

list, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I know you alluded to my colleague's question on increasing the Translation Bureau division with four PYs. Where will these PYs be going to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. (interpretation) Sorry. (interpretation ends) Two in Iqaluit, one in Igloolik, and one in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a comment. I hope your department is seriously considering the capacity at the language bureau office in Kugluktuk because when you look at Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut translators, you have two offices, one in Igloolik and one in Iqaluit, and then you have the one office in Kugluktuk for Inuinnaqtun. I have worked there and they do amazing work, but they are often usually overworked, especially during leg. time. I encourage you to consider increasing the amount of Inuinnaqtun translators in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the consideration. We do hire contract interpreter/translators as needed when the workload is increased. For now, we are increasing by one and that will hopefully alleviate some of the pressures from not just Kugluktuk's office but all our Translation Bureau, as these PYs are meant to help address some of the increasing workload. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following the names on my list, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Before I go to my question, I just want to go back to Ms. Kamingoak's question. Do you ever consider getting a translation bureau for Nattilingmiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time no, unfortunately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The draft 2019-2022 business plan lists as one of the priorities for 2020-21 that the department will, and this is on page 91, "In collaboration with regional Inuit associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other partners, undertake a communication [campaign] to prevent language shaming." What kinds of information will the department use to determine the extent of language

shaming that occurs across Nunavut and how best to address it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that particular priority, we can't say exactly what information we will use to try to address language shaming, but we have identified that we need to act on it, similar to how there's bullying happening. I think it's similar to bullying how it's no use to bring down people who are trying to learn and trying to enhance their language. We want to prevent that from happening and for anybody to be comfortable with being able to learn and not be shamed. It's counterproductive to what we want Nunavummiut to strive for, which is increasing our language skills in all our official languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment. When I was a child, I tried to use my language as much as I could, but in that case there was language shaming from my peers. It touches my heart and it's very painful to go through that experience. I really hope our children don't go through that experience. It's better if that campaign begins today, but we will be waiting for it to start in 2020. I know that our younger generation would like to speak more of our Inuit language, but they are always put down because they don't know how to use the language. That's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) F-5. Culture and Heritage. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Aggu had asked a question that I would like to answer. Of the \$1.7 million that have been set aside for grants and contributions, we have given out \$1.19 million to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for that information. F-5. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,021,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. F-6. Culture and Heritage. Heritage. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are all aware and we have discussed this in the past that a lot of artefacts have been sent outside of Nunavut and are not in Nunavut. There are plans in place to repatriate them to Nunavut and we would like to see them in Nunavut. There will be a travelling exhibit to display our artefacts to selected locations. Which communities have been selected for the travelling exhibit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Presently with many artefacts and old carvings being outside of Nunavut, with some in Winnipeg, Gatineau, and

Ottawa, we are planning a few temporary exhibits with museums or cultural centres in Nunavut. For example, the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum and the cultural centre in the Kitikmeot, we would like to work with all of those agencies for temporary travelling exhibits for the (interpretation ends) Kugluktuk Heritage Centre, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society (interpretation) in Cambridge Bay, and in Baker Lake (interpretation ends) the Inuit Heritage Centre, (interpretation) Nunatta Sunakkutaangit in Iqaluit, (interpretation ends) the Nattilik Centre (interpretation) in Gjoa Haven, and the one in Pond Inlet. We will try to work with those groups, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2019-2022 business plan a new heritage collections division will be established in 2019-2020. Where will this division be based and how many staff members will it have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you were asking about the two new PYs within the Heritage Division. We're trying to display the heritage collection in Gatineau. They have the largest collection in Ottawa. They're just being stored. They still have to be catalogued and inventoried, and there are many items. Those two staff members will be located in Gatineau. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the heritage centre were to be moved here, have you identified where it would be situated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague just mentioned the planned heritage centre. Would it be one institution or would there be one in each of the three regional centres in Nunavut, or is this still under discussion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We worked with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on what best options we could come up with for a heritage centre, museum, theatre, or a performing arts centre. We will be striking a committee. I can't say whether it will be in the regions or if there would be just one centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a general

comment. I am a qallunaaq. I think it is a part of qallunaat culture that all the artefacts that are important are gathered into one centre. It is the culture of the qallunaat; put it in a large, populated centre. They gather them into one huge building.

If we are going to follow qallunaat culture, if we are going to be discussing the museum, we have to consider which culture we will follow. The artefacts would be very good to see. If they were to be put into one central place, a lot of Nunavummiut would never see them. If they were in Ottawa, they would be in a distant place. That's just my general comment. I no longer would like to talk about the qallunaat culture.

>>Laughter

I noticed that the budget under Community Radio is not very big, \$150,000. It was under (interpretation ends) Heritage, (interpretation) but it has been moved to the Official Languages Branch. I would like to know why the change was made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We moved the \$150,000 to the Official Languages Branch because we thought it was a better fit. Radio stations can request funds from that. They inform Nunavummiut in Inuktitut, English, and French, so we thought it would be better if it was under Official Languages, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very important to have those radio stations in the communities because it promotes the languages. Radio stations are of great benefit to the communities. When the radio is not operational, you tend to long for it. How many radio stations does the \$150,000 support annually? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It supports 10 radio stations annually. In 2018-19 we supported Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice if there was an increase in the funding in the coming years and it would support more radio stations in the communities.

This will be my last comment. The funding for libraries at \$494,000 hasn't changed and there has been no increase to date. The Donald Suluk Library in Arviat is very well utilized by the young people. I believe the minister saw the library with his own eyes and it is aging. They usually don't have enough funds to pay the employees, and the funding that was provided for the computers is not available anymore.

One of your priorities for 2020-21 is to "Increase access to technology and digital services..." Will the funding increase in the upcoming years? That's

my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can make requests for funds through this program if you would like to increase the size of your library. If there are more requests for money, then it would mean that we can try to increase the amount of funding. I would urge that the communities make requests for funds so that there will be an annual increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the funding request. It states, "Complete traveling exhibit program involving selected Archives, Museum Objects and Inuit Art..." What kinds of items will be on display and which communities have been identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We still can't indicate how we're going to do the project, but we're looking at interim exhibits in the communities that I identified which have heritage centres. We will want to work with those entities. I think it would be better if those communities with the heritage centres indicate what items should be on display. We would like to get feedback

from those communities and Nunavummiut can look forward to it, especially for those communities that have those centres already. There are a lot of items that are stored outside of Nunavut that we would like to have displayed. We would like to see more items exhibited in Nunavut and that's our plan, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his adequate response. Again, in the 2019-2022 business plan it indicates that a new heritage collections division will be established in 2019-2020. Where will the division be located and how many staff members will it have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that question was asked already. There will be two PYs dealing with artefacts based in Gatineau, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question on that. The member from Arviat North indicated that the federal government apologized to the Ahiarmiut. They said that they would like to train Nunavummiut and Inuit outside of Canada in archiving and to look at other programs identifying marine mammals. The Ahiarmiut inland people didn't know anything about marine mammals like seals and whales.

Is the Department of Culture and Heritage in discussions with the Ahiarmiut to have their history written and documented? I'm bringing that up because I am proud of those people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are open to discussions and different ways of life of the past. We would like to get suggestions and whenever possible, we are more than open to new learning experiences.

Since we don't have a Nunavut-wide heritage centre and there are a lot of artefacts stored outside of Nunavut, we have also worked on organizing Inuit artefacts and digitizing them so that they can be used in schools to teach the history of where the artefacts came from, what the objects were used for, and how they were used. They could be used as educational tools in the schools and would also be used as a resource in the libraries. That is one of our goals in the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many questions, but I would like to start off with the Nunavut Public Library Services Administration. I was wondering if the minister would be kind enough to tell us about the current status of public libraries in Nunavut and, namely, how many there are and how they run. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Bear with me a moment, please.

At this time we have nine libraries and the library in Baker Lake just recently closed. That's the current status, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Public libraries are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. I would like to enquire if the minister would agree with that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would agree on that statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the minister does agree. Quite frankly, I'm shocked with the low number of public libraries that we have in our territory.

I really believe that the benefits that public libraries provide to our communities are essential, from preschool story time, quiet study spaces and work areas, and providing computer and Internet access to the general public, which is why I believe that every

community in our territory should have a public library. Would the minister agree with that as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right now how libraries are funded and how they come about is it is community driven. We work with where there is a group. Usually a non-profit society will form and then they are eligible to submit an application for funding through our department. Those nine communities right now have that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm curious if the minister has reached out to the other communities that do not currently have public libraries, and specifically if the minister has reached out to those communities to see if they're interested in starting non-profit groups to work towards creating public libraries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're talking about buildings and buildings, which are a fine line to capital. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under grants and contributions, communication campaigns, we canvass Nunavummiut in any community who might be eligible. There is an opportunity for a group that might want to form a society.

