Standing Committee Ajauqtiit
Ministerial Appearance on Bill 6,
Official Languages Act and Bill 7, Inuit
Language Protection Act
Iqaluit, Nunavut
December 6, 2007

### **Members Present:**

Hunter Tootoo James Arvaluk James Arreak Steve Mapsalak Peter Kattuk Levi Barnabas

### **Staff Members**:

John Quirke Leetia Nowdluk Sue Cooper

### I/T Personnel:

Blandina Tulugarjuk Mary Nashook Gwen Angulalik James Panioyak Saran Toure Bangoura Etienne Denis

### Witnesses:

Minister Louis Tapardjuk Phoebe Hainnu Naullaq Arnaquq Stephane Cloutier Norman Tarnow

>>Committee commenced at 9:05

### **Chairman** (Mr. Mapsalak)

(interpretation): Good morning. We will begin our meeting this morning. Before we start, I would like to remember the Kunuk family, a member of the committee is not going to be attending the meeting because they have lost their relative. So we will remember the family who have lost a loved one and we will also

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Before we start, if Mr. Arreak could lead us in prayer.

>>Prayer

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. We will proceed with questions to the minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't see very well without my glasses these days. I send my condolences to the relatives of the person that have left us.

I would like to welcome again the minister and his staff. The Languages Commission had made a submission to the standing committee and my question is in regard to the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, or the Inuit Language Authority. One of the submissions suggested that the Inuit Language Authority be re-evaluated so that it is either an independent office of the Legislative Assembly, or a nongovernment organization. Can you explain in detail how you determined the proposed structure, role and powers of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague. In regard to the issue of languages, it will be operated by three entities: the Languages Commissioner, the Minister of Languages, and the Inuit Language Authority; they will be a very important part of dealing with the issue of languages.

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In the beginning, we have stated that while we are establishing this entity, it will be the government who will take the lead but after three years, this entity will have to become independent. At the beginning, it will be up to the government to take the lead to establish this authority and we have made plans so that it becomes independent after three years.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of NTI's recommendations that the standing committee received concerning Bill 6 is that the Inuktitut term "Inuit Uqausingit" be used in the legislation to refer to "the Inuit language." Did your department consider this recommendation and why did you decide not to use this term? This is in relation to *Inuit Uqausingit* because we still see it as Inuit language in Bill 6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): One of my officials had had meetings with Nunavut Tunngavik, but to date, we have not come to an agreement on the usage of *Inuit Uqausingit* or the Inuit language term being used, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* will have the responsibility of developing language standards and proficiency tests for use in government. Will such organizations as NTI and Canada Post be required to use

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these proficiency tests in their workplaces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We will be reviewing these Acts on an ongoing basis but once it's concurred to, we are not looking as such. I'm sure we will eventually start seeing these other entities start using these standards and proficiency tests within their organizations, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you explain in detail which powers the proposed Inuit Language Authority will have in determining which dialect in Inuktitut, for example, either in the Igloolik dialect, Baker Lake dialect, or the Pangnirtung dialect?

Can you explain in detail what powers the proposed Inuit Language Authority will have in relation to determining which dialects of Inuktitut will be used in official government publications and in classroom materials in public schools? Which dialect will be used to produce these official documents and curriculum materials? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the Inuit Language Authority will have a lot of responsibilities to handle.

To clarify further, in the Legislative

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Assembly during the official sitting and the Inuit language will be used, which dialect will be recognized? For example, the Uqqurmiut, the Western Arctic, there are different dialects out there that are used in the House. Which dialect would be used? In order to answer your question in relation to the dialectal issue, this will be one of the responsibilities of Inuit Language Authority.

If we look at the other companies and private businesses, if they should want to get some help in relation to the usage, or the proper terms that are used for Inuktitut, it would be under the Inuit Language Authority.

In relation to the question, there will have to be an entity who would work on the terminology issues as we all have different dialects but it's all under the Inuit language issue. They will set the language standards and proficiency, and anything relating to language. That would be the responsibility of the Inuit Language Authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Can you explain in detail what powers the proposed *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* will have in relation to the issue of whether the use of Syllabics should be phased out and replaced with Roman Orthography, as was done in Greenland? Is there going to a replacement of the Syllabics into Roman Orthography? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The Inuit Language Authority is going to

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be working more on the issue of terminology. There are going to be some entities that will be established and they will just be an English company name to it without Inuktitut attached.

In regard to the writing system, there is the Syllabic and Roman Orthography that will be more the responsibility of the Department of Education, but as the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, we have a writing contest going out there at this very moment as we speak. These stories can be written in either Syllabic or Roman Orthography.

With the use of electronics and computers, and so on, you can transliterate from Syllabics to Roman Orthography at the touch of a button or vice versa. The Inuit Language Authority will be working on the terminology but with the issue of whether to use Syllabics or Roman Orthography, it would be another department that would be responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Again, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In supplement to my question, we know that the Inuit writing system, Syllabics, is very hard to use for those individuals who don't read it on an everyday basis. If you see a new publication, which just came out yesterday, it's quite hard to read it if you don't use Syllabics all the time.

If you want to use Inuktitut properly, would you consider producing some Inuktitut way of writing that would be simpler to read, or would you consider that some time in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that we have considered. The Inuinnaqtun language and writing system are protected under these Language Bills. Their writing system will also be protected in these Acts as they don't use the Syllabics writing system.

Again, if this bill is concurred to, the issue of the Inuktitut writing system would be the responsibility of the Minister of Languages. That is more what I envisioned: if this bill is assented, it would be the responsibility of the Minister of Languages. That's what I look forward to, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): This will be my last question, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to ask all my questions.

Would you be prepared to accept any amendments to Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*, with respect to the structure, role and powers of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, and if not, why not? For example, if the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* states that we would like to get the Inuit Language Authority these types of powers and roles, and so on, would you be prepared to accept any amendments to Bill 7, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. In regard to the Inuit Language Authority, they would have the powers to lobby to the government, or to other Crown agencies, on what terms will be used within their structure and how the Inuktitut language should be used. The Inuit Language Authority will have the power to make those suggestions or urge the government to do such things.

Again, I have been told under section 16(5)(a) that the powers of the Inuit Language Authority are outlined how the Inuktitut writing system should be used and so on, it is all outlined under that section. When they become independent before or after the three years are over, they will have the power to designate standard terminology, expressions, Roman Orthography, language, or usage, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning everybody and welcome back. One of the submissions that we got from the Francophone Association here, it touches on an issue and I know in Bill 6, it identifies services related to health, safety and security of members of the public as being essential, while Bill 7 identifies health, medical, pharmaceutical services, as well as emergency rescue, or similarly urgent services as being essential.

In the submission we received from the Francophone Association, they recommended that the definition of "essential service" in the legislation be broadened to also include all services that will assure that the Francophone community will develop an economy and

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have a full array of Francophone education, social and cultural institutions to support its development.

In their submission, there seems to be some legal precedents on that. I'm just wondering if you would agree with that recommendation on changing the definition of "essential services," or expanding it. Maybe if I could just get comments on that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Perhaps, that is going to have an impact on the essential services because it identifies quite a few things. It would be better if I can refer that question. If we're going to put in an additional word in there, there's going to be some problems occurring. I'll have Mr. Cloutier will respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Cloutier.

**Mr. Cloutier** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo.

(interpretation ends) To respond to that question regarding the Francophone Association submission, following the tabling of the draft legislation in March 2007, following that tabling of the draft legislation, we held consultations, we met with the Francophone representatives of the Francophone community, they did stress that concern and the importance of providing essential services to the Francophone community and to make sure there is a priority in this area.

In the legislation, the introduced version,

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the June 2007 version, that was introduced to the House, now there is a statement in Bill 6, in the *Official Languages Act*, that the legislation must be implemented with the goal to ensuring that the Francophone community has the means necessary to safeguard and strengthen their cultural expression, collective life and heritage for future generations.

We listened to the concerns of the Francophones and we made sure that when the legislation is implemented in regard to the Francophone community that they do have the means to safeguard and protect their collective lives and ensure they can fully develop in Nunavut.

In terms of essential services, we are in the view, because right now, all services from head and central offices, they have to be provided in all official languages; that's the current status under the current *Official Languages Act*. All services from head and central offices, they have to be provided in all the official languages, including French, and that includes health, security, and safety services. So there is already a requirement to provide these services. They might be concerned that although it's there, it says all services, but we might lose sight of these priorities for the Francophone community.

So now there is a requirement in the legislation in Bill 6 that when the Minister of Languages develops a comprehensive plan to implement the legislation, he will have to do it by involving members of the Francophone community, members of the Anglophone community, and Inuit in developing the implementation plan during the setting of priorities for that plan.

So most likely, when we consult with the

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Francophone community, these priorities will reflect what is essential to them. We know over time, their priorities have changed. If we go back to ten years ago, education was the top priority for the Francophone community. Over time, this evolved, this changed. Now, they put more emphasis on health issues and economic development became one of their priorities.

Now, they have the right to receive all services from head and central offices in their language. There is now a provision to allow for them to identify what is essential to them when the Minister of Language develops the comprehensive plan. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. I'm just wondering, in their submission, they indicate that it's something that's been challenged in cases before the Supreme Court of Canada and won. We could potentially face a challenge on that with the way it's worded in there right now. Would that be something, based on precedents, that we would be forced to change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Yes, they are legal precedents. We are aware of the NWT one. The Francophone community in the NWT brought the Government of the Northwest Territories as well as the federal government to court. The ruling to that effect that outlines a number of

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'dϧ·αͺϳ· ϹϷʹ· ΗϤ·Ͻ. Lϲ·ϹϷϟ·ϧϽϝϲ Ϲʹʹʹϭϲ LϲͺͿ·ͽʹͰͿϲ ΠΛς·ͽ·ͿͰͺϟ· ϫͼͺ·ϒϤʹϜϲ ΛσϤʹσα, ϧϷϲͺϷʹ·ͽ· ϷΔάς ϧϽ;ϧ·ϧΠϳ·ʹ·ϻ ϫͼͺϒϤʹϜ, ͰʹͼͿͼϧͼʹϻ·ͼ ϫͼͺϒϤʹϜϷϲ, ϧαͺϹϷʹ·ϫ ͰϭͿͼͺϻ·ͼ Ϫͼϧͼ·ϽϪΑϷʹ ʹϧ·Ͱϳͼͺ αϫαͺϪͼϧϒͰͰͰϹ Ϸϫϧϲϲ·Ͻͼϲ ϤϽϲʹϥϧϲϤͼϲ ϹϲϒϞϹϻϲϷͼͻϽϳ· recommendations or orders for the GNWT to comply. The ruling was released from Justice Moreau in 2005. In drafting and developing this legislation, we have looked at what was required from the NWT.

To ensure that the new legislation will reflect and meet the needs of the Francophone community and all official language communities in Nunavut, there are recommendations that we're taken into consideration like greater accountability in the legislation in terms of implementation.

Now, under Bill 6 and also Bill 7, the deputy ministers will be accountable for the implementation of the legislation and make sure that the services are available in the official languages. Now, there is also, following one of the recommendations, to put a requirement for developing a comprehensive implementation plan which is not the case under the current legislation. So all of these new requirements, like greater accountability and also the fact that there is a new implementation plan, it's all a result of precedents that we know is available out there.

Also, you mentioned would the Francophone community challenge the GN on the provision of services in French; I think there is a commitment and openness to work with the Francophone community. Even within the department, we have positions dedicated to work with the Francophone community and to ensure the GN coordinates services in French and work with the Francophone community.