To answer his question, we haven't specifically gone out to those communities that don't have a library to solicit whether or not they want to form a library society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to put forward a request for the minister. I would like the minister to commit to sending out an open letter to all of the hamlets that don't currently have a public library to see if they might know of interested individuals or groups that would be willing to create a society that could then work with the minister in creating public libraries. Would the minister commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Related to the discussion and the topic of antiquities, including artefacts crafted by ancestors of modern Inuit that ought to be on display, I was thinking of this matter that continuously rises as we still have many archaeological sites dotting our lands. As more tourists arrive in our northern lands, without proper control or management, the artefacts will be disseminated, which are currently lying on our lands. I would like to understand

the minister's position, which is why I am asking about this matter and whether the Department of Environment is working with the minister on the artefacts to develop stronger protection, especially with territorial parks, and if this has been considered at all. I wanted to understand that, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The artefacts that our ancestors produced are protected by law, and we can work with the Inuit Heritage Trust on this matter. If archaeological items have been found and their locations are known, the fact is that nobody is supposed to touch them. People need to get a permit from the government in order to excavate those artefacts or to protect those artefacts and handle them with care.

I would like the assistance of all the people of Nunavut to make sure that they inform the Department of Culture and Heritage if they're in territorial parks or outside of territorial parks. We produced a video that you're not supposed to disturb the ground around the artefact or damage it. I would like people to be aware of that because we do take care of that. If someone finds artefacts, we do have a phone number and people are supposed to inform us where the artefact is so that it can be worked on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I heard

the reference to the matter I raised in my question, so I will ask about this matter again. If the artefacts are inside territorial parks or even if the artefacts are not within any park, how will the Department of Environment work with us in the future, or will they identify a process for that or am I too early? I hope I was clear, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like some more information as to what he is envisioning. What kinds of artefacts are you talking about and to what purpose? The Department of Environment would probably have to be involved, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consensus is that more tourists can now arrive today both via cruise ships and other means, and many tourists wish to experience the land and they can hike anywhere in this day and age. Tourists want to see all sorts of new things and they also want to hold things in their hands, especially if it is mysterious to them, so they tend to pick things up. In thinking of that possibility, I wonder if the Department of Environment is consulting with the Department of Culture and Heritage as it would allow for more protection of artefacts lying on the ground in terms of legislation. In thinking of that possibility, I asked the question about that first. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. He indicated that was just a comment. (interpretation ends) F-6. Culture and Heritage. Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,966,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. With that, we will take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:39 and resumed at 14:55

Chairman: Thank you. I call our committee meeting back to order. We are now on page F-7. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to see in the business plan, "Document and publish traditional knowledge, customs and terminology about dog teams." My husband and I have been dog teaming for 30 years and it is noticeable when dogs are used for polar bear hunting, and the terminology; hala-hala, to the right; or auk-auk.

There is work to be done in looking at the customs and technology about dog teams. When is it anticipated that this project will be completed or is it completed already, and when will the results be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you. This has just started and it will continue into 2019-2020. This work

will be used as curriculum and material on the dog teams and the terminology. We want to publish it, but this project has just begun and we will be continuing with the work, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. This is my last question. In Chesterfield Inlet there is a good coordinator for the elders and youth. We are also losing a part of our culture, but they brought back how to use a qajaq and qajaq-making.

What initiatives are you promoting for elders and youth and what do you want to do this winter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for me.

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

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different initiatives and programs for elders and youth, and we do provide funding for either category. They can outline their priorities. They do on-the-land programming; we have assisted elder committees; and there are also youth committees. We also get their feedback on what they would like to see and how we can assist them as a department.

This spring in 2019 in the Kitikmeot there is a land camp which will be held for elders and youth there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total

Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$800,000 is allocated towards elders and youth, with funds available via applications that can be used towards training youth on the land. How are local organizations informed of this funding opportunity if they are going to be tasked with the training? How are the communities prioritized for approval? Mr. Chairman, I hope I was understandable. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. There are committees for elders and for youth or for both elders and youth. We receive a lot of requests for funds to both. If we look at the surpluses, it seems we have been supporting the same groups annually. I'm not quite sure if I answered the question properly. I hope I came across, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, he responded in part. I think that youth and elders should get together so that the youth can be taught by the elders, obviously. Who can they ask for funds that they can use? The hamlet or the Department of Family Services? I would like that clarified, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. The hamlets or the GLO are also an avenue to direct the proposals. January 31 is the deadline for proposals for the annual funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many communities have a place where the youth and elders can get together? It's probably 22 communities in Nunavut. If I made sense, that's my question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they have their own board, they would have to find a place to meet, but the hamlet may be able to assist in the process, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't always use the hamlet for these. How can this be considered for the future if they wanted a facility where youth can be taught by elders about our culture? I think we should consider this for our future, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): I think the district education authorities would be a good avenue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,208,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. F-8. Culture and Heritage. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It looks like I am the only one that is talking today, so I am very happy.

>>*Laughter*

When we are talking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, I want to ask the minister and department. Considering the meaning of Inuit traditional knowledge, our elders know all about traditional knowledge. How are the elders consulted on that? I'm asking for clarification. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide funding to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The government also has Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators within the government system. They also provide direction and help situations, and promote the use of IQ. Elders are also appointed to these committees. There are also different committees like this in communities that also wish to promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and should support better ways of working together. We certainly want to work with

elders, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In thinking of that proposed development of Inuit cultural knowledge collection, when will the department table in this House the terms of reference or documentation so that communities can have something to work with to prepare for developing Inuit knowledge guidelines and collections? I hope it was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe he is referring to the document I tabled that is called *Iviqtippalliajut* or maybe something else. For example, the government will use *Iviqtippalliajut* to have government operations more inclusive, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly this is not a question; it's just a comment I wanted to make. Ever since we have had our own government, something our fellow Inuit generally wish to hear is passionate advocacy for Inuit language and culture since the majority of our constituents are Inuit and we need to voice that in representing Inuit. This is what we need to convey to our government about our culture and knowledge held throughout our communities in Nunavut, Mr.

Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. Following my list of names, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you. It seems I am second on the list for questions today.

Looking at the 2019-2022 business plan, one of the priorities of the department for the coming year is to “Host the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit summit for the 20th anniversary of Nunavut.” When will the summit take place and what are the activities that are planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very happy that this is being planned and obviously elders will be involved. Right now we are planning for around November 2019, just before winter. *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and various things like language will be important topics at the meeting. What people’s thoughts are on the *Iviqtippalliajut* framework and how it can be implemented more within our government are things that come to mind that will be discussed, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is in looking at the 2018-2021 business plan, the department initiated a project in 2018 and it will end in 2019. They were

going to “Publish a book on Inuit Maligangit with information collected by the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit.” When will that be published and what information will it contain? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a slight delay on the book that was being published on Inuit laws. A lot of people have worked on this and it has been edited and amended, but we’re expecting it will be published in the near future. I will inform my colleagues and Nunavummiut when it becomes available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The last name on my list, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They call it *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as if it was ancient. People talk about it as Inuit knowledge and they use that term when we’re not talking about Inuit traditional knowledge. I just want to mention that. Minister, you probably hear about that too on which term we will be using with you as a minister. Perhaps Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit can resolve that.

I wanted to ask about what is called *Iviqtippalliajut* that was tabled on November 1, 2018. This document sets out a framework for incorporating Inuit societal values in the government. What will be the first step towards implementing this framework and in which departments will *Iviqtippalliajut* be implemented? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the departments have a person that they can approach with *Iviqtippalliajut* being implemented. The various policies, regulations, and legislation will have to incorporate Inuit knowledge and societal values. We have *Iviqtippalliajut* so that policies, regulations, legislation, and services are standardized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): This is my final question. We say *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. In English it is (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values. (interpretation) They're two separate things, as if they were different, even though they are one and the same, Inuit traditional knowledge and (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values. (interpretation) Is there a difference between the two? Is that why you use the terms when we talk about those two items? I'm asking the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps, as he mentioned earlier, Inuit traditional knowledge is considered ancient. We started using (interpretation ends) Inuit societal values. (interpretation) However, I'm not sure when we started switching over to the other term. Perhaps that can be

discussed at the summit this coming fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page F-3. Department Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,805,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Culture and Heritage? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié, any closing comments?

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for my colleagues' questions. I also thank my officials. We especially thank our interpreter/translators, not only at the Assembly but in the government. We appreciate them.

2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Let us use our language and strengthen it. We should not be ashamed of it and we shouldn't be putting anyone down for using their language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the minister's officials out from the witness table.

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(interpretation ends) Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the committee will indulge, yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to witness table? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The members with me to my right, Mr. Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left, Dan Carlson, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am here to present the Department of Finance's 2019-2020 main estimates and business plan.

Mr. Chairman, the role of the Department of Finance is to support Government of Nunavut departments in the responsible management of public money. We maintain the systems and rules that support financial accountability, we prepare and publish the GN's financial statements and public accounts, and we oversee the capital and O&M budgeting processes. We perform audits, collect taxes, and manage the GN's insurance portfolio. As well, we undertake the day-to-day financial operations like paying bills and collecting debts.

The Department of Finance also administers and pays for central GN programs, such as the Nunavut Electrical Subsidy, the Nunavut Child Benefit, the GN's insurance premiums, and GN employee benefits.

Through the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, a public agency that reports through our department, we oversee the distribution of liquor and cannabis in the territory. The Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission also manages the "Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta" campaign aimed at reducing the harms associated with alcohol consumption in the territory. This campaign is entering its third year and is being expanded to include cannabis.

Mr. Chairman and members, of major significance in 2019-2020 will be the creation of the new Department of Human Resources. A number of human resource functions that currently sit within the Department of Finance will be transitioned into the new department. Mr. Chairman, this change will allow for a renewed emphasis on more finance-

focused issues and concerns within the Department of Finance.

In the upcoming year the department will move forward on a number of projects aimed at increasing the financial skills of GN employees. In particular we intend to reprofile three positions in the Comptrollership Branch to create a section focused on completing and delivering a financial management development program tailored to the training needs and requirement of employees from all GN departments.

The department will continue work aimed at redeveloping our internal Financial Internship Program to focus on increasing the financial and management skills of Inuit employees within the department.

Amongst other work on GN priorities, the department will also continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Human Resources and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop and implement enhancements to staff housing program and other housing-related employee benefits.

Mr. Chairman and members, the Department of Finance is seeking \$86,363,000 for operations and maintenance in 2019-2020. Of this, almost \$32.5 million is for compensation and benefits. The largest component of our budget is for centrally administered funds. In 2019-2020 we are seeking \$55.9 million for these programs, including:

- \$27.3 million for government-wide employee benefits, such as dental premiums, workers' compensation premiums, and employee medical

travel;

- \$6.8 million to pay for the lease costs of a number of GN office buildings across the territory;
- \$10.9 million to the Nunavut Electrical Subsidy Program to help lower electricity costs that individuals and small businesses pay;
- \$8.8 million to cover the Government of Nunavut's insurance premiums;
- \$2.1 million to the Nunavut Child Benefit Program that provides small monthly payments to families with children.

Mr. Chairman and members, overall the department is seeking just over \$600,000 more than last year. This increase is made up of:

- \$796,000 in higher insurance premiums, over half of which, \$488,000, relates to the addition of the Iqaluit International Airport. More generally, as the Government of Nunavut's portfolio of assets grows and replacement values grow, insurance premiums also grow.
- We're also looking for an additional \$4 million to pay for GN employee medical travel. These costs are driven by a higher number of employees, more expensive travel, and more demand for medical travel.
- These increases are offset by various small adjustments throughout the department's budget as well as a \$3.4 million reduction in leases for the Legislative Assembly building

and other various GN office buildings which have been transferred to CGS as part of a negotiated lease-to-own agreement.

Mr. Chairman and members, these are some of the plans the Department of Finance has for 2019-2020. I thank you and the other members for taking the time to consider them.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the standing committee may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Finance.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the department's approved 2018-19 operations and maintenance budget, as introduced in the Legislative Assembly, was \$100,258,000. The department's proposed 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget is \$86,363,000. The total number of positions in the department is decreasing from 292.0 PYs in the 2018-19 fiscal year to 220.0 PYs in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. These changes reflect the transfer of a number of positions to the newly re-established Department of Human Resources.

(interpretation ends) 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 Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has responsibility is the size of the public service. The total number of positions in the government continues to increase. The government's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 4,888 approved positions in the government's departments and major Crown agencies and territorial corporations, excluding the Qulliq Energy Corporation. This represents an increase of approximately 70 positions over the number accounted for in the 2018-19 main estimates, and an increase of approximately 430 positions from the 2015-16 main estimates, just five years ago. However, the government's December 2018 quarterly employment report indicates that there were 1,475 vacant positions across the government, which represented a vacancy rate of approximately 30 percent.

It is important for the Financial Management Board to be mindful of the need to control the growth in the number of government positions being added to organizational charts at a time when departments, Crown agencies, and territorial corporations continue to face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies, and roughly one-quarter to one-third of the government's existing positions remain vacant. It is also important to note that approximately one-third of the government's total operations and maintenance spending is allocated to

compensation and benefits for its own workforce. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, this amounts to over a half a billion dollars. The government's response to a recent written question indicates that it incurred over \$28,167,000 in overtime costs during the 2016-17 fiscal year. It is not unreasonable to conclude that the high vacancy rate for the government's existing positions has contributed to this spending.

The 2018-19 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the government's five major Crown agencies and territorial corporations were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 14, 2018. The responses to the letters of expectation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2018. The Department of Finance's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that it is "...working to develop memoranda of understanding with the territorial corporations, intended to include service level agreements and outlines of governance structures." Each of the government's five major Crown agencies and territorial corporations have their own boards of directors. However, their powers and authorities respecting such matters as approving budgets, business plans, draft bills, and collective agreements are sometimes unclear in respect to those of the Executive Council and the Financial Management Board, making it challenging for Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to clearly identify where accountability for decisions rests. Consequently the department's planned work has the potential to achieve useful clarification in this sphere.

The government's 2017-18 annual report on grants and contributions indicates that between the 2004-05 and 2017-18 fiscal years, the government's total grants and contributions expenditures amounted to approximately \$4,337,000,000. A number of members have raised concerns regarding the extent to which the government is able to determine the actual results achieved by its grants and contributions expenditures, especially in such areas as local job creation in relation to grants and contributions provided to for-profit businesses. I note that this issue was publicly raised with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada on the occasion of the standing committee's most recent televised hearing concerning a report from that office to the Legislative Assembly.

The department's 2018-2021 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year was to "Review the methods used to set tax rates and review the appropriateness of current tax rates for all tax types." The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that "Research on this project has begun..." and that "Work will continue into 2019-2020."

Although the standing committee recognizes the constraints under which the territorial government operates in relation to generating own-source revenues, the standing committee encourages the minister to share the results from this work with all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The federal carbon pricing system will be implemented in Nunavut under the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that

one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to “Implement a revenue recycling strategy for carbon pricing revenues.” The standing committee notes its dissatisfaction with the federal decision not to exempt home heating fuel from the levy, and encourages the minister to focus efforts in this area on ameliorating the impact of carbon pricing on low-income residents of the territory.

On November 8, 2016, *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store officially opened on September 6, 2017. The department’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to “Undertake a review of the Iqaluit beer and wine store pilot project...” The department’s 2018-2021 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to “Review and improve the Nunavut Liquor Commission’s approach to recycling.” The department’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that “Research and work towards the improvement of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission’s approach to recycling began in 2018-19” and that “Work is projected to extend into 2019-20.”

The territorial *Cannabis Act* received assent on June 14, 2018 and is now in force. Amendments to the *Liquor Regulations* were published in the September 2018 edition of Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. The new provisions provide that “A maximum of \$750,000 per fiscal year, as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*, may be paid out of the Liquor and Cannabis Revolving Fund for expenses related to

education campaigns promoting the socially responsible use of liquor and cannabis under section 59.1 of the Act.” The department’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that “An online sales system for cannabis is in place and additional work towards expanding the online retail network is ongoing. Work is underway to develop the licensing regime necessary to allow for in person sales in communities.”