Part of the legislation it says that during the development of the implementation plan, during the setting of the priorities, the Francophones, Anglophones, and Inuit שפיזאידאי ברשי פיסאיבכ. כיטא הייףכאבאיישי 2005-ישרישט הישראבאיישה כיטסיישה איטאיישרי ייףראבבאיישור ואשריישה איטאיישרי ייףראבבאיישור ואשריישה איטישה איניישה ביזאירי.

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There is a good relationship with Francophone community and the Francophone organizations at this time. We are open and committed to work, and improve services and meet our obligations. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was more asking on specifically just the definition of "essential service." I know right now the government has a good working relationship with the Francophone community, and I'm sure they did at some point in the NWT as well, but if it got down to a point if, tomorrow there's going to be different people, different players could be at the table and they could decide the definition of "essential service" should be broadened as they recommended in there.

Just dealing with that, and I know all the other stuff about just providing services and stuff like that, definition, the recommendation that they've made to broaden the definition of "essential services." I understand looking at their submission where they say that has been upheld and agreed to by the Supreme Court of Canada in cases. So I'm just wondering, could we be potentially challenged on that definition by someone down the road and say it has to be changed like that, and you said the precedence is there to do that, if that's the case, why don't we do it now to avoid the potential of that happening in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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2) (Ͻʹ϶Λησ): 'dϧ·αΓ˙ Δϧ·αΡϾʹ·. ΔΛʹϧʹͰʹϧϸϘͺʹ·ͺ ΛωϤʹϧͿϤʹϧϽͿ, Ͻϸʹ·ͺͿϲ ϤϽϦʹϧͰͺϹʹϽʹϧ Λ϶·ηςρηρϧλαϤʹ· Ͱʹαρϥʹϧ ΔʹϧϧαΔϧʹϧη·ϧͼ·ηϤʹͱͺ αρος υθμοδ΄ ραδί βολλοηΓ΄, Ϥ·ͺϫϧϲρʹϧ ʹϧϧϥϧͼ ϫͼ·ϒϤʹΓ CΔΓΑʹϧϲϲϧϽϹϫϷϥʹϯϷϥʹϲ Αδ΄ Ελγαση ΕΝΑ ΚΕ΄ Αλγαση ΕΝΑ Κ

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Tarnow from the Department of Justice.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tarnow.

**Mr. Tarnow**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the federal *Nunavut Act*, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut cannot pass legislation that would diminish the status of French or English.

Under our current Official Languages Act, all services to the public must be available from head or central offices of the government in French and English. Where there is a significant demand, or nature of the office as such as that service must be available in English or French, the Government of Nunavut must also do so. To limit the government services required to be made available in French and English to only essential services in the Official Languages Bill would diminish the existing range of government services that are now required.

Since the Government of Nunavut policy was that the Inuit language service requirements should have a wider scope of application, that is to the private sector, and since the Inuit Language Protection Bill does not require parliamentary concurrence, provisions for essential services for the Inuit language are able to be in that legislation in addition to what is provided in the Official Languages Bill. We're free to do more in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* than we can in changing the *Official Languages Act*.

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We have, under the interpretations of the provisions of the *Charter of Rights*, and it's especially necessary for us to recognize the need to improve or ameliorate the unique disadvantaged circumstances of Inuit with respect to the use of their language in Nunavut, and fully recognize that the Inuit language is the first and preferred language of a majority of Nunavummiut.

Under the proposed *Official Languages Act*, all services to the public will now be available from head or central offices in the Inuit language, English, and French, and where there is a significant demand, or the nature of the office is such that the service ought to be available in one or more official languages, the GN must also do so.

To respond to concerns received through consultations, the minister will now be required to involved Inuit, Francophones, and Anglophones during the setting of priorities when developing the overall implementation plan for both bills. These priorities will likely reflect essential sectors as identified by one or all official language communities.

The Inuit Language Protection Bill would make it clear that every organization in Nunavut, including territorial institutions, federal agencies, and private sector organizations will be required to provide their signs, advertising, reception, and so on, in the Inuit language throughout Nunavut, including essential household, residential and hospitality services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tarnow. Mr. Tootoo.

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**Δ⁰/<◊▷ር⁰** (ጋጎለነ): የፊታ°ዺ፫⁰, Γ′ር ርጔና. Γ′ር ጋጋ. Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not disputing or arguing any of that but I'm just wondering if we were challenged on that definition by someone in the Francophone community down the road, would it stand up? That's just what I'm trying to find out is if that's challenged through the courts at some point in the future, will what we have stand up, or it seems like they have precedence through the Supreme Court of Canada where the expansion of that definition was upheld.

I'm just looking to cover ourselves that we're not putting forward something that if we know it could be challenged and won, why don't we just fix it now. So I'm just wondering, if that definition is challenged at some point down the road, hopefully, it never does, but the potential is there, would what we have be upheld, or would we be ordered to change it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will get Mr. Tarnow to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of consideration has gone in the preparation of these bills that are before you and the question that the member is asking has been considered in preparing these bills. There are no guarantees of what a court may or may not do some day in the future. We believe that the way this legislation is being structured is in accordance with the law and will be safe from any future challenges but there are

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**ĊΦΦ** (ϽʹϧϒΛͿϒ): ʹϭϧʹͼͺϳ·, Δϧϒ≪ϷϹʹ·. Δ, Ϲʹ·ͼ ΔΖͰʹϧʹͼϒϷϒΛΓΡΞ϶ϧʹͼϸϲͺϷʹͼϹϘͼ ϹʹͼϤϤ ΛʹϭͿϧʹͺʹϧ ΛΛϚʹͼͺϼϹͼͼͺʹϲϒϴʹϹʹϧͼ Ϲʹ·ͼ ͰϲϲϲϷʹͼϧϹϧͺ Ϥϒͼͼ ΔϒͰϹ϶ϧͼϧϒϷϒϷϒͰʹ϶ϲ ϹʹͼϤϤ Ͱʹ϶ʹͼ ΛʹϭͿϧʹͺ ΛʹϧͼϲϷͼʹϲϤϹͼ϶ϲ ΔͼϧͼͻΔϗͼͼϧϹϹϷ϶ϲ ͼϧϭϲϧϷϭϲϥͼͼ ͼ϶ͼͼͼͼ ΑʹͰͿϲͼͼ ϹʹͼϧͰͿϲͼͼ ϤϒϹͼͼͼϧϹͼϧϒͿϹϲϲ ϤʹϹͼͼͼϧϹͼϧϒͿϹϲ Ϲʹͼϧ no guarantees what may or may not happen in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are saying if at some point someone decides to challenge that definition, it's your belief that in looking at it that you would be able to withstand that challenge. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All that to get the yes I was looking for.

>>Laughter

My next question is on the cost of providing municipal services in French on the level of demand. The submission from the Association des Francophones du Nunavut indicates, however, that such services should also be provided in such a way as to promote the development of Francophone communities. What criteria will determine whether and how French language services will be offered at the municipal level, especially for municipalities other than Iqaluit? How will these services be funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this to Mr. Cloutier, Mr. Chairman.

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**ĊΦÞ** (ϽʹͻϟΛͿʹς): Δ΄, Δ<sup>ϧ</sup>γ

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ «ΦC<sup>66</sup>**: 'd৮<sup>6</sup> α Γ<sup>6</sup>, DD. Γσ<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> C C<<sup>16</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

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Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned earlier, after our consultations and listening to the representatives of the Francophone community, we ensure that when the legislation is implemented, it's in view with the goal that they have the means necessary to safeguard; I'll just repeat it because I think it's important, to safeguard and strengthen their expression, collective life, and heritage for future generations.

What criteria will be used to determine significant demand; this will be defined through regulations and when we develop the regulations that will be done in consultation with the representatives of the Francophone community and all other official language communities. So based on consultations, input and feedback we'll receive on what should be significant demand that will be defined and included in the regulations. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Since you're mentioning significant demand, I know that, under the Act, the concept of significant demand is generally determined by a series of complicated mathematical formulas that are all based on the size of a minority population in a given area. For example, the federal formula states that, "Services are to be provided in both official languages in areas with less than 100,000 residents,

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where the minority language population is at least equal to 500, or less than five percent of the general population."

The Francophone Association of Nunavut's submission recommends defining "significant demand" in a way that would not prevent services being provided to newly developing Francophone communities in Nunavut, and in fact, should allow for their promotion and development. Maybe I'll just ask the minister what their position on that issue is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I will get Mr. Cloutier respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) True, the federal government formulas are kind of very complicated and I don't think it will apply nicely to our reality in Nunavut. I think it will be important to develop what will be "significant demand" in consultations with Nunavummiut and find out exactly what will work.

If we go again back to the legal statement that the Francophone community should have the means to safeguard and strengthen their cultural expression, and so on, it doesn't say specifically just in one community; it says in Nunavut. When we look at this, we need to interpret it for the whole of Nunavut and not just one community.

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For the time being, we know there is an important Francophone community here in Iqaluit. We know there are a few Francophones in the communities but we don't have the detailed data on the Francophone populations in the smaller communities, and usually, it's a very stringent population; people come and go more so in the smaller communities than here in Iqaluit. Statistics Canada says there's about 400 Francophones. The Francophones will say there are about a thousand French speakers all across the territory and the majority of them are here in Iqaluit.

Services that will be provided in Iqaluit like municipal services will have to be delivered here in Iqaluit. As for the other offices, there is a provision where the head and central office of the GN must provide us all their services in all official languages. There is no question about that. We know there are central and head offices in various communities, so they will need to make sure they have a plan, they have policies and procedures to make sure that the services they provide to the public are also available in all official languages.

Now, when we talk other offices where significant demand applies, it's more about the other offices, let's say the wildlife office in Whale Cove. There is one wildlife officer there. Should that person be required to provide services in French if there is a significant Francophone population in Whale Cove? So that will allow the government to make good use of our resources and provide the services where it's required. When it's from central and head offices, it's all official languages, and we need to have the policies and procedures at the departmental level to make sure these

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services are provided to the public in all official languages.

The significant demand provision applies to the other offices, where we need to think, "Okay, such and such office, would it be important to provide services in French? Is there a Francophone population in that community that justifies it?" There is also another clause which is more about the nature of the service provided by other offices. If it's a service that relates to health, safety or security, then these services must be provided in all offical languages. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Mr. Tootoo.

Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Thanks for that response. In the minister's reply to the standing committee's letter, he had indicated that municipal French language services would be covered, and I would assume that means funded, under the Canada-Nunavut Cooperation
Agreement and that this agreement would most likely impact the level of funding provided to the Francophone community.

I'm just wondering if you could provide us with some clarification on this comment and indicate how will the provision of municipal services in French affect the Francophone communities' funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Cloutier since he is a member of the Francophone community.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,

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Mr. Minister, Mr. Cloutier.

**Mr. Cloutier** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I am very French.

## >>Laughter

(interpretation ends) Thanks, Mr. Tootoo. In our initial discussions with the federal government in regard to funding municipal services in French, they have indicated that it's unlikely they would provide additional funding. However, there are precedents in other jurisdictions, like New Brunswick, in their own *Official Languages Act*, which is also under the Constitution; they are required to provide municipal services either in French or in English.

The federal government provides funding to the New Brunswick Government to support the delivery of municipal services. There is an agreement with the New Brunswick Government and then there is funding going to some municipalities in New Brunswick to provide the services either in French or English. The same thing in Ontario, there are requirements for municipal services there.

Under the current cooperation agreement, what I'm saying is that we will not receive additional funding. That's what the federal government is saying that they are not going to give us addional funding but we can make provisions in the current agreement to support the delivery of municipal services in French.

In terms of what should be required, in terms of municipal services, what we have there now, it says, when there is a significant demand, these municipal services should be provided in the official languages. This is something we can

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discuss, what kind of requirements should be for municipal services in the official language when there's significant demand. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the department for that response. My next question, Mr. Chairmain, I know that the standing committee heard a number of comments from the Francophone representatives concerning the issue of substantive equality as opposed to just formal equality in the legislation. As the minister responsible, what's your position on their area of concern there? I would like to direct that to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Mapsalak): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Bill 7 is trying to give rights to Inuit because they have absolutely no rights when it comes to their language. These are our priorities in Bill 7 and also Bill 6.