Members will monitor these issues with attention.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just an observation, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay voted in favour of beer and wine stores, and two other communities voted the same way. However, the wine stores were to be opened and they have not opened yet. I would like to see where the government is at with regard to the vote that took place in these two communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on general comments. Do members have any general comments? I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on

page C-4. C-4. Finance. Corporate Management. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments on page 2 he mentioned, "develop and implement enhancements to the staff housing program and other housing-related employee benefits." Also, in the business plan it indicates that "A review of the Government of Nunavut's staff housing policy was undertaken in 2018-19." I wonder if he can update us today on what the results of that review were. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in the last week I met with my colleagues to discuss some of the final options and to give some final direction to our departments in the realization of the Department of Human Resources coming into existence. We're very close to making some "announceables" on that front.

I wouldn't want to presume or put out any final topics until such time as we do finalize our decisions, but I do anticipate some decisions coming out. It's going to be incremental. Like I have said before, whenever we see... I keep calling it low-hanging fruit, but things that we can make adjustments very easily and on the fly, we're going to implement faster than others. I can assure the members there are some updates forthcoming. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being said, then

what is the government's timeline for finalizing and tabling an updated Staff Housing Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see why it wouldn't happen in the upcoming session in May and June. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in your business plan it indicates that you are "working to develop memoranda of understanding with the territorial corporations, intended to include service level agreements and outlines of governance structures." What is the government's timeline for concluding the memoranda of understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about five different entities. Some are more autonomous than others, so it's not going to be all coming down the pipe at the same time. That being said, there are negotiations and discussions that are ongoing. Some are a little bit easier than others.

When you look at the Nunavut Housing Corporation as an example, we have a lot closer relationship because they have base funding from us, and then you look at something like the Qulliq Energy Corporation which is arm's length; they're self-funded. There are different complexities with each of those

agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister is able to share with us any of the proposed changes that they plan to take with these departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Discussions are quite preliminary right now. I wouldn't be able to get into any type of anticipated details at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. C-4. Finance. Corporate Management. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, please be welcome.

We talked in the Legislative Assembly a while back about the alcohol education committees that used to exist in the communities where they banned alcohol. Now those committees don't seem to be in existence anymore. I previously asked the minister if the government can provide support for communities that want to remain dry. For the operation of these groups, for example, a community that allows alcohol has an alcohol committee, would it cost more money and, if so, where would the money come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Alcohol education committees are a part of our regulations. If a community that does not have one did want to have one, we would definitely work with that community to help them create or help to administer one.

With regard to the cost, yes, it would put an additional cost. If they couldn't be absorbed from within that budget line, we would have to come back for an appropriation if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to follow up on my colleague's question on the Staff Housing Policy or changes, it sounds like a decision is going to be made soon. Does the department anticipate that a supplementary appropriation will be needed, depending on the decisions made, or are the decisions to be made being made with the assumption that you will stay within the current budget that is being allocated for staff housing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For any changes that we're looking at making right now, there wouldn't be any anticipated increased costs. Most of the costs associated with staff housing are the operations and maintenance of those units, so it wouldn't change. We're looking at more policy-driven changes of allocations and that type of thing. We don't foresee any additional costs at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's just a comment. I look forward to seeing the results of those decisions and I hope that strong consideration is given to the need to support homeownership as opposed to directly... . What I'm talking about is supporting the government employees who own their own homes on an equal level as those that are in staff housing. That's, I think, where we need to go as a territory in terms of more self-reliance and more homeownership. It's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name on my list, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff.

In your opening comments you stated that through the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, they manage the "Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta" campaign program aimed at reducing the harms associated with alcohol consumption.

Since the alcohol education committee has been removed in Kugluktuk, I'm wondering: what has the commission done in regard at reducing the harms associated with alcohol in Kugluktuk? *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, it was a community choice to remove that

alcohol education committee. There are still community wellness coordinators that we can work with to promote the "Let's Be Aware" campaign.

We do on some occasions have people go into communities, like I had mentioned during one of my responses to the member from Arviat North the other day, where we have people in the community visiting schools, going on the radio, handing out promotional items, that type of thing, speaking to youth. That's always something that's going to be rotating on a rotational basis, but we also send materials to the municipality on the "Let's Be Aware" program as well too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: have you sent anyone to Kugluktuk to promote safe consumption? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have had staff in there before the plebiscite. I'm not sure how active they would have been with the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, but there would have been lots of community opportunities to discuss any concerns or any educational opportunities. The staff were in the community for, I'm going to say, a period of time. They would have been very engaged at that point. That would have been the last time we sent anyone to Kugluktuk specifically. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. C-4. Finance. Corporate Management. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a few questions under Corporate Management, but I guess I'll continue on the topic of staff housing.

Looking at the *Hansard* from last year, the same question came up during the same review and the minister's response last year was that... The previous minister was expecting the finalized report to be before himself and the cabinet in the fall of 2018. I would like to ask what has changed in the last year to prevent that timeline that was given to us last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're actually not far off that schedule. There was information that has been shared with my colleagues, like we have been discussing, but I will admit there has some slowdown. As the decision was made to split HR off, that pulled a lot of resources away for the planning of that endeavour. That did take resources away from it. It didn't stop progress on it, but I will say it did slow it down. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thinking about the winter sitting of last year, I as well as one of my colleagues had brought up the issue of household allowance and the eligibility requirements excluding casuals from receiving that benefit. I would like to enquire if the eligibility requirements or

criteria for the household allowance have been looked into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Household allowances were and are part of the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As has previously been indicated, casuals make up approximately a quarter of our workforce. I know that the minister has stated that it is being looked into, the eligibility of casuals receiving the household allowance, but would you be able to give us an answer as to whether or not they will be receiving the household allowance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, there are still some decisions to be made on what path forward we will be taking, so I cannot confirm that today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. C-4. Finance. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,899,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page C-5. Finance. Fiscal Management.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions on this page, I think. In your draft business plan it indicates that “The ‘Capital Planning Process Handbook’ was updated to reflect the improvements made to the capital project ranking criteria and the new capital project ranking criteria was used for the first time in the 2019-20 preplanning process. Post-implementation discussions were held with internal stakeholders to evaluate use of the criteria, with some potential improvements flagged for consideration.” When will the updated Capital Planning Process Handbook be made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the level of detail that the member is requesting, I’ll ask my deputy minister to respond with your permission.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The handbook the member is referring to is an internal working document that we use within departments to help guide our internal capital planning process. It’s not a document we have ever publicly issued in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you. If it’s not going to be made public, I wonder if you can enlighten us on what specific changes to the capital project ranking criteria have been made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I apologize. I don’t have that level of detail. If I could ask Mr. Carlson to give the details; he was involved in that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Carlson.

Mr. Carlson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For many years we used three relatively broad criteria when we were trying to choose which capital projects should be recommended forward. It was health and safety, economy and environment, and mandate. Those are quite broad. What we found as we sophisticated as a government, we wanted to get more detailed into those criteria. We have expanded those three. We now use 13 or 14 separate criteria. We also look at each one of them and weight them based on some internal prioritization. We use all that before we decide which ones we are recommending up toward senior management and then further on to the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions on taxes. In your business plan it indicated that one of the priorities for 2018-19 was to “Review the methods used to set tax rates and review the appropriateness of current tax rates for all tax types.” Your department’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that “Research on this project has begun... . Work will continue into 2019-20.” What specific changes are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's in our business plan over the next couple of years. It's very preliminary discussions of looking at what options we have. An example would be if you look at our corporate taxes, it has come up in the past that our small business tax is higher than some other jurisdictions. Do we leave at that? Do you reduce it to try to stimulate more economic activity? It's weighing different levels of our taxation system along those lines. Other jurisdictions have an alcohol tax. We do not. Everything is open with regard to tax options available to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is going to be, Nunavut is one of only four jurisdictions in Canada without its own retail sales tax. Will your department's review of tax rates also be considering the introduction of a new retail sales tax in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I said earlier that all tax options are open, that's one of the options that we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions and the first one is on page 26;

the federal carbon pricing system that will be implemented in Nunavut under the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. In the draft 2019-2022 on page 26, one of the priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Implement a revenue recycling strategy for carbon pricing revenues." As of today, how much revenue from the carbon tax does the Government of Nunavut anticipate receiving during its first year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we're going to be coming in partway through the year, there are going to be some fluctuations to the numbers initially. We are estimating give or take about \$10 million in this upcoming fiscal year. All I can say for now are just the estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the response. Again on page 26, second bullet, "Develop and implement a system for the sale and distribution of cannabis throughout Nunavut." My question is, "An online sales system for cannabis is in place and additional work towards expanding the online retail network is ongoing." What or where is the licensing regime that would allow for people to sell in communities? Do we have any idea of where that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. We

did start off, as I'm sure the member knows, with just one online supplier and recently added another one. There have been a number of people and organizations contact us to enquire where we are with the question that she's asking on retail sales here in the territory.