We need a Nunavut Act for official languages because English and French are already protected in the *Nunavut Act*. Having said that, the Inuit language has no protection at all, Bill 7 identifies how the Inuit language will be protected in our future, especially since we are now losing the Inuktitut language.

First of all, I wanted to state that the Inuit language is not protected at all and that's the reason why the bills were established. That was our first priority for the Inuit language but when it comes to services in English and French, it will not change at all because they still hold their current

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protection and rights, and those rights will continue. As the minister looking at this and the languages that will be official, English and French, are already protected

With regards to the issue of substantive equality that Mr. Tootoo asked about, I'll have Mr. Cloutier respond to it, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Your supplementary, Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Once again, based on legal precedence, or the NWT precedent, when we look at the *Official Languages Act* and its implementation, it was made clear that what is intended in the implementation of the legislation is not so much formal or absolute equality but more what is referred to as an obligation of results or substantive equality.

So in terms of providing services in all official languages, if we look at absolute equality, that would mean we need like a French speaking receptionist, an English speaking receptionist, and an Inuktitut speaking receptionist at all times like here in the Legislative Assembly at the reception, or in the departments. It doesn't really make sense.

However, we need to come up with plans that when a member of the public wants to be served in his or her language of choice, then there is a procedure in place, there is staff available in the department. You don't necessarily need to have someone right at the reception that will offer these services in all official languages but there can be an active offer saying that you let the public know when they come to the

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office that they know the services available and they can ask for it, and then the department must make sure they have the staff in the department to provide that service.

So it's more in trying to achieve the same results of providing services to the public instead of having like absolute equality where we need to duplicate, or I don't know if I can say triplicate, the structures. So we need to focus on the end result of providing services in the official languages and find creative ways to provide these services to the official language community. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think anyone here will argue the motherhood statements that the minister is making on why the Act is being brought forward. I'm concerned that there is no opinion from the minister on some of these areas.

I know that no one is arguing the motherhood comments, the statements that are being made but there is more to it than that. In order for a government, or anyone that's producing legislation, you have to look at everything, whether you like it or not. For our own protection, I would have thought that on some of these areas, that the minister would've had a position, or be aware of the concerns in that case. It seems, from the responses we're getting, that that's something the minister responsible is not even aware of.

So before I continue, Mr. Chairman, it's ten o'clock, if we could take a break for some coffee that would be great. Thank

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you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we continue on, we will take a short 15-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 10:02 and resumed at 10:21

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few more questions regarding the submission that we received from the Francophone Association here.

Mr. Chairman, in the minister's letter to the standing committee, he indicated that his department has been told that translating Nunavut's *Hansard* into French will help with "inter-generational transmission and use of French." Given the fact that the GN faces challenges in providing even basic emergency services in French, do you agree that translating thousands of pages of *Hansard* into French each year will actually help the Francophone community, or their children learn their language and do you feel that's the best use of our scarce resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official languages of Nunavut in Bill 6 will state that English, and French, and Inuktitut will be the official languages. The *Hansard* in the Legislative Assembly has to be written and we will have to do that since these are official languages. I agree with you that it would be very expensive

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to translate *Hansard* into French.

For that reason, the Nunavut Government, in subsection 4, we'll have to consider this further and it will have to be protected in the Constitution. We'll have to deal with these legislations because it's going to have an impact on the federal Official Languages Commissioner. We'll also have to consider all those with the Francophone Association of Nunavut.

If Bill 6 is passed, official languages of Nunavut will have the same strength as federal government legislation. French language will have to be an official language of Nunavut and it will help Nunavut, especially when we have to get approval from the federal government.

We tend to think of the cooperation agreement on official languages called the Canada-Nunavut Corporation Agreement on Languages. We are provided some funding from that agreement for French programs as Nunavut Government through that program for the French programs and yes, we can deal with that through that program. Once it's necessary, we will have to look into that further, and also, that the policies of the Legislative Assembly will also have to be reviewed.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we'll have to review all of the comments that have been made. We have to consider if we need to translate the *Hansard* into French. The Legislative Assembly, as a whole, will have to consider this issue if this bill goes through. That's my response, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is

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the minister saying that they need to take a second look at those sections and maybe make some changes there? Is that what he's indicating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): No, it's not the case. The Legislative Assembly will have to come to a decision whether the Nunavut *Hansard* will have to be written in French. We will have to respond to that question and if that's the case, we'll have to get employees. We'll also have to consider the employees and the people who will be dealing with this issue.

I will ask Norman Tarnow to supplement my response to the question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Tarnow.

**Mr. Tarnow**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a recent court decision in the Northwest Territories, Justice Moreau issued an order directing the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly there to begin publishing the *Hansard* of the Northwest Territories in French.

The Government of the Northwest
Territories has appealed this result but at
this time, it is presently the highest
authority governing the interpretation of
the words that also appear in the *Official Languages Act* of Nunavut. When
Nunavut must conform to the law as it
exists when this legislation is given assent,
the present approach in Bill 6 is consistent
with the most recent legal precedent that
comes to us from the Northwest

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### Territories.

The federal Official Languages
Commissioner and Nunavut Francophone
organizations have called on Nunavut to
produce the *Hansard* in French under the
law as it exists at this time. The
Francophone community has advised the
government that compliance on the part of
the Nunavut Legislative Assembly will
positively support the development of the
Francophone community, both in terms of
economic opportunities for interpreters
and translators, and for reinforcing
identity among Francophone youth.

The Government of Nunavut's attempt to introduce greater flexibility in subsection 4 was not acceptable, or legally viable, from the perspective of the Francophone community and from the perspectives of federal Official Languages Commissioner, or the legal representatives of the federal government.

We don't want to jeopardize the viability of Bill 6 by having things in it that will mean that the Parliament of Canada will not give concurrence through a resolution. If we removed the current right to have the *Hansard* in French, that could be problematic for the bill.

As you know, without Parliamentary concurrence, Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act*, will be of no effect; it will be void legislation with no legal effect whatsoever. So the things that we have done in the bill are being designed to ensure that that won't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. It'll lead me to

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another question I'll get to a little later on.

Right now, again, dealing with the submission that we received from the Francophone Association, they provided one specific recommendation relating to the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. They suggest that French First Language education rights be included in this Act, along with the right to receive Inuit language instruction. French language education rights, as we know, are already protected by the Canadian Constitution. In fact, this has resulted in federal funding being provided for French language education here in Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister: what his position is in respect to that specific recommendation made by the Francophone Association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister, the question is directed to you. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank Mr. Tootoo for that question.

In Bill 7, it states that if parents have children who are going to school within Nunavut, they have the right to be taught in the Inuktitut language. Also, for French schools, these students have the right to be taught in the French language at the Ecole des Trois-Soleils in Iqaluit.

This can be amended if there was a contradiction with the Canadian *Charter of Rights*. If we make legislation on the protection of the Inuit language, all of the parents have the right to have their children taught in any of the official languages in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. The other question I have has nothing to do with the Francophone submission. Some of the questions that came up about the records and journals of the *Hansard*, and things of the Assembly that have to be in there, and if you go to section 5 where it says, "The Acts of the Legislative Assembly shall be made, printed and published in" the different languages.

Also, there was some place else in here on the records and journals, and everything at the Assembly shall have to be in there. I'm just wondering, if you go down to section 7, it was talking about the *Nunavut Gazette*, it says, "The commissioner in Executive Council may, by order, require the publication in" the different languages.

I'm just wondering why the double standard there. You know the old saying, "What's good for the goose, should be good for the gander." If the Assembly has to do everything in all of the official languages, how come the government has the discretion as to whether or not to do it or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have our Legal Counsel, Mr. Tarnow, respond to that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tarnow.

**Mr. Tarnow**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sections that have been referred to,

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The reference to the Inuit language translation, that's something that we have some flexibility on that. This subsection 2 of section 7 allows the Cabinet to decide whether or not to publish the *Gazette* in an Inuit language version.

If you look at subparagraph (b) of subsection 2, concerning the authoritativeness of this version, the *Gazette*, as you may know, has two parts and one part is the regulations in part 2. This gets into the issue of the authoritative version of legislation and regulations. Subparagraph (b) allows for these to be considered authoritative, or not, depending on the Cabinet's opinion.

What we see here, as the work of the Inuit Language Authority gets a standardized terminology, and so on, over the years, we'll have more lawyers speaking the Inuit language and we'll be able to have regulations that have equal authoritative force in the Inuit language. This is what subsection 2 of section 7(b) contemplates; we're looking ahead to the future. We can't do that today once this Act is passed but in the future, we will be able to do that, and this allows the Cabinet to make those orders in the future.

At the moment, we can give authoritative force to regulations in English and French but we're not able to do that with the regulations in the Inuit language in this point in time. As I said, we must publish these records now in English and French. We don't have any option and that's why, as you say, there's a double standard. It's

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From everything I've heard and the government say on the importance of preserving the language, of protecting it, that's why we need this legislation, and yet, they still say, "Everyone else has to do it but we don't have to." I'm not talking about the authoritative version but just the simple fact that and I know that you have to publish the *Gazette* in English and French.

But, for these Acts to go through, why would we say if it's so important to us why doesn't that "may" turn into a "shall," and the government committed we're going to provide and publish the *Gazette* in the Inuit language as well.

My point is this: everything else has to be and it's so important we have to do it, and we'll make sure everyone else does it, but we don't have to do it. That's what it looks like. That's where I'm saying it looks like a double standard.

So I'm just wondering why, if it's such an important issue for the government, that they still give themselves the flexibility to decide whether or not to produce something like the *Gazette* in the Inuit language or not. If I could get a response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an excellent question and it is an issue that we have considered for quite a while.

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We've been talking about the words "may" or "shall" for quite a while, and in Bill 6, it says such and such, and then in Bill 7 it says "may." The reasoning behind that is if this bill should be concurred, then all the clauses, of course, will have to be implemented as soon as possible.

In regard to Inuit Language Authority, they will have to be established by the government at the beginning and decide which dialect will be used in the Legislative Assembly because it doesn't say which dialect will be used here, and then, we will also have to consider the fact that we are going to be making legislation and they will have to be written strongly enough.

The individuals will have to trained and be proficient in the Inuktitut language. There will be training required and legal terminology set up in order for the Inuktitut language to become equal.

At the moment, the minister or the Cabinet can decide which has to be translated into Inuktitut, or which government document will be written in Inuktitut. The Cabinet will have that authority during the initial implementation of these Acts.

At this time, these will have to be dealt with by our department. So that's why we have the two sides. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One last question on that, it was indicated earlier by one of the witnesses that they said that we can't change that. That's there already.

CAL CL°dd NNS°°<C) LCLCP°°<C)°
P'6P/YFCP° ADA' P'6P/YP° GCP°°
'6P}LYNdYNdYbYG GYLC GYLD
AC° GA'YLYNAY6YGA'YD' QDQ°YPCDG.
Lawyer-YJ°YAGYT CAL AC° GAYNYNCP°YLYLC
GYL ACCN/LY6NAY6YGAYFLL° CL°DGYU
LCL°YG ADA' P'6P/YP° G ADGCDDG
LCL°Y°NCPGGY'C°. P/, QCG° P'6P/Y°
NYNAY6YG°P° D'.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/<βC'6**: 'dϧ<sup>6</sup>αΓ˙<sup>6</sup>, Γσ<sup>5</sup>C C<<sup>6</sup><sup>6</sup>√<sup>6</sup>. Γ<sup>5</sup>C DD.

**2)** (ጋኒትበህና) ፕሬታዮሲ፫ኑ, Δኮፖペኦርʹኑ. ሮዮሲ ፈለጭሰበቦጚLታና ሮኮፖL ୮ኮኒሷና. ኦላናበላጭ ኦናቴጐጋኄቴጐቴኦኒL ሲሮፈየላጭ ፈፖኔትንዮሲዮርዎሷሲ ሮኖዊԺሮሲኄLና. ፈለጭሰበቦቴታማናታላሮጭሩና ኦሲ, ፈፖኔትንዮሲጭለበሷና ኦሲ ቦላር JLJታ So my next question would be: could we change, through an amendment, "may" to "shall," and I know it's us that makes the laws and decides that, so I don't understand why we can't we can't change it unless it breaches something federally on that. Would we be able to make that change, to change "may" to "shall" and it would be alright? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, "may" and "shall," are quite important words and we can review that with the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*.

First of all, on the establishment of these bills, we feel very strongly about research and training, and setting up the systems that are required here if the Inuit language becomes an official language. We know that it's not going to happen overnight

In regard to the word "term," or the words "may" or "shall," we will be open to work with your committee if we're looking at making an amendment to this bill. We will have to look at what types of implications it will have on the rest.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. From the way we understand it, we're looking at the word "may" and it has to be changed to "shall." Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials, as we discuss the Inuit language. I have a question; perhaps, I'll make a preamble first.

When we speak in terms of Inuktitut, we

 $\Delta L \Delta C^{\circ} U^{\circ} \dot{U} C^{\circ} \Box \sigma$ .  $\Lambda^{\circ} d^{\dagger} D^{\dagger} \dot{L}^{\circ} \Delta \Box d \dot{\sigma}^{\circ} \dot{\Box} \sigma d^{\dagger} L^{\circ}$ .

ϽΡΥΚ°α°ρ°αL Κ'L' «ΑΥΡΡ°α°ρ'ιL°ίςηυς, Υ'σΓ'ΓΛυΡΊς βαCΡ υΚυβ°ρ LCυ°ρ°σ. ΑΥΡΡ΄ΔΟ ΟΔ°αΛΑσ, ΓΑσ, ΔΙΔσ°ίςΔΟ ΊδαΔ°Ċ΄ς Νηνορίς.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«▷Ċ<sup>ና</sup>** (ጋጎ/ትበJ<sup>c</sup>): የ<mark></mark>ժሃ°ሲቮ<sup>6</sup> ጋጋ. Γσ<sup>1</sup>C C<<sup>1</sup>6<sup>1</sup>6</sub>

Α΄: Σ CL° Δ Λ ΛΛ ΔΟ Φ Δ'Φ Υ ΙΘΑ Ι΄ Ε Θ ΓΟ ΛΟ Δ'Φ ΛΑ ΔΟ Φ Α΄ Θ΄ Α ΛΑ Δ'Β΄ Ε ΛΟ Δ'Ε Α΄ Ε ΛΟ ΔΕ΄ Ε

**Δ৽/«ኦሮ፡»** (Ͻʹ៶**>**ΩΛ): 'd৮°ΔΓ'<sup>6</sup>, Γσ<sup>1</sup>C C<<sup>6</sup><sup>6</sup>ν<sup>6</sup>. 'dϧ°ΔΓ<sup>6</sup>, ϽϽ. Ϲ<sup>6</sup>Δ ϽΡ/ϧ·ΩͿ<sup>6</sup> ΛϽΔ°Δ<sub>1</sub>Δ<sub>1</sub>C<sup>6</sup> CΔb&<sup>6</sup>CΩ<sup>4</sup>6<sup>6</sup>)<sup>6</sup> Ե<sup>4</sup>/<sup>6</sup>/<sup>6</sup>CC<sup>6</sup><sup>1</sup>L<sup>6</sup> CΔL°Δ<sup>6</sup>bΔ ϽΡ/ϟ<sup>6</sup>υ? Γ<sup>1</sup>C Δ<sup>8</sup>ϧ<sup>2</sup>CΔ<sup>6</sup>.

**Δ<sup>4</sup>ϧΡϹΔϲ**• (ϽʹϧΡηͿʹ): ʹͼͿϧ·ʹͼͺϔ·, ΔϧʹϘϷʹϲʹͼ. ΓσʹϹͻ ΔʹͼϧαΔϧʹͼηης Δέςαλ. ϒͽʹϲͼʹϚΓ Δ<sup>1</sup>Lʹϧ ϤΛʹͼͿηʹϧΡεα<sup>1</sup>σ<sup>5</sup>υ ϷͿϤ ΛΓϤΡηΓος.

have to translate English documents into Inuktitut but then we leave out the Inuinnaqtun language, which is supposedly an official language. It's the same thing when we have to translate from English to Inuinnaqtun that Inuktitut is left out.

Our language has different dialects which serve as identifiers amongst our people. From the Baffin, the Keewatin, and the Kitikmeot regions, we have different communities with different dialects.

The dialect of Inuktitut we speak comes from the Coronation Gulf area and we call it Inuinnaqtun. So when we talk about Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun terms, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun are both protected in the *Official Languages Act*. Inuktitut is the language of the Eastern Arctic and Inuinnaqtun is the language of the Coronation Gulf. I wonder if it would be possible to have one term, "Inuktut," to refer to both, rather than saying Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

My question to the minister is: could we meet halfway, instead of using Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, use the term Inuktut? It's the same thing when we speak in English. We have those terms. So meet halfway, combining Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun: Inuktut.

That's my suggestion, would it be possible to prepare using those terms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleague. It is something that we can seriously consider. The word Inuktitut and

ΔΔ<sup>α</sup>α<sup>®</sup>ΠϽϲ<sup>-</sup>νασανανος CΔL

PFCPΓ9<sup>®</sup>.

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C°« Δ/L¹Կ¹⁰/▷?⋂¹Կ⊂▷¹⁰>¾υ,dΔΔΔL¹⁰ΔL°ΔL°ΔL°ΔL°<

**Δ•/<>>(** 'db α Γ΄, Γ'C Δ° γρας. Γσ'C C< δ' κοι. Γσ'C κοι. Γσ'C

the work Inuktut is under the definitions in Bill 6. It states here the Inuktitut language and in Bill 7, it says Inuit language.

There will be a definition, Kugluktuk, Iqaluktuutsiaq, Umingmaktok, and Bathurst Inlet (Qinngaut), and those would be under the Inuinnaqtun language that's in Bill 7. In every other community, Inuktitut will be the language. Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut, under the Commissioner and Executive Council, can be changed, or the Inuit Language Authority could work on this issue.

When we are talking about the Inuit language and under the law, it applies to Inuinnaqtun in the communities that I mentioned, and Inuktut used in all the other communities. If you think that there should be a change from Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun to combine it into one and call it Inuktut, then we can consider that.

If we would use Inuktut instead of Inuinnaqtun or Inuktitut, or a combination of both, it's something that we can consider very seriously. If there is a change required, we would be more than accommodating, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I think that would be very beneficial for everyone if we say "Inuktut" whether it's Inuinaqtun or Inuktitut. That's where the term "Inuktut" would come in, (interpretation ends) just for translation. I agree with you.

Mr. Chairman, my question is related to the implementation of Bills 6 and 7. One concern that the standing committee has Protection Act C°C Bill 7-F, ΔΔΔ<sup>c</sup> ÞʻbÞγ°C ΔΔαΔ<sup>c</sup>γL<sup>L</sup>LC ΔL°αΔ<sup>c</sup>Ͻ<sub>γ</sub>Γ<sup>b</sup>.

Pdd α\_a\(\Delta\) \(\Delta\) \(\

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ÞC<sup>66</sup>**: <sup>6</sup>dታ<sup>6</sup>αΓ<sup>6</sup>, Γσ<sup>6</sup>C C<<sup>6</sup>δδ. Δ<sup>6</sup>νΡCΔα<sup>6</sup>.

**Δ<sup>4</sup>ኑʔርΔϲ•** (Ͻʹ៶ϟ⋂Ϳʹ): ʹϭͿϧ·αͺΓʹ•, ΔϧʹϘϷϹʹ·ͱ, ʹϭͿϧ·αͺΓʹϚϹϷʹ·Ϸ Γσʹ·Ϲʹ. Ϫ, ϹΔͰ·α ΔͺͻϤʹΓͿϤʹʹϚͿϧʹʹϷϽʹ·Ϸ, ϤϹͿϤα,ΔΓʹϧϷͰͿϧʹʹϷϽʹ·Ϸ. Δͺϼ·Ͻϲʹ·ϸ·ϹϨʹ·ϟ, ϹΔͰ·α, ϹΔϟʹ·ϸ·ϹϨ·ʹϹ ϽϷϹʹϷʹϲͺϹʹϧ·ͰϹ. ΔͺϼϧʹϽϧͺϽϷϹʹϷʹϲͺϹʹϧ·ͰϹ ͰϒͿϭϲ. Ϫ, ͺϤϧ·ʹͱϧΠϹ·ϹͿͺ

heard from the Francophone community is that Nunavut's current Official Languages Act already provides for a satisfactory number of rights. However, as with the situation facing our neighbours in the Northwest Territories, the lack of resources to implement the Act means that those legislated rights are not being met in practice, especially in such areas as finding French speaking doctors and nurses to provide health care services. The GN already has difficulty finding English speaking nurses and doctors. My question for the minister: how will it provide these services in the Inuit language and French? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We have heard about this that even though you may have great Acts, if it's not implemented, the Act would be useless. We know about that.

In there it states that the Minister of Languages will have to establish a plan as to how they will be implementing the Act. During the planning stages, the Minister of Languages, there was a question posed earlier on, the Inuit, French and English will have to work together to determine which will be their priority. They have to set their priorities on which ones will have to be implemented first.

With that, the Minister of Languages has the role and responsibility to make plans to ensure that the Act is being implemented and when they should be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Evyagotailak.

^4°a>∩σ<sup>6</sup>. Płdσ \_oa<sup>6</sup>łd<sup>6</sup>Γ><sup>6</sup> Δ%6CDΔ&D< Ϋ%υσηςριμο ραργρήςς 4DC%0CD%4U\7%U°G% V6d%4d<  $\Gamma$  $4\%^{\circ}$ ბ.p.c ე。。 Ф.p. д.Г¬  $4^{\circ}$   $4^{\circ$ ᠘ᡠᠸᢣ᠘ᢣᠵ᠋ᢣᠦᡟ. ᠘ᡆ᠌᠌᠌ᡷᢈ ᠾ᠙᠘ᢐᢥᡳ ᡏ᠙᠘ᠳ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠳ᠘ᠰ᠘᠘᠘᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ᠘ᠰ ዻ°ჾ๔๙๖Ⴖჾ טיĊჾъ ჼ₽ჾჼჼႶჼჂჁ.  $\Gamma\sigma^{\prime}CJ^{\prime}$   $\Lambda^{\prime\prime}d\Pi_{\prime}$ ,  $\Gamma\sigma^{\prime}CJ^{\prime}$  $^{\circ}\Delta$ ▷¹b▷/³Ր°σ⁰ ▷∆Å∩Ͻ⁺⇒ ▷¹b▷/³Ր°σ⁰ 42<sup>6</sup>-ك<sup>1</sup>0 °4b °4b.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ΡC<sup>6</sup>** (Ͻ<sup>ί</sup>λΡηͿ<sup>6</sup>): <sup>6</sup>dγ<sup>6</sup>α Γ<sup>6</sup>, Γ<sup>6</sup>C Δ<sup>6</sup>γΡCΔς<sup>6</sup>. Γσ<sup>6</sup>C C C Θ<sup>6</sup>ν<sup>6</sup>ν.