Those regulations are being worked on right now. I don't have a firm timeline. We made sure that we allowed it within the legislation. We're working on the regulations. At the same time we're also working with the federal government on the edible and the consumable side of things. We are working on those both concurrently.

To me, I think in my personal opinion, the sooner we get the retail sales available, it's what's going to start making an impact on the black market sales. There is some desire to get that done sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. C-5. Finance. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague mentioned in terms of cannabis and the issue of retail space as opposed to online sales, where there is an actual storefront, I wonder whether the Department of Economic Development and Transportation provides or assists businesses with start-up funding. Are you talking with the department to engage small business opportunities in Nunavut? When you look outside of Northern and the Co-op, there is probably interest in this area, but if we're going to promote economic activity, it would be nice to support

small business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we're developing the regulatory process for retail sales, those are the types of questions that we will be responding to indirectly. We have sent communication to NTI looking for feedback as well.

One of the things I will say that I think is an opportunity, I agree with the member, I think it's an opportunity in communities for either existing small businesses or... . It's hard to say, especially when you look at other jurisdictions and the challenges they've had with supply, whether it be an option for a stand-alone retail unit strictly for that, and we would have to look into it. Again, we're developing the regulations. I like to think that it is an economic development activity the communities could take a look at.

I do apologize. Just to correct myself, the letter to NTI is actually going out next week. I thought it had been sent already. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is understandable. (interpretation ends) Going back to the issue of capital project planning, I'm trying to wrap my head around it. Given that we can't really see the ranking process currently, I'm interested to understand how... . Well, it mentions here on page 25 that "...some potential improvements were flagged for

consideration.” In terms of what those potential improvements are, if there is any information that could be provided. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different ways. We’re looking at vehicles in our fleet; different IT equipment.

If the member wants further detail, it would probably be best to hand off to Mr. Carlson. He is directly involved with that. If that answer is sufficient, then fine. If not, then Mr. Carlson can supplement it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main...or Mr. Carlson.

Mr. Carlson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister mentioned, the improvements that we’re looking on relate to the capital projects that don’t fall into the traditional big infrastructure buildings. When we looked at improving our ranking criteria, we started with the buildings. Those make up the bulk of our capital plan, so we started there. There are some capital projects that are inherently different, like the minister mentioned, IT projects, so the databases, some of our servers and networking. We also know that fleet maintenance or vehicle purchases are different than buildings.

We also are taking a look at thinking about small capital and repairs and maintenance. As our stock of infrastructure grows, because we have been doing a lot of investment in it over the last few years, we want to make sure

it’s not just about building new, bigger, and better. We want to make sure our capital planning includes taking care of the infrastructure we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister and Mr. Carlson. I am interested to hear or to know if issues around poverty are taken into consideration in this ranking. Poverty is something that is not equally distributed across the territory. Poverty is concentrated in some communities to a very high level. (interpretation) I’m wondering whether that is taken into consideration in the capital planning process, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe not poverty directly like that, but community impact definitely is taken into consideration where employment opportunities and infrastructure needs in the communities would definitely have a play. The impact on the community is taken into consideration. Whether poverty could be a part of that, economic development is definitely an aspect of decrease in poverty in our communities. That’s one of the considerations that are taken. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think that would be interesting to see. If

we just look at health issues, for example, we ask lots of questions around health and what is the health status of my community compared to another community. That information is not readily available, not that I have seen, and we use crude measures. Number of medevacs per capita, we could do that and use that as a measure of which communities are less healthy than others.

When you look at a very simple metric like the number of social assistance recipients in the community, there is a very simple metric for poverty. I think there might be some value there going forward to incorporate those to ensure that people in communities aren't being left out or left behind to the greatest extent possible. That's just a comment.

At the bottom of page 25 it mentions that "Improving the capital carry over process will remain an ongoing process..." That's government speak, I guess. It says "...departments are assisted in both refining their use of capital carryovers and projecting cash flows."

For example, CGS, we've had discussions numerous times about capital carryovers. In this year going forward, if these improvements are being made, will we be seeing across the government a reduction in these capital carryovers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll say yes, that is one of our goals, but there are also other things you have to consider. For example, if Community and Government Services

has a number of large projects on the go at the same time across the territory, there are going to be different building years involved. As things get built, we're always going to have capital carryovers. I don't think it's even feasible to have a zero capital carryover.

That being said, we're working at making sure that there are efficiencies and we're working very closely with all departments to make sure that the capital planning process is followed. With regard to the actual infrastructure being built, the timelines of the estimates are being used, there are delays in shipping and there are a number of different reasons why capital carryovers exist, but our goal is to reduce that amount and to make it recognizable that there are efficiencies that are being achieved. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I realize that capital projects are spread over multiple years and we don't want to nickel and dime the departments to the point where it impacts their ability to carry out capital projects, but I think we have to find what the sweet spot is between having a big fund that is just swirling around and is kind of taken for granted that we need this. Anyway I think the minister gets my point.

When it comes to... . Hold on a second here. I'm sorry. I think I have forgotten what my next question was. On page 26, the priorities for 2020-21, it mentions planning processes getting "amended and communicated for election year budget development." I wonder if the minister could explain the complexities

around election years and how it affects the budgets. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all saw last year, there was a challenge and it was the first time that we did it in a two-phase budget which I thought was a good step in the right direction. That being said, there were some challenges, as I believe one of the members last year brought forward a motion on the capital planning process that had an impact across the board on departments presuming capital budgets being approved and making orders before that. That's a part of it.

Figuring out the timing; as the elections happen in the fall at the end of November every four years, that's right in the middle of our normal budget process. How to make sure we move forward on that is going to be a collaborative effort, and I look forward to continuing some details on it and I look forward to working with all members in this House on how we can find those efficiencies so that we can still meet the needs of the civil service and our population but still make it not so complicated that us in here can safely approve or not approve different parts of our budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to carbon pricing and deciding what the department will do, I would encourage them to give strong consideration to limiting as much as possible the paper burden or the

administrative burden with whatever system is put in place. Examples of funds that, let's say, seniors' fuel subsidy funds, where the intention is good but the implementation is quite often more complicated, especially when you put in things like language issues or issues of poverty. That's just a comment.

I'm interested to hear where the department is on the issue of systems-wide implementing something to track attendance of GN employees. The minister and I had an exchange on this in the House the other day, and I continue to feel strongly that this is just basic performance management in ensuring that your employees are in the workplace, recognizing that yes, they have to leave the workplace from time to time. That's fine. They travel and that's fine.

To clarify, I'm not saying that employees should punch in and punch out for lunch. I'm just suggesting the beginning of the day and the end of the day so that you know that they show up on time and that they leave at five o'clock, not at 4:30, not at 4:45; they leave at five o'clock when their work day is done.

The minister had mentioned pilot projects. Are there any plans as to where those would go out in terms of the government's offices? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Department of Finance staff or HR staff, as we currently have right now, have been working on more automated measuring tools. That would

be up to the new Minister of Human Resources on implementation of that. I know that they will carry the work forward. At what stage it's at, whether it's ready to roll out right away and into what communities, that's going to be a decision they will have to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll save questions around that for the Minister of HR. I can think of a lot of examples where it would be very useful, let's say, where you have an employee where there's one employee in the office and who's to know if they show up at 8:30 in the morning or if it's 10:30. I don't know. I'm not making any accusations; I'm just putting that out there as an example. (interpretation) I don't have any more questions at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was a comment. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to start off by pointing out that the Department of Finance website does include the capital planning handbook, but it seems that it is quite outdated and it doesn't include the updated criteria. I would like to ask if that would be updated with the new criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for misleading the other member that asked the question originally. There were some questions

back here on whether it was on the intranet or Internet, whether it's an internal document that staff can access or a public document. It is on our site, so that's the updated one as far as I'm aware and, if not, we will make sure it is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my colleagues brought up the topic of the Department of Finance and how you're reviewing methods of generating tax revenue. I just want to state that I for one am definitely not in favour of a goods and services tax, as I believe they're already quite inflated. Something that I definitely would like to recommend or I would like to find out is if the minister has considered looking into a sugar tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I said any and all taxes were out there, it's not something that I have seen in any of my correspondence or information items is a sugar tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, from my research, there are a number of jurisdictions that are moving towards the direction of incorporating a sugar tax or a sugary drink tax. What they're doing is applying a tax to pops and other sugary drinks to encourage people to adopt a more nutritious, healthy lifestyle. I would like to recommend that the minister take that into consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something that we can take a look at, but when you look at some of the communities we have where a can of coke is \$5 and people are still spending it, I don't think cost is a deterrent. It's the habits and that's more of an educational thing of teaching people how important it is to choose water over pop and even over juice. It's something we will take a look at, but I don't think personally right now that that's an area that we will be considering in the short term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to rebuttal that with if that's the type of mentality that the government is taking on that, why not get rid of the tobacco tax because it essentially is trying to do the same thing as a sugary drink tax? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that a recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's definitely not a recommendation. I was just comparing the two. The purpose behind the tobacco tax is, of course, to generate revenue but

also discourage the population from purchasing tobacco, which apparently according to the government is working. I definitely do believe that a sugary drink tax would possibly have just as great a potential.