**₫∿レイჼ৽፟ቴჼ፦ ኌል Ⴀሩჼ፦ሂ•**: Å, ∆ċ• Ċ°Ⴍ Ͻ∖₽ĹჼႶ₫ჼჼႠዎჼ Ĺ፫ሁჼቴჼႶ₫ჼናኌ₫ჼኌσ ₫Ͻ፫ჼ•ႶႠፆჼՐʹ<ና Ĺ፫ሀΓႭჼႶ₫ናታჼ፥ጋ∖ፆჼቦჼႱ°. ∆ċ• Ċ°Ⴍ Ͻ∖₽Ĺታዎና.

C°°Cσ α Δαδ°ν/L κ'°C°b'L° C°α
Γσ')σσ'°) δ'δρντασ'J', Minister of
Languages, C°α δ'δρντασ'J' Γσ'C

'°Pνασ'δ'σσ'L° <'αJCρσσ'°)σ° 'δρο°

C°δσ Lτυρ' Δασ'ς)ς

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CAL°aAc~UN°JJ, CAL Ċ°a Fσ'n J4%

PʻbPYCLOF'J° Cʻ°YF°U NY'Yʻb°NCPOGʻL°

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LCUP' AJGʻCO° GJC°NCPaY°CG

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Cʻ°dG°U N&CGCYF°ZN°, A°Y&PCʻ°,

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Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. It is generally recognized that Inuinnagtun faces many challenges to its survival. In your letter to the standing committee, you have confirmed that the government's priority for implementation measures in relation to Inuinnaqtun will be on providing essential community-level public services, in addition to language revitalization efforts and more resources in classrooms. You indicate that these efforts are more important than translating such government documents as Hansards, Bills, the Public Accounts and the *Nunavut Gazette* into Inuinnagtun. Minister, do you agree with the government taking a similar approach to the production of materials and resources in Inuktitut and French, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I agree with the member. I also want to point out that the Cabinet will have the authority to decide which would be their priority; Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. They will have to identify the planning time for the implementation of the Act.

As we have stated, we have a concern with the Inuinnaqtun language that we have to work more diligently for it to be revived. So therefore, we have to pay particularly close attention to that language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you have a supplementary question? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement Mr.

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 $\Delta$ %ታ**?**C $\Delta$ **८** $\bullet$  (ጋጎ<sub>ት</sub>በЈና): የ<mark></mark>ሪታ° $\bullet$ ፫ $\bullet$ ,  $\Delta$ የታ<br/>የኦርና $\bullet$ ,  $^{\circ}$ d $^{\circ}$ a $\dot{^{\circ}}$ ,  $^{\circ}$ C.  $^{\circ}$ C- $^{\circ}$ VU $^{\circ}$ LC  $^{\circ}$ D $^{\circ}$ D $^{\circ}$ 4/4ትኦሮር ተመማሪያ በበናሊታ  $\sigma$   $\sigma$ ᡆ᠋ᠴᡆ᠘ᡃᡥᠨᡄ᠌ᠺᡏᠺᢐᢛ᠂ᠾ᠘ᠮ᠙ᡀ᠘ᢌᡕᡊᢂᠾ᠘ᢆ  $\Delta \Delta \Delta^{\circ} \Delta^{\circ}$  $^{\prime}$  $\Delta C^{\circ} \Delta^{\circ} \Delta^{\circ} CD + \Delta C^{\circ} \sigma^{\circ} \Lambda^{\circ} \Omega CD + \Omega^{\circ} \Omega^{\circ} \Delta^{\circ} \Omega^{\circ} \Omega^{\circ}$  $\Delta$ CC->C D6D7°, D6D7°  $\Delta$ 0 $\Delta$ 0°  $\Delta$ 6D7° ĎĽĽჼ°NCÞՐďbơſϭჼႱϼҁ᠕ᠸᡙᠻᢗᢉᢖᡣᡥ. 4-L\_6CD46 60D24P2UP  $\Delta$ <sup>L</sup> $\rightarrow$ 2/ $^{1}$  $^{1}$  $^{2}$  $^{3}$  $^{4}$  $^{5}$ @\_\_@Δ%/CD558° C6ddj% ΛC/L7DQ/675  $\Lambda^{L}L_{C}\sigma^{Sb}\Lambda^{DL}C$   $U\otimes L^{b}G$   $<\Delta^{C}^{S}\Omega^{C}\sigma^{b}$  $\Delta \triangle^{\circ} \cap \dot{\nabla}^{\circ} \cap$ ᡩᡆ᠌᠌Ďᢣᠸᡙᡟᡳᠬ᠍᠍ᠺᠦᡃᢅ᠌ᡊᠴ᠘ᡓᡐᡃ᠋᠘ᠸᠾᢥᡳᢗ በበና፥ርኦየልኄቦና  $\Delta_{\Delta}\Delta^{\circ}$ ሷን፥ጋርሲσናቮ. Γσ\C ᢦ᠋ᡥᡥᢐ᠒ᠮᢐᡳᢢᢛ᠘᠙᠘ᡰᢐᠲᡄ᠘᠘ᠮᠳ  $\Delta \mathcal{L}^{\prime}$ ۵-۲-۵ ἐαργιθιρισιτι ΔωιΠΟς ΡΔάΠΟς 

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«Ρር%** (ጋጎ, 2Λ) ያነ። የ<mark>6</mark>/ዓ ሴ ፫ ሴ, Γ ሴ Δ<sup>6</sup>/γ Ρ ር Δ ሬ. Γ σ ሴ ር ረ ሴ ሩ ሴ.

4<sup>L</sup>L, C<sup>a</sup> Γσ<sup>3</sup>λ<sup>a</sup> Ρ<sup>6</sup>Ρλαστις C<sup>b</sup>dd LCLP ΔΔσ ΔΟς Πος Πος ασαθης Δυ Καρησο αμαδιληλαθοσαίτο Clodd αμαθης ασυ Ρ<sup>6</sup>Ειτιος Δε<sup>b</sup> Δωδαθος Ρ<sup>6</sup>Ερλ<sup>a</sup> Δλ<sup>L</sup>Δηρος η Δι Δολοσος Αρρος Αρρος Ο΄ Λαίρρος σαθους Αρρος Ο΄ Δοληλο Δωδαθος Αργος Ο΄ Δοληλο Ερος Αργορος Ο΄ Δοληλο Ερος Αργορος Ο΄

Evyagotailak's comment, you spoke about essential services, which documents needs to be translated into Inukitut, or which document is not the priority.

Did you make a list of which ones are essential and which ones are not essential? Does the government already have a list? What I'm trying to say is, Mr. Chairman, we can argue and debate when there's nothing written of their priorities on whether that's essential or not. Do you already have a written list? I don't want to hear the contents of that but I want to know if the government already has a list of their priorities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government already has a list of priorities for the bills, especially when the staff at the GN have to speak Inuktut and what kinds of services are more essential, like health issues and safety issues.

It is stated in the Act which one has to be the priority to implement the Act for services, for example, the language of Inuinnaqtun, which is lacking in the government services and could have an implication on the safety aspects to public health. The more important ones would be their priority and then with other secondary priorities when the government starts to implement the Act.

I know that Inuinnaqtun is diminishing now, so we're making plans to revive that language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Kattuk.

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(interpretation ends) You have now had the opportunity to review the written submissions on Bills 6 and 7 that have been presented to the standing committee and to review the transcripts from our recent public hearings. Can you indicate to the committee what amendments you would be prepared to accept to these bills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have reviewed the concerns with the bills... I think it was in March when we tabled the draft bill and what we envisioned the bill to be. Back in June, they received first and second reading in the House, and prior to the bills being read, we had resolved the concerns and we had provided the responses that we would have to the Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*.

For that reason, if there are amendments to strengthen the Act and if it's not going to have an impact on the other legislation or other Acts, we are very open to reviewing them. We also want to work closely with the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* prior to the Act being implemented. That's all I can say, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister. Have you identified any sections of Bills 6 and 7 where you will be requesting changes to be made? Thank

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you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not too sure how the bills will be changed but we are considering how and where the problematic areas would come up.

As the Government of Nunavut, we believe that these bills should be enacting during the life of this Legislative Assembly because we have been dealing with this for quite some time since the Nunavut Government was established and we have worked with many people.

The first Languages Commissioner has done a lot of work and also has given us a submission on that. We have collected a lot of submissions in regards to these bills. The resolutions to concerns we have made that appear before you make it seem like these bills are the best Acts that we could come up with after consulting with Nunavummiut. So that's how we have started to set that up.

We are very open to any suggestions or recommendations made by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* for changes to be made to the bills. So we are very open to this standing committee with what they would like to see and we would also be able to provide responses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister. Can you indicate to the standing committee what amendments to Bills 6 and 7 you would not be prepared to

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accept and the reasons why you would not be accepting them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In regards to the rights under the Inuit language, if there's going to be a diminishing of the Inuit language rights, we would not be prepared to accept the amendments to those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 38 of the federal *Nunavut Act* requires that the Parliament of Canada pass a resolution before amendments to the territorial *Official Languages Act* can be approved, if these amendments diminish the rights and services provided for in the current Act. Can you explain in detail what steps will need to take place if the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passes Bills 6 and 7 and can you indicate to the standing committee what specific concerns you have received from the federal government to date with respect to Bills 6 and 7? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Tarnow because he has been working closely with the federal government.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tarnow.

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Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question came up yesterday and we also heard from the comment of the Legal Counsel for the Legislative Assembly. The procedure for the Parliamentary resolution, at this point in time, would require the passage of Bill 6 to third reading and assent is what the understanding is at the moment.

At that point, the Parliament of Canada would have to consider passing a resolution of concurrence, indicating its concurrence with changes that we've made to the *Official Languages Act* of Nunavut, in that we would be removing the references to the First Nations' languages. That's my understanding of the procedure at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that your department has had to defer the new heritage centre project due to lack of funding, can you indicate to the committee how confident you are that funding for implementing Bills 6 and 7 will be approved by your colleagues on the Financial Management Board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, we have considered this issue. The Financial Management Board has an idea of how much it would cost to implement these two bills and what additional monies will have to identified, and the Financial Management Board is aware of this.

We know that if these two bills are enacted, then there would be no other

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The dollar figure is not a priority of our department. We have identified the dollar amount and there will be ongoing costs associated with it. Those monies would have to be approved by the Legislative Assembly budgetary process. I'm not concerned about the price tag but I do believe that it is essential to have a bill that protects the Inuit language.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to information that you have provided to the standing committee, the overall cost to the GN for implementing Bills 6 and 7 appears to be around \$25 million. Can you indicate to the committee whether these figures are still current and accurate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The amount has been approved by the Cabinet but we have not looked at any other resources. The amount has not changed but it would have to be approved by the Legislative Assembly. If there are a lot of changes required, then there are associated costs. If those bills are enacted, there will be operating money provided by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. In your response to the standing committee's letter of July 31, 2007, you indicated that discussions are "ongoing with senior federal officials to address funding issues in the context of the new language legislation." Can you update the committee on the status of this issue and indicate how much funding for implementing Bills 6 and 7 do you realistically hope to receive from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Cloutier.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation ends) There are discussions with our federal counterparts regarding the level of funding that will be required to implement the new *Official Languages Act*. This is ongoing. Over the years, Nunavut has received the same level of funding either for Inuktitut or for French and this has not changed since 1999.

With this new legislation, there is a new opportunity to raise awareness in the public, and because the *Official Languages Act* needs to be passed and we need to get Parliamentary concurrence, this is a unique opportunity for Nunavummiut to raise in the public the

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else, Mr. Kattuk? Mr. Arvaluk, do you have a supplementary question? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a supplementary to Mr. Kattuk's questions.