I would like to move on to my next topic and it was a topic that we brought up once again this time last year with the Department of Finance. It was the overall fiscal management of the government. Looking at the public accounts, pretty much every department has surpluses and deficits and some of them, supplementary appropriations. I would like to ask the current minister the same question and that is: are you satisfied with the current state of the Government of Nunavut's financial management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're on the right path. I think the members will note and the member asking the question will note specifically how many small adjustments have been made in Finance's budget in particular, taking into consideration actual spending and narrowing the forecasting items. Some departments are easier than others.

I'm going to say it's a work in progress. I have been in this chair for seven or eight months or something, so we have gone through one initial budget cycle and the members, I'm sure, will note there have been improvements and tightening. Therein lays another challenge of making sure that there are consistent approaches to the budgeting cycle from all departments, making sure

that finance staff has the resources to be able to establish their budgets with known actuals and known processes. I believe we are on the right path. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister. I'm glad to hear that the government is moving in the right direction on that.

I would like to bring up another topic of discussion last year and that was the March Madness phenomenon. At the time the previous minister had indicated that there was a monitoring system put in place, and I would like to ask the minister for an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about the delay.

There is not a formal monitoring. Maybe the wording may have been incorrect or maybe not fulsome. My deputy minister communicates with his colleagues across the government to take a look at the March Madness spending, as the member called it.

There are reasons sometimes for last-minute spending in a budget line. If you're looking at equipment purchases and things like that where you want to make sure that nothing unforeseen comes up first where you can get... . Yourself as an example, where you may be looking at putting up different types of equipment across different health centres, you want to make sure no

emergency issues come up within that fiscal year before you make sure that you can allocate purchases to purchase much-needed equipment.

The need of some departments, as the members know from small capital projects and sheets that we have seen, as a government, there are all these high, medium, low risks and we rarely see the medium and low risk. There is always the high-need purchasing in that matter. I will say that it does show that there is identifying the needs in a department. I don't think we will ever get rid of that, but it is something that is being monitored a little bit more closely with the deputy ministers to make sure that those are needed purchases, not wish list purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the 2018-19 priorities, one of the items was "Review and improve the Nunavut Liquor Commission's approach to recycling" and the status indicates that the work had begun, but it's projected to extend into 2019-2020. I would like to ask the minister to provide us with a little bit more detail on what has occurred on that front. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: How do I put this? Not much. The cannabis file has taken over a lot of the same resources that would be used to look at the recycling. I would say it's more of a reason than an excuse in this case. It's something that I know that we need to take some further action on; I think we all know. Even the City of Iqaluit here

has with their landfill project. They've got different phases in their proposal so that they would look at more recycling opportunities.

I do think it's a very important topic. I don't want to downplay the delays on it. Just to be honest, there hasn't been a lot of activity in the last little while, but it is something, again, that I believe is a very important initiative across this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to tee on the topic of the liquor commission. Last year I had brought up the issue of bottle deposits on a number of occasions. In the liquor commission's annual report it states that annually they pull in over \$400,000 in bottle deposit revenues and pay out less than half of it back.

I've got a few questions about the bottle deposits, but the first is whether the bottle deposit itself is governed by regulations or policy internal to the department or if it's legislated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's not legislated. It's not really even a clear direction on it. It's just basically something that we have been doing for the last 15 years. We recognize that it needs to be updated and that it's something that's, again, one of the reasons why it's taken so long. We don't have that established policy or regulation.

I can't imagine it being into the legislation. That would take even longer. I wouldn't want it delayed any more. I believe that we have the flexibility that we could work it through a policy development side of things. Again, right now it's just lines on a piece of paper and that's what we're doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the bottle deposits, it's my understanding that there is only one contractor in the territory that is able to receive bottles and pay out the deposit. I was curious: what about the individuals who are paying bottle deposits in communities outside of Iqaluit? Do they still pay a bottle deposit even though they have no possibility of receiving a return on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's one of the things we want to address. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to come across the wrong way. I understand the purpose of a bottle deposit and I definitely would like to encourage as much recycling as possible, but considering where we stand now, there are no recycling programs in the territory that are able to accommodate glass products. I believe very few communities actually recycle cans and specifically beer cans.

I would like to ask the minister to

commit to looking into removing the bottle deposits for clients that reside outside of communities that have facilities to provide the returns and further, to commit to ending the bottle deposits on glass products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't commit to that. We are working on our recycling program. If there is a way of sourcing out a glass recycling program, I don't want to eliminate that option to us right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely believe that the government should not be taking money from Nunavummiut without the intent of returning it, especially when it comes to deposits, which is why I had asked the minister to commit to stopping that practice or at least moving towards that direction.

I understand that the bottle deposits could be ended just as quickly as it began and vice versa. I don't understand why the minister and the department are so reluctant to end this practice of practically taking money from our residents. I would like to ask once again if the minister would commit to at least beginning the process of ending the bottle deposits for clientele that reside in communities that do not have a contractor to return their bottle deposits and the practice of charging bottle deposits on glass products which no one can recycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something that we can take a look at. I'll be honest, Mr. Chairman. To me that would just add another administrative layer, again, to something that we are currently working towards firming up our recycling program. I don't want to start getting into making knee-jerk reactions right now until we can figure out what our options are.

I do understand where the member is coming from, and you're looking at a little over \$400,000 per year coming in through our bottle deposits. Some of those are cans as well too, which there are recycling programs available. To differentiate how much is cans and bottles, I don't have that level of detail with me; how much of an impact it is.

The whole purpose of bottle deposits is for people to bring them in so that even if they are in a landfill, at least it's in a controlled atmosphere or a controlled area. There are landfill costs and everything associated with the government overall. It's something we will take a look at as we're working on our recycling program, but I'm not going to make a knee-jerk reaction today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm happy to know that it is going to be considered and looked into.

I'll move on to the next topic and my next question is regarding the property

tax exemption for elders. I brought this up with the Department of Family Services that offers a similar rebate to, I believe, it was the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. I was curious: what does the Department of Finance do to ensure that all eligible elders are receiving this property tax exemption? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are dealt with, with the individual municipalities or hamlets, as well as the City of Iqaluit here. That's where the oversight comes from on those exemptions. We pay for those taxes that the municipalities put their application forward on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Last three seconds, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ensure that the Department of Finance is trying to do everything it can to ensure that the elders that are eligible for the property tax exemption are receiving it. I would just like to request that the minister ensure that the department is doing as much as possible to ensure that everybody who is over the age of 60 or whatever the criteria are for this specific program is receiving the property tax exemption.

Further, I do believe it would be in the best interest to work with the other departments and agencies that offer similar subsidies to elders like the Department of Family Services that offers the fuel rebate, and just compare the list at least to ensure that nobody is missing from either of the programs.

That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are involved to some degree. For people who did receive the tax relief last year get letters every year to make sure that they're still homeowners and that type of thing.

To compare the list of who's... . With the fuel tax rebate, it may be a little bit simpler because they're homeownership, but they could be renting as well too. We would have to take a look at how onerous that would be to cross-match to make sure we're not creating more gaps than we're trying to fix. Yeah, I take the member's question as... . Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. C-5. Finance. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,706,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have many questions on this one. (interpretation ends) On page 29 of your business plan it mentions this internal financial training and development program for GN staff. It mentions that in this year it's going to continue to develop that financial training program. How was it decided that this would be an internal program versus something that would be delivered through Nunavut Arctic College? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that program we are able to give hands-on training and guidance to employees to be able to target...everyone has different skills that they already bring to the table. You are able to target any type of training to make sure that the people who are learning, if they've got a good understanding of the revenue side, where maybe you've got to work on the expenditure side.

It also gives us the opportunity identify staff that have potential to continue to move up the ladder and maybe go into outside educational opportunities, not just with the college but with outside, accounting, different professions related to finance. It just gives us an opportunity to be able to go forward with internal training of just general GN processes where a college program, to me, I don't think would be as efficient because we're taking people on the job and working them through the GN processes so that they're familiar with the way we do business, where a college program would be an overall of just finance where they could go to work for a private enterprise or civil service.

It gives us an opportunity to have more targeted training and initiatives, not just to the job but to the individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I can see the value in that, but keeping in mind that in order to access this training, people have to get

a job in finance first. That leaves a whole cohort of people who are not within the public service. I realize that's not the department's mandate, but it's clear there's a huge need for these types of people across the territory, whether it's in municipalities or whether it's in private industry. The minister of Arctic College did indicate this is an area of interest.

I just wanted to clarify. On page 28, Financial Management Development, \$430,000, and it mentions this development program, is this the same thing that is referred to in the priority or is this a different item? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the budget line. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm looking at it here. It's a new budget line going forward, \$430,000, starting this year and it's being developed, and then in the next year in 2020, "Finalize and implement" this program. The cost of implementing the program is anticipated to be the same as the cost of developing it.

I guess just a little bit more information in terms of what it means in terms of developing this program. Is this something that is being contracted out, \$430,000? Do you have people working on this specifically? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While there was some outside assistance with developing the program, that wasn't out of this budget line. This is for increased PYs for that division so that we can take on more learning opportunities.

As I'm sure the member very well knows, sometimes you get into an office atmosphere where there is a heavy workload and you don't have time to teach people. This gives them the ability to be able to share their time to spend on training, working on different job descriptions and whatnot for those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be good if this could be created so more Inuit could learn about financial management and be ready for finance jobs. It would be for all government departments apparently. This \$430,000 is not a whole lot of money and there are many departments. Will each department come up with a budget line item like this? I hope I made sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member touches on a very important point. Typically a lot of the staff that go through the Department of Finance's Finance Division have opportunities in other departments. It gives that ability to have that training in a controlled atmosphere that does spread out through the GN. That's one good

aspect of it, but it is just getting started. As this matures and progresses, you could likely foresee this budget line to increase as we put more training opportunities to staff or continue to rollover people so that they can go out into the departments.

Just on one of the comments you made, I would like to highlight while I have the microphone; when we look at overall governmental operations, financial positions and policy positions are two very key positions where we need more Nunavummiut involved. That's one of the reasons why we're targeting this specifically, but I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in governance or finance to take advantage of different learning opportunities. We need people out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry if I'm asking too many questions.

On page 28 it also states that for regional operations, you have decentralized offices in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Igloolik. Has having offices in the regions created any problems to date for the Department of Finance or does it create more jobs for Inuit by having regional operations? Does decentralization make things run more efficiently or not? What is the Department of Finance's position on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. That's a very loaded question.

Does it create efficiencies? I'm going to say no. When you've got staff that are away from the reporting structure and direct oversight from sometimes their supervisors, it can create challenges. At the same time it's a very important model that this government decided on 20 years ago to work on and we need to make sure... I'll just stop there for a second to deal with the second part of your question.

Yes, it does give more employment opportunities in the communities, whether it be Nunavummiut or Inuit. When we look at our Inuit employment numbers in those regional offices, they're higher than they are here in Iqaluit. In a simple answer, yes, it does create more Inuit employment within the department itself. Is it always efficient? No, but that's where the training and consistency and having their best practices continue to be monitored is where we have to continue to make improvements on. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe something that would help with efficiency would be a time clock in each office.

>>Laughter

It's an idea that just popped into my head.

I'm really happy to see this training money in here and encourage the department to plug away at it. It's great

to see that. I wish that this would have been in the budget 20 years ago. Who knows how many home-grown accountants we would have had or home-grown financial staff. (interpretation) However, that is very good to see. It's not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. According to your time clock, you did have four minutes remaining, but you said...

>>Laughter

Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you for allowing me, Mr. Chairman. I know it was just a comment, but I would like to comment on the comment.

>>Laughter

It has been kind of an unofficial training going on for years. I'm glad we have recognized that, I guess the stress or maybe not the stress *per se*, but the increased workload it puts on our existing staff to be able train at the same time. This allows us the structure of it, to put a training program together for employees so that they can customize their learning experience.

I appreciate the comment and the support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the government is, the most recent annual report on grants and contributions spending was tabled in November 2017

to the Legislative Assembly. Today, although the 2017-18 annual report is available on the department website, it has not yet been tabled. When will the report be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we did make some fairly late modifications to it, so we weren't able to table it in the last sitting, but it will be tabled this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the government measure and evaluate the results of the grants and the contributions that it provides to for-profit, private businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I appreciate the question, it's a very general one. Every department has their own objectives. If you look at Culture and Heritage as an example, we just spoke to there are a number of different initiatives through their grants and contributions that are targeting youth or elders. The Department of Health targets different wellness opportunities in the communities. I can't really give a firm answer to that. Every department has their own objectives of what they're looking at.

I will say we do need to improve on our financial reporting side of it of what we

are getting back from the financial accounting, where it does give an outline of jobs impacted and that type of thing. I recognize that we need to do a better job there, but every department does have their own outcome that they're anticipating from their grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am worried because we're dealing with businesses. If the government proceeds to give them grants and contributions and some businesses might not create jobs for Nunavummiut or Inuit. I do like the response the minister gave me that they do need to make better checks and balances in how these grants and contributions are in providing jobs.

My other question and final question on page 29, I just wanted clarification. "Assist the Taxation section in the procurement of a suitable solution to replace the outdated taxation software." This was undertaken in 2018 to build a tax database system, and the rollout will be the end of this year, 2019. How is that work progressing? My final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you. As Mr. Carlson is directly involved in that... I know it has been phased in, in different approaches. I'm just not 100 percent aware of what phase it's at right now; if the Chair would allow Mr. Carlson to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Before you answer the question, Mr. Carlson, be

cognizant of our interpreters. Mr. Carlson.

Mr. Carlson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Last year in 2018 we rolled out a new database for the property tax system that we used. We worked with CGS on that. This year we would like to roll out a database for the other taxes that we administer like tobacco, fuel, and payroll. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue on my colleague's questions regarding the tax database system. I would just like to enquire if that also includes the age of the individual or the property tax owner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail. Mr. Carlson could respond, if you will allow. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Carlson.

Mr. Carlson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. When we put together databases, we need to be very careful about what information we are collecting. We want to make sure that we are collecting the information that we are allowed to collect under the Act. We would need to check with the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* to see if they allow us to collect an individual's information on age, for example.

Our program that we were chatting about earlier, individuals will apply for it, so they are voluntarily providing us that, which is why we can keep it. Whether we can collect it or require it and how we work that into a database, we will need to be smart about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Carlson for that response. I would just like to recommend, considering that the property tax assessment does allow for the exemption of elders, I believe, for the benefit of the elders' sake, I think it would be in the best interest to incorporate the age of the property tax individuals in the database just to ensure that all elders are receiving that exemption.

I would like to move on to my next question. Looking at the Financial Systems Management Division, I don't see... I guess there is one reduction in the number of positions. I would just like to enquire if, in the division of Finance and HR, Finance is retaining the Human Resources Information Systems section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are retaining that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to the amalgamation of Finance and HR, did the Department of HR have their own information systems

division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when it came over with the HR department. It's now staying with Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the current human resources information system and the accounting information system don't exactly communicate to each other very easily. What the other territories have done and many other jurisdictions is incorporated one master system that enables the government to combine both functions under one umbrella. I would like to enquire if that's the intention of the government and if that's why the human resources information system is staying in the Department of Finance.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will say yes, it's a goal. It's not going to be a short-term goal. It's a very onerous project that's going to take some time and resources to accomplish, but it is the end goal. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. Under the 2018-19 priorities the department identifies, one of the items is "Continue development of new Financial Administration Manual directives." I was just curious: how

many FAM directives were created or updated in 2018-19 and what sort of criteria did they include? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think we have that level of detail with us today and we're just confirming, if the member can just hold for a moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member for the delay. I do have that information. There were four revised and improved FAM directives in 2018: Budget Adjustments and Transfers; Payment of Interest; Duty Travel; Interest and Administrative Charges on Money Owning to the Government. There are 18 directives under review and 13 directives in development currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. Just out of curiosity, have all of those amendments and incorporations been updated on the Department of Finance's website? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the four that came into force would be updated. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next line of questioning is

with regard to the Internal Audit Division. I see in the 2018-19 priorities the department had conducted “an internal and external Quality Assessment Review of Internal Audit Services...” I find it kind of ironic how in 2019-2020 the Internal Audit Division had seen a reduction in positions. I was wondering if that was the result of their own internal audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some long-term vacancies in that division, so we just eliminated a position. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, minister, I was just joking there. Sorry.