This is just my curiosity. Maybe you can satisfy my curiosity by explaining further that your Legal Counsel was saying that the resolution required by the federal government for diminishing or removing the Dene languages, which we currently have under this current Official Languages Act from the NWT that we grandfathered, isn't there any danger that the federal government may reject your request for additional funding to implement this bill by simply having diminishing of Dene languages? To them, wouldn't it be reduction of services required with the diminishing of the Dene languages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer this to Mr. Cloutier, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Cloutier.

**Mr. Cloutier** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) No, I don't think

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I don't know if that satisfies your curiosity, but I don't see a risk because we're taking out Dene languages off of our *Official Languages Act* that it will impact what is required for French, or Inuktitut, or Inuinnaqtun. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, do you want to add to that? (interpretation ends) Go ahead.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Just to clarify that there's a cooperation agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut for two languages, one for French services and also Inuktitut language promotion. We don't have a Dene language agreement with the federal government, so this would not change. I don't think the federal government would be reluctant to agree with the resolution, but as the Nunavut Government, we have no services for Dene languages. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since there is an agreement with the federal government and Nunavut Government for languages, which includes the French language, but it also includes the Inuktitut language for funding provided by the federal government, once these bills are implemented, are you confident that the federal government will be providing additional funding? Can't the federal government say that there is

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ϽΡγαινηνοσιω Ανηνοηρίσηνου Ανηνοηρίσηνου Ανονοηρίσηνου Ανονοηρίσηνου Αλάσο Βασος υσμόσης Αναρος Είρας υξίσου, Αδάσο Αρονογίσου Αναρος Ανονομο Είρας Ανονομος Α

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**Ϥʹ·Ϥʹ·Ͻ·**: ʹϭͿϧ·ʹαͺϳ·ϧͺ ΔϧʹϒϘϷϹʹ·ϧ. Ϫ, ϤʹϧʹʹϧϹϦϹʹϲʹͰϹͿϲʹϟ Federal Government-dʹ·Ͻ, Nunavut Government-dʹ·Ͻ ϷʹϧϷϟʹϲʹʹʹϲʹϷʹ Γϧʹϧϲ. ϟʹϧϼϥͰͺ ϷΔͺϴʹͿϽ· Ϸʹϧϸ·ϲʹͼʹͼϧ·ϧͺ ϤʹͰ ΔϲϷϹͿʹϹͿϷϹͰͺ ΔϼϧͺϹϽ ϷʹαϷϧ·ϧ·ϲʹ϶ϹͿϒʹϧʹϹͼϼϲ ΔϼʹϗϲͺϷʹϧϷϧ·ʹϧͼͼ ʹϧͼϧϲϧͼͼͺ ϹϲͿϧͼʹϲ϶ϲ, ϹϲͿϧͼʹϲ϶ϲϥͺϒͺϒϧ ϷʹαͺϪϧϭϧϧͺͺϤʹϧϧϧϧϧϧ already a cooperation agreement betweeen the Nunavut Government and the federal government on languages and they provide funding for that?

Once Bills 6 and 7 have been implemented, although the funding that you will be receiving will be close to \$25 million, could you tell me where the federal government has an agreement with you through another avenue for the \$25 million for example? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, there's an agreement in each territory, whether it be Northwest Territories, or Yukon, or other provinces. The federal government has asked to sign a long-term agreement with Nunavut so that we wouldn't have to negotiate for funds annually.

The federal government has been asking for a long-term agreement but we have been reluctant to that. That's why we have had standing annual agreements because we said that we could use Bills 6 and 7 as a tool to get funding from the federal government for language services.

French language funding that's provided by the federal government is for services only. For Inuit language promotion, that's provided by the federal government, it's for Inuit language promotion only, it's not for services. It's only for the promotion of Inuit languages.

For that reason, entitites such as IBC applies for funding from the government to provide services in the Inuit language. For that reason, the federal government

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can provide funding for French language services but for the Inuktut language, once it's being used, the federal government would not agree to provide Inuktitut language services because we already have the Inuit language promotion agreement.

Once we start using the Inuit language, when the bills become enacted, that the federal government would be more open to providing funding for services. So these bills would be used as tools to lobby the federal government for more funding. For that reason, once these bills have been enacted, I believe that the Nunavut Government will have an Act, that they will acquire additional tools to lobby the federal government for the use of languages of Inuktut/Inuinnaqtun services. We will have to find out how much assistance that we would require on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Lastly, I would like to ask a brief question. With regars to the agreement on languages with the federal government, the Canada-Nunavut Cooperation Agreement on Languages, would curriculum development of Inuktitut be included because Bills 6 and 7 have to follow the *Education Act*. After the bills have been enacted, they will have to make an Inuktitut curriculum. So would the cooperation agreement that you will have with the federal government include the funding for Inuktitut training and education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペρር%**: <sup>ና</sup>dታ<sup>α</sup>α Γ΄<sup>6</sup>, Γ΄<sup>C</sup> ⊲<sup>ς</sup>🤄 <sup>Δ</sup><sup>6</sup>. Γσ'<sup>C</sup> C<<sup>'ς</sup><sup>6</sup>ν.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The Minister of Education would have that responsibility once Bills 6 and 7 are enacted. When we have the Minister of Languages, for example, the Department of Education will have to abide by the Act and they would have to pay for their own programs in their department.

Our Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth would be in support when the Department of Education is lobbying the federal government and we would also provide support to the Department of Education. I know that once the negotiations start on the languages, it's not just the government that is working on this. The federal government used to work with, I'm not too sure how it is now, Inuit entities and they worked closely with the federal government on those issues.

So we have to review all those aspects, but the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth would be in support of the Department of Education if they start negotiating with the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Can you hear me? I have been waiting for the light to go on. I have some questions to pose on the use of the Inuit language in the workplace. A lot of people come and check our office and they're referred to a phone number. If you call this 975 number, you will be provided help, and then they would ask, "Are there interpreters available in that department, or can you be my interpreter?" The use of the Inuit language in the workplace will be a working language and I know that the people out

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**ἀΛΦ**<sup>6</sup>: Δċ <sup>6</sup> ⟨Λ<sup>6</sup>ν<sup>†</sup>Π<sup>1</sup>\ς<sup>1</sup>6<sup>1</sup>FUL CL<sup>6</sup>d ΔΔα<sup>6</sup>

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there are impatient to see that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, Minister, the government's proposed language legislation indicates that the Inuit Language will be "a" working language of the territorial government, along with English and French. The standing committee has heard recommendations that the bills be amended to clearly make Inuktitut "the" working language of the GN. Will you be prepared to accept an amendment in this area, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were to review that, we would work closely with you as the standing committee. Back in 1999 when the Nunavut Government was established, the member who had been elected at that time made a goal by year 2020 that the Inuktitut language will be used as the working language of the government. That goal has not been changed that the working language of the territorial government will be Inuktitut. Currently, the Department of Human Resources, through Adult Basic Education, is training government employees how to speak Inuktitut and that has been ongoing.

There is a provision in the bill that states that these are the services that will be provided in the Inuktut language, for example, the courts, health, and essential services like the RCMP. The Minister of Languages will have to make plans on how this process will be implemented.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that when the Nunavut Government was

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**Δ৬/ペレር%**: የժታ°**교** Γ΄, Γ′C ጳሲላ⁰. Γσ′C Cሩ′৬୯⁰.

**ፈ<sub>°</sub>ሁፈና₀፟፟፟፟፟ና₀ ጔΔ С<′ናьፈь**: Δ΄, ‹Ϥ≻<sub>°</sub>ΦͺΓʹϧͺ Δ<sup>6</sup>Υ<sup>6</sup>Ο<sup>6</sup> C<sup>6</sup> do <sup>6</sup> (PΓ<sup>6</sup> P) Δ<sup>6</sup> b C C<sup>6</sup> do <sup>6</sup> U Δሮት/°σ° Λርሲ'bበ'bʔL'ረላ"ጋJ'. 1999-Γ ₽°\$Ċ%D&\$PC PCPPC-Z%PC%D@ ▷'b'ጏ∩'ጏ、2020-▷ር'▷<° Δሷልና ▷'b▷/∿ቦና 40%CP  $D^{6}$   $U^{6}$   $U^{6$  $\dot{C}^{\circ}$ a  $\dot{C}^{\circ}$ '\L°  $\dot{C}^{\circ$  $\Delta \Delta \Delta^{c} \triangleright b \triangleright 7^{c} \cap \sigma^{b} \Delta^{c} b \circ \Delta^{c} \wedge \Delta^{c} \sigma^{c}$ 4ጋሊላ'b'ጔበ<sup>6</sup>. ላ'ċ <sup>6</sup> Ľ°ዉ Ċ<sup>6</sup>dላ  $\Delta^{6}$  $\Delta C^{\circ} \sigma 4^{\circ} \delta^{\circ} \Gamma^{\circ} \sigma^{\circ} \Lambda^{\circ} h \Gamma^{\circ} \Gamma^{\circ} \Gamma^{\circ}$ ᠘ᠸᡥ᠋ᠣᡏᠻ᠒ᢞᠧ᠋ᢙᡥᡗᡥ᠘ᡥᠫᡥ᠘᠙᠘ᡰᢅᡠ  $\Delta^{6}$   $\Delta^{6$ CL°a 627°a%202. C'644 LC6558  $\Lambda$ PCO $\Delta$ D $^{\circ}$ CD $^{\circ}$ A $^{\circ}$ CO $^{\circ}$ CO

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established, by the year 2020, Inuktitut language will be the working language of the Nunavut Government and we are still on that plan. This bill is to provide support to that goal and it would enhance that goal with the implementation of these bills.

For that reason, if there is going to be any amendment in this area, we would be open to reviewing this together because it's going to help to achieve the goal when the Nunavut Government was first elected by the year 2020. Our target is not going to change and this bill will enhance to achieve that goal.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't know if you accepted or not. I didn't get that in regard to the question I just posed: if the Inuktitut language will be a working language of the territorial government, like a working government, if it's going to be amended to clearly make Inuktitut the working language.

As the minister stated that the Act will be reviewed every five years prior to the year 2020 and that they can make amendments, I was wondering if this can be amended if there was a request. Would the Government of Nunavut be prepared to accept that amendment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): If these two bills should be enacted, we will be doing a review every five years up to the year 2020 and the Minister of Languages would be responsible.

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**Δ৬/ペレር%**: 'd৮° ۵ Γ', Γσ'. Γ'. ቫሊላ<sup>6</sup>.

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**Δ৬/ペレር%**: የዕታ°**쇼**፫७, ୮ኄር ፭ሲ⊲७. ୮ፚኄር ር<፣৬៧».

Should these bills be enacted, they will have to work on the implementation of the bill and how they would lessen the workload of the staff. We will look at reducing the load as long as the rights are in the Act, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. Given the current lack of financial and human resources to create and deliver the language resources and services that are currently required by law, what steps do you feel will be necessary for the Nunavut Government and other organizations to meet the implementation schedule that you propose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Looking at the whole issue, the Minister of Languages, of course, would have a lot of work to do and he or she will help to look at the implementation plan as that will be the first priority.

The Minister of Languages will be working on those issues and should these be enacted, once the Minister of Languages and the Inuit Language Authority are established, they will be working on the implementation schedule. I will have to identify who will be responsible for what. That's what we're looking forward to, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

**Δυγφραύ:** 'dya α΄το, άα σο, Γσια α΄ς α΄τος.

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. You are also the Minister of Human Resources. How many unilingual Inuit language speakers are currently employed by the Government of Nunavut and how does the government ensure that they have the necessary resources to be able to do their jobs effectively using the Bills 6 and 7? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): As the Minister of Human Resources, I think you're directing that question to the Minister of Human Resources, I don't have the numbers.

In regards to the number of unilingual Inuit language speakers, I don't know whether you're looking at all of the departments, for example, Health and Social Services and how many people they have within their department, like the janitors and so on, or the menial labour force, there's quite a number but CLEY has three unilingual Inuit language speakers because we are responsible for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I do know that the other departments do have unilingual Inuit language speakers. I do know of one within the Department of Justice.

Should these bills be enacted, we know that there are unilingual Inuit language speakers that are required within the government and we hope to see an increase in the future. With the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, there will be unilingual Inuit workers and once we start working on the terminology, we are hoping to hire more unilingual Inuit employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**ጳሲላ**\* (ጋጎትበJና): የdኑ°aቮኑ, Δየረጻኦርጐ ላዛሬጋ Γσ'ርሲኑኦላጐ. ΔጐbaΔነጐጋርሲσናЈና Γσ'ርሲነኦነቴርኦተሀልጐ, የቴናሥ ቴታጋልኦንጕልጐቦናጋና ΔΔΔና ፫ጐል ውልዎና ሀዲኮቴዮው Δጐbaኦነጐሩ ላዛሬጋ የቃውጐ ሀዲኮቴና ልጋልΔጐየ/ሀዲ° አልናንበኄኦናበላናታላፕሀር ላዛሬጋ ΔጐbaΔነተናታ bየረበናበናበላናን ልማረነር ለየdነነጎ 6 ላዛሬጋ 7 Δጋላው. የdኑዮልቮኑ, Δኮረጳኦርጐ.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. We do look forward to seeing an increase in the number of unilingual Inuit language speakers while I'm around.

My next question: given that a significant amount of work within Nunavut's public service will still rely on technical documentation and information that is only available in English, what measures do you believe should be put in place to ensure that public service employees who are unilingual Inuit language speakers will be able to do their job effectively? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be protective measures put in place should these bills be implemented.

In regard to the *Official Languages Act*, especially within the Ministry of Human Resources, I think that we are looking at what challenges the unilingual Inuit languages speakers have in Iqaluit because I believe that we only have them here, but we are looking at what types of challenges they encounter. We're already looking at it.

If Bills 6 and 7 should be enacted, the Inuit Language Authority will have a lot of responsibilities, for example, working on the terminology and the technical terms and so on. They will also have to look at things from an Inuit perspective because we are looking at it from the English perspective at this time. They will be

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working at it from an Inuit perspective.

So they're going to have a lot of work to do, and I believe that your question would be the responsibility of the Inuit Language Authority, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 7 provides that every employee of a territorial institution, which includes Government of Nunavut departments and territorial Crown agencies, has the right to use the Inuit language at work. The standing committee has heard concerns about the issue of the right to work in the Inuit language for people employed by municipal governments and in the private sector. What is your position as minister on this issue and do you believe that Bill 7 should be amended in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have definitely heard about this issue and about the right to work in the Inuit language, especially within the government as this bill refers more to the government.

In regard to the private sector and private businesses, we're not saying that there will be a requirement to have Inuktitut speaking employees. What we're saying is that if you're a service provider, for example, if you have a retail outlet, a restaurant, or something that caters to the public out there, there is a requirement to have a sign out there using the official languages, or to have your menu written in Inuktitut.

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In regard to the employees, we are not saying that there is a requirement to hire Inuktitut speaking employees. There is nothing in the bill that says that. If this should be enacted, there will be further work done and after they recognize the right to work in the Inuit language, you'll be able to work with the Languages Commissioner and also with the private sector.

At this time, it's a little too early to have that requirement but there is an avenue. The Languages Commissioner will have the responsibility of helping the people out there and get more Inuktitut speakers.

In the Department of Education, we do want the students to graduate being proficient in Inuktitut. After they graduate and after their schooling, they will probably want to set up their private businesses and they will be proficient in Inuktitut already. So there might be a domino effect going down the line and increasing the usage of Inuktitut.

In regard to the private sector, it's not something that is of a priority to us at this point but we are focusing on the implementation. If you can make suggestions or recommendations to make an improvement, we're more than open to work with you.

I think it would be best to wait at least five years after the implementation and identify what types of challenges or problems were encountered during the early years of the implementation of these bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arreak, do you have any additional questions?

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Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I just asked the minister whether he believes that we need to make additional amendments. I was asking what your position is as a minister on this issue is before it's too late.

Did you say "no" in your response that you don't believe that all of the work places have to have Inuktitut? What is your position on this, minister? Do you believe Bill 7 should be amended in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I agree with the member, Mr. Chairman, I want you to know that. All of the services for Nunavummiut, especially those Inuktitut unilingual speaking people have to be provided with services and I agree with that wholeheartedly.

The private sector or other entities outside of the government, for example, cooperatives, I believe the majority of the shareholders are Inuit people in the communities. In Igloolik I'm a member of the Co-op and to date, I still see some merchandise being sold on sale and the sale signs are only in English. The Inuit people that they're supposed to provide to are not provided service in Inuktitut even though the Co-op stores are owned by the Inuit people and the managers don't even provide services for the Inuit.

As we have stated, the Languages Commissioner will be in support and will be helping with discussions on how to implement Inuit language in the services. Our office has been asked many times, for example, how can we provide the best  $\Delta$ C<sup>6</sup>b<sup>6</sup> $\sigma$ A<sup>6</sup>b<sup>6</sup>b $\sigma$ <sup>6</sup>D<sup>6</sup>F<sup>6</sup>L<sup>6</sup>U<sup>6</sup>A<sup>6</sup>dF<sup>6</sup>A<sup>7</sup>.

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possible services? Once the bills have been enacted, I believe we can meet the requirements of the bill even without forcing it on the business community and I believe that there could be development on that.

To your question, yes, I agree. I believe that everybody, as long as you're Nunavummiut, you have the right to be provided services using the official languages of Nunavut. What I'm trying to say here is that we're not forcing them onto private business; once this bill has been enacted, we would rather work with them. That's what we're mainly focusing on during the planning stage to identify the essential services to provide Inuktitut signages.

I can respond to that question that way but we are open to reviewing with you to enhance the rights as long as it will not be diminishing anyone's rights. So therefore, we are open to reviewing it. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Who would like to ask a question? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The preambles to Bills 6 and 7 include the goal of achieving the "national recognition and constitutional entrenchment of the Inuit language as a founding and official language of Canada within Nunavut." Can you discuss the government's strategy for achieving this goal and indicate what time frame you are looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Arreak. (interpretation ends) We already have a statement in the current legislation regarding the importance to entrench the aboriginal languages in the Constitution of Canada. What has been added in the new Official Languages Act is that this is still a long-term goal.

As you're probably fully aware, to change the Constitution of Canada, it's very difficult, if not impossible. There were many attempts over the last couple of decades to do that, and thus, the amendment formula for the Constitution is very complex and very difficult.

So now, what we have in the preamble is for the Minister of Languages has all of the means to ensure that there's recognition at the national level for the Inuit language to be recognized as an official language of Canada but within Nunavut.

Instead of trying to change the Constitution, which is probably a long-term goal, it's not going to happen overnight. These are the means now to be proactive and further work with the federal government, the Parliament, to have some influence on the decisions that are being made in Ottawa to recognize the Inuit language or Inuktitut as an official language of this country but within our territory. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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In your response to the standing committee's letter of July 31, 2007, you state that Nunavut and Canada might enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that would recognize the use of the Inuit language as an official language within our territory. Can you update the standing committee on the status of this initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to us responding to your last question, Norman Tarnow will make a supplementary response and explain further before we question you just posed, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Would he like to respond to the first question that was posed earlier on? Mr. Arvaluk, did you get the answer you were looking for, or are you open to a supplementary response?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to hear a supplementary response because they did not give me the time frame that they're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tarnow.

**Mr. Tarnow**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the General Amending Formula set out in part 5 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, the general amendments to the Constitution require resolutions of the Parliament of Canada and that of

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You may notice in the *Constitution Act*, 1982, now, French is declared to be one of the official languages of the province of New Brunswick. That is in the Constitution now. That is entrenched in the Constitution. Entrenched means that it can't be changed by ordinary legislation, it can only be changed by another amendment to the Constitution.

Nunavut could, but in order for Nunavut to have an amendment put into the Constitution saying that the Inuit language was the official language of Nunavut, under the current wording of the *Constitution Act*, Nunavut would have to have province status in order to take advantage of the current provisions of the *Constitution Act*.

The definition of province, it doesn't cover territory at this time in that part of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. In the part that includes the Charter, province is also the territory, but not in the part that contains the amending formula.

So we will have to wait in the future once Nunavut gains provincial status. We will be able to pass a resolution in this Legislative Assembly and have Parliament pass a resolution adding the Inuit language as the official language right in the Constitution of Canada. That's for the  $A^{\prime\prime}$   $A^{\prime\prime}$  A

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future at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Arvaluk, did he respond to you question?

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize then we will have to tell our people after the passage of this bill that they'll have to wait quite a few years before they can even think about the entrenchment of the Inuit language into the Canadian Constitution.

I also wanted an answer on my second question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Cloutier respond to the latter question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) As you mentioned, it might take a few years to change the Constitution and have the Inuit language recognized as an official language of this country but within Nunavut.

There are other avenues that come to us. When you mentioned about some timelines of discussions we have, yesterday we mentioned about the contract we have for policing services in Nunavut, which is a contract between the Government of Nunavut, Department of Justice, and the RCMP. There can be discussions there to ensure that provisions

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for services in the Inuit language will be included there.

There can also be some discussions with our federal Members of Parliament that represent Nunavut. It can also be with Senators from Nunavut, that they can propose changes to some federal statutes. Changing federal statutes is much quicker, not much quicker, it may take some time, but it's probably easier than to change the Constitution.

So there could be proposed changes for various federal statutes and we heard, through the media, examples where it may apply, like during election time, our unilingual elders, when they go to the polls at a federal election, because they are to the official languages of Canada, only English and French are on the voting ballot. So that could be one way and I think there was some lobbying made there to amend such a federal statute to include provisions. So there could be ways like this.

There is also, since Nunavut is a government, it's a territory that represents the majority that is Inuit. The Government of Nunavut sits on many federal/provincial tables, like many ministerial conferences, and this gives a unique opportunity for ministers from the Government of Nunavut to raise the issue of language at these tables and create awareness towards the federal ministers that sometimes deal with only French and English.

So that's an opportunity to say, "Yes, French and English in Nunavut, we are committed to respect the language rights for these groups, but the majority of the population in Nunavut is Inuit and they should be entitled as Canadians to have the same level of services as any other  $\Delta \Delta \Delta^{c} \triangleright ^{c} b \triangleright ^{c} \cup \sigma^{c} \triangleleft D^{c}.$ 

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Canadian in their own language." It would just be fair to go to the Post Office, now, they serve in French and English no problem, but it would be fair that when Nunavummiut go to the post office that they do not struggle in getting these services.

So that is there; promotion awareness among federal colleagues and also provincial/territorial colleagues, and there are ways to work agreements with the federal government for a specific area. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time we'll take a lunch break and a standing committee will have a meeting at 1:30. We will return to the House at two o'clock this afternoon. I would like to welcome all of the people in the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 12:10 and resumed at 14:06

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back to the members of the standing committee and also to the minister and his officials. I would also like to thank and welcome the people in the Gallery.

Are there any other questions or supplementary questions on what was brought up earlier? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get into my other questions, I would just like to revisit the issue that was discussed earlier on the spending of hundreds and thousands of dollars on a year in translating thousands of pages of *Hansard*, which would include any transcripts from standing committee meetings and anything like that because

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they are all part of the records of the Assembly, into French.