My last topic or line of questioning is regarding the public accounts. Last year I brought up the need to move toward adopting management discussion and analysis portion, as do all of our territorial corporations. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide an update on that. I do see it in the 2019-2020 priorities, but I was hoping if we can expect to see an inclusion of the MD&A in the 2018-19 Public Accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member following up on that. It was a good idea last year and we have been working on

it. We’ve gotten through a draft stage of it. I can’t say for sure, but it is likely that we would have some component along those lines in 2018-19. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) It was going to be your last question. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: I said it was my last line of questioning, but I’m sticking to the same line of questioning and in relation to the management discussion and analysis. What it does is in the purpose of explaining or being more open and transparent to the public in explaining details of that fiscal year, and I was curious if the government will adopt this move towards more transparency.

What other jurisdictions have done is publicizing their quarterly updates. I was wondering if the minister has taken that into consideration and if the public can expect to see quarterly updates on the government’s progress throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re always striving to be more open. That’s why the suggestions that the member had made last year have been taken very seriously and action is happening on it. We do have to take a look at... I hate saying again the capacity. Whenever we’re publishing more documents, it does take work and it takes money as well. We’re always trying to gauge the value of making sure that Nunavummiut understand where we are. I’ll take your comments and let’s get through this first phase before we give them a new task. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. C-6. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$18,840,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. C-7. Finance. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only one question under this item and I'll say it in English so that it's clear. Under (interpretation ends) Capital Leases, "Capital Leases provides the interest and amortization payments for the Government of Nunavut's leased office buildings that were acquired as part of the Nunavut Incremental Infrastructure program, as well as the Arviat Health Centre and the Winnipeg Boarding Home. It also pays the interest on the mortgage for the Sivummut Building in Iqaluit."

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I want to clearly understand this, hence the clarification request pertaining to the government buildings under lease for multiple years that will have to be paid. When the costs reach the halfway point, once it has been paid, what I want to understand is this: can this lease be replaced, the venue changed, or only when the building is owned outright? I don't quite grasp this process and I would like you to elaborate further hence my request, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the office

leases that we have, there are differing lengths to them. Where we have seen a substantial drop this year in the budget line is due to NCC lease agreements for three buildings and a lower mortgage payment to Sivummut, which has substantially decreased our obligations under this.

If I understood part of the question properly, if there are any regards to staffing housing, we don't pay the lease cost on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for 2018-19 is currently at \$10 million; for 2019, it states \$6 million, yet in the 2021-22 budget, the figures are not complete yet. Is the assumption that this amount will be approximately in that realm in providing these numbers? I just want a little more clarification on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the NCC leases do end next year in 2020, so that's where those are dropping off, including, like I said, the Sivummut Building only has a couple of years left on their mortgage, so our interest costs are quite substantially decreased, if I understood the member's question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the lease is expired, are you going to renew the lease at the end of the year or what is going to

happen? I want clarification on that, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as leases come off and come on from different office agreements, they are reviewed. The one good thing about leases, especially office buildings, is it gives us very good forecasting ability so we're pretty accurate with our numbers there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the lease going to cost the same or is it going to increase due to the tax? What's going to happen there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the member is talking about the carbon tax. That wouldn't have an impact on the leasing. It would have an impact on heating the buildings where any of the costs are not included in the leasing, which they usually aren't, but we don't anticipate any tax impacts from any leases. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's comments it states that there's an increase of \$796,000 in insurance premiums, mostly due to the Iqaluit International Airport. The \$300,000 that

wasn't mentioned, what is that increase for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just added infrastructure and general increases in our insurance premiums. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Do we currently have environmental liability insurance for things like, let's say, if we have a tank farm that lets go and we have huge fuel spill? Are we covered as a government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay and sorry for not hitting the button as hard as I could.

In general we're self-insured for environmental liabilities. There may be different instances for certain buildings, but in general for environmental liabilities, we're self-insured. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thinking about that, it's very costly if there's a fuel spill. Has the Department of Finance ever considered how much it would cost for (interpretation ends) environmental

liability insurance? (interpretation) What would be the annual cost if we had environmental liability insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was looked at through our Risk Management Division. One of the things that insurance companies realize is that all of our buildings are heated by fuel, so the potential for leaks are there for pretty much every piece of infrastructure we have, unless it's a cold storage place somewhere. When the Risk Management Division did their analysis, they felt it was more economical for us to be self-insured. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the employee benefits on page 30, you mention that in your opening comments and it is a pretty big jump from one year to the next, a close to \$4 million jump. I note that in the next year the costs are predicted to keep rising, but I want to understand what explains that big leap in the period of one year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three words: employee medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm

curious. I mean I still don't understand. There's a \$4 million jump this year. Why isn't there a \$4 million jump next year? I'm just trying to understand the dynamic there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs have been increasing incrementally over the last few years. It has been able in the past of being absorbed internally. It has come to the point now where we've had to make a budget adjustment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know if this question was already asked. The Nunavut Child Benefit still has not increased. We're all aware that the cost of living increases every year. Looking at this, it has been decreasing. When can Nunavummiut expect for this figure to increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government has brought in their own Canadian Child Tax Benefit. We are looking at this whole program right now. Well, we were just talking about it the other day of exactly how we can make sure these funds to our most vulnerable population. I would expect members to see some changes in this program or budget next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. We look forward to that because we support it. There are a large number of people who are in poverty in Nunavut. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Child Benefit program and the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit, my question is, our elders get a monthly benefit and that is controlled by the federal government. Why is the supplementary benefit for the Nunavut Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit not in here? Is it elsewhere within government departments? Why isn't the elder benefit here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program is supported by Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question on Nunavut insurance. As was stated, the Government of Nunavut is self-insured. Does that include the schools? I would like that clarification and it's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might not have been clear

earlier. The properties we have are insured. That's where these insurance premiums come from. When I say "self-insured," we're just self-insured for environmental liability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few quick questions.

An Hon. Member: Yeah, we will see about that.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Lightstone: Looking at the Energy Subsidies program that the department offers, I'm surprised that we haven't seen any increase in that line item considering that the QEC has just recently increased the territorial rates and then on top of that, the PPD even more recently announced another rate increase. With the two increases combined, I'm surprised that the Department of Finance isn't increasing the energy subsidy considering in the last two years prior to the rate increases, the department was already spending quite close to this amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, this is just an electric subsidy; it has nothing to do with the PPD. That being said, one of the ways it has been able and I know there have been some cost increases across the territory in general, but it's still just only on that first 700 kilowatt-hours. The

amount of subsidy of electricity remains the same. The cost may have increased a little bit, but we have been able to fund it from what we're forecasting right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding from what we have heard from the QEC that the average individual consumes about 500 kilowatt-hours a month, which is below the threshold of this Nunavut energy subsidy. I would be quite surprised if there wasn't an increase in the 2019-2020 usage of that program.

Further to that, I recall that after the QEC made their announcement of the rate increase, Finance had also made an announcement that there was going to be a review of the Nunavut energy subsidy. I would like to ask for an update on the status of that review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the electric subsidy program review, it's interlinked with the carbon tax. You will know more in the next sitting. It's ongoing, but there's a step that is going to be coming too soon. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$55,918,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page C-3. Department Summary. Finance. Total

Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$86,363,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Closing comments, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make my closing comments very brief. I know somebody has an appointment here right away.

I just want to thank the members for, again, their diligence. I know there's a shift with HR being created in a stand-alone... I know there were some discussions that I've had with members on how that transition is occurring and everything, and how it complicates how the questioning will go for me and for the upcoming Minister of Human Resources. I appreciate the members' patience. As we transition over, it's going to take a little bit of time to get all this clarified.

I do want to thank the members for their diligence. I would like to thank members for some of the ideas that they have brought forward in the past and today. I take all comments very seriously and we will continue to work to be better. I know we have room to improve and I look forward to making those improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation)

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. We will take a short five-minute break to set up for the next department. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates and would like to report progress. 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? Thank you, Mr. Akoak.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *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 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13

- Bill 15
- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18
- Bill 20
- Bill 21

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned and in
accordance with the authority provided
to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), we will
resume our meeting on Saturday, March
9, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:35*