I've been an MLA now for just about ten years and during that time I've heard a lot of concerns from Francophone constituents about issues such as the lack of French speaking doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other areas like that. I have a lot of sympathy for those concerns. If a child is hurt, a parent should be able to fully understand what the doctor is telling him or her, especially in cases where if you have someone that has English as a second language, they may not be able to express themselves as well in that second language, or understand as well in the second language. They may not know the proper way to describe symptoms to a doctor in a second language as comfortably as they could in their first language.

However, like I said, in all the years that I've been in office, I don't recall once ever hearing someone come to me and telling me that they would really like a French copy of the *Hansard* so that they can read statements, my statements, or anything in there in French.

When you look at the rest of the country, I think it's pretty unreasonable to expect Canada's smallest jurisdiction to produce thousands of pages of *Hansard* each year in up to four languages. I think there are one or two bilingual provinces in the country, if we look at Quebec being the main one, the population is probably over half a million people, they have trouble keeping up with this stuff just in two languages. I don't believe Ontario or Quebec actually produce fully bilingual *Hansards*.

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representatives appeared before us, I don't recall hearing them say that their children need *Hansard* to learn their language. So I would like the minister or his officials to indicate exactly why they believe that producing *Hansard* is so important. I think that it's worth it for us to discuss with representatives of the Francophone community whether this issue is truly a priority for them. If it's not, then perhaps, they could support us in making a case to Ottawa and to the Parliament that this is something that should be supported.

I think we're confident that Parliament will support us in removing the language rights of Dogrib speakers that aren't in our territory. Perhaps, they'll be realistic and agree that the strength and health of language doesn't require the translation of us, as politicians, of our words out there. Perhaps, they would agree that our very scarce, limited resources should go to areas where the lives of real people will be helped, such as education and health, and areas like that, instead of spending all that money on something, other than complying with the Act, that doesn't really help people out there.

I'm just wondering if I could get the minister's comments on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, for your excellent question. First of all, we have been setting up the drafting of the bills since the creation of Nunavut. There are a quite a number of sections here that were envisioned by the first Commissioner of Nunavut and we followed that as a baseline to draft the

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legislation.

In regard to the *Hansards* and the legislative documents, we left it at the discretion of the government. We have looked into it with the federal government as to whether or not it's going to diminish the rights of the people out there.

This legislation is hard to comprehend if you're not a lawyer, so I will be asking Mr. Cloutier to make a supplementary. With regards to the drafting of the bills, Mr. Tarnow will be making a supplement to that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asked to speak in French so I will be speaking in French. (French interpretation) The services of concern for the Francophone community, it is clear that there is a need to offer services, be it in health, in education, human resources, or economical development, etcetera.

As for the discussions that might be held at the legislature, what is said here, and I think that it's despite the fact that yes, we could see that it will entail translating thousands of pages and that would be very expensive. We have to recall that the Assembly is the place where important decisions are taken for Nunavummiut. This does include all of the members of different official languages communities, including the Francophones.

The question that would be raised here is: what is said here is it important enough so that people from the Francophone community will access it in their language? If the decisions taken here have

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an impact on the general public's life, is it important enough for that information to be accessible in their mother tongue, naming here French?

If we do look here at the draft that was tabled in March 2007, when Minister Tapardjuk presented the bills on the official languages and on the protection of the Inuit language, there was a provision that gave more flexibility to the Legislative Assembly for the translation. Within that draft pertaining to the *Hansard*, there was the possibility that a reasonable demand would lead to a translation of the *Hansard* in official languages including French. So we did listen to the Assembly, we did listen to what was said to us from the House, and we did try to accommodate that and take that into account.

When we met with the Francophone community, the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada as well, made it clear that this section would not be viewed satisfactorily. Despite the symbolism of the *Hansard*, it is something that was raised during discussions, it was viewed as something important for community development, like today, we have two French speaking interpreters and they were here with us for these two working days.

I do believe that it is something of great importance for all Nunavummiut and it's of great importance not only for us but also for children. This is something of great importance. So there were changes, of course, and Norman would speak to those legal changes, but by law, we are compelled to produce the *Hansard* in both French and English. If we are to reduce the services, there would be a problem in obtaining the assent of the federal

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government.

(Inuktitut interpretation) The federal government has stated that the proceedings of the House have to be written in both English and French and this is written in the federal legislation. If there is any diminishing of any of the official languages, it wouldn't likely be approved at the House of Commons. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Did you want to make a supplementary comment, Mr. Tarnow?

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Parliament of Canada, by virtue of the *Constitution Act* of 1871, has the authority to make laws for the peace, order and good government of all those parts of Canada that are not within a province, so all of the territories. That's their legislative authority.

Pursuant to that legislative authority, they enacted the *Nunavut Act*, which is why we're here today because of that Act. That Act gives this Legislative Assembly the authority to do what it's doing here today. However, in making that Act, there are certain conditions in that Act; certain prerequisites that are in it. Once of them is section 38 of the *Nunavut Act*, which talks about the *Official Languages Act*, which we now have in force today and which we are now attempting to replace with a new *Official Languages Act*.

The requirements of section 38 limit what, and there is another provision also in our section 23 which restricts the legislative authority of this Assembly. Section 23(1)(n), which talks about not diminishing the legal status or any rights in respect of the English and French

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languages; that's 23(1)(n). And then you have 38, which talks about changing the *Official Languages Act*, which at the moment, as I said this morning, Mr. Chairman, this is the law right now, that the Speaker of the Legislature in the Northwest Territories is to begin publishing the *Hansard* in French. That is the interpretation of the very similar, if not the same, provisions of their *Official Languages Act*, which is the same as ours.

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Now, we've heard Mr. Cloutier say that we have had discussions or there have been discussions with officials in the federal government and they have been of unanimous view that the *Hansard* of this Legislative Assembly, as part of the obligations we have under the *Nunavut Act*, must be published in French as well as English. That is their view. That's the requirement that we have to live with. We don't really have a lot of choice. That is the law today according to the most recent judgement of the court in the Northwest Territories. So we don't have a lot of choice about this unfortunately.

If we want to have a made-in-Nunavut *Official Languages Act*, we need to get the concurrence of the Parliament of Canada. The Parliament of Canada just isn't the House of Commons, as you know there is the Senate as well. There are many Parliamentarians that may feel very strongly, and we've had an indication that they do, that the *Hansard* of this Legislative Assembly should be published in French as well as in English. That's the situation.

We can have a made-in-Nunavut *Official Languages Act*, which reflects the law, as it is today. If you want to remove that requirement, then you're going to be stuck. What the affect will be is that you

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will be stuck with the old *Official Languages Act*. So you will have a not-made-in-Nunavut *Official Languages Act*, which tells you to do the same thing as the new one. So you really don't have a lot of room in this situation unfortunately. We have certain restrictions on us by virtue of the Act under which we operate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the officials for that response. I would assume that ourselves, along with the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, all follow the same rules as are these being territories, where if we want to make any changes, it would require the concurrence of the Parliament of Canada.

Based on what was just explained, I would like to ask if the minister or his officials are aware of the Yukon Languages Act actually gives them that flexibility in there, and I'll read it, in their Act it says, "The Legislative Assembly or a Committee of the Assembly, when authorized by a resolution of the Assembly, may make orders in relation to the translation of records and journals of the Assembly, Hansard, standing orders, and all other proceedings of the Legislative Assembly."

I guess that must have gotten concurrence through the Parliament of Canada in order for it to be in there like that. Are they treating us different than they would have done when that Act was passed in the Yukon? There seems to be conflicting information there. We can't do it and yet, here is the case where they actually have that and are doing, so maybe if I can just get a response to that. Thank you, Mr.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister, can you respond?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Norman Tarnow respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the *Yukon Act* does not have the same requirement as our Act currently does. The other thing you might want to know is that there's been a recent court case in the Yukon, which the courts have made some rulings that may make that section less applicable even in the Yukon.

I can give you some further information on this that I'll have to check back in my office if you want a full answer in this regard to the Yukon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tarnow. Maybe I'll just ask if you could provide it to our Legal Counsel because it's all going to be legal stuff and I'm sure it won't be easy for me to figure out myself either. If you can commit to providing that information to our counsel for review, and then she can go through it and put it into English to explain to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ኦር%**: 'dϧ<sub>°</sub>α,Γ˙<sup>6</sup>. Γ˙<sup>6</sup>. ϽϽ.

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, this is very interesting to hear and I'm sure our Legal Counsel will inform your Legal Counsel.

It has to be two ways, like one has to be approved and we have to approve just to enact the Act. This has to be done properly. It's evident that we will need to provide French services in Nunavut if they list all of those services. We would have to negotiate an agreement with the federal government to provide French services with the federal government, especially the Minister of Languages who will have that responsibility. That's what I can say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think that was a yes. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that from the minister and his officials. The next question I have, Mr. Chairman, deals with, the minister tabled, or provided to the committee, a listing of the consultation round tables that the department did on these two bills. The Kitikmeot round table consultation was April 17 in Gjoa Haven. It has:

- 1. Write the education in the Inuit language
- 2. The Inuit language in the workplace
- 3. Essential services and the Inuit language
- 4. Definition of Inuit Language; and so on.

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questions in Kugluktuk; there were seven questions raised here in the public hearing here in the Iqaluit; six questions raised in Rankin Inlet; and seven questions raised in Pond Inlet.

I'm just wondering: were those questions that were raised on those consultations, were those questions that the staff put out to the public for feedback on, or were those questions that were raised by participants at these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the time when we started working on these bills, we had to come to a decision and consult with the public out there on the provisions of these two bills. The questions that you just identified were posed from our department when we went to do fact finding in the communities through consultations to see what their viewpoints are. So these questions are coming from us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The definition of Inuit language, in two cases I'm just looking at here, there's no comment from the public. Of the questions that were put out there, those were very broad statements or questions that were put out there.

So I really question if the department, the government, done anything other than that to inform Nunavummiut what the bills are really about. Are the hamlets and the

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private sector aware of what their obligations would be under the Act? I would have thought that those are the kinds of information that you would be looking for feedback from people, and say, "This is what we're going to put in there. What do you think of that?" Maybe people there said, "I think that's great," or "I don't like it." It doesn't seem like there has been any specific consultation on the actual Act itself other than just very general questions out there like Inuit language in the workplace and everybody knows that we want to work towards that.

I could see that as being sufficient in a preliminary consultation process but when you've gotten further on into it where you actually know, "Okay, this is what the implications are going to be for the right to education in the Inuit language, what do you feel about that? This is what the implications are going to be on the Inuit language in the workplace, what do you feel about that? This is what the implications will be for essential services in the Inuit language, what do you feel about that?"

I'm not sure to assume then if people out there don't really know other than the general, broad statement of what we want to try and accomplish with these two pieces of legislation. What's really in there? They don't really understand other than just the broad view of what's in there and what the implications are going to be on them.

I know in the First Assembly, we had an issue like this with the *Human Rights Act* where the committee was given a piece of legislation but the committee felt that the government hadn't really done its job in letting people know what the Act was all about and what the implications were on

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We found that it would be tough for us. It's not the committee's job to go out there to promote and sell any legislation. That's the government's job. Our job is hopefully that we can go out and get informed feedback on it but if that process hasn't been done, I find it could be difficult, if not impossible, to get informed feedback from anybody on it just based on these very general questions that were put out there.

So maybe if I can get a comment from the minister on that because I'm just having a hard time understanding that.

Consultations on the bills themselves, that

Consultations on the bills themselves, that information hasn't been put out there, or is there other stuff that's been done that we don't have here to look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank Mr. Tootoo.

First of all, during the planning stages of the bills, we have been working closely with NTI, the Office of the Languages Commissioner, the Department of Education, and also the Department of Justice. We have been working with the Department of Education on the details of the bills.

Back in March 2007, when we first started thinking about the bills, we tabled a draft bill in the House to find out what the viewpoints are if we come up with similar bills. Since March to June, there have been many changes from the first time that we tabled, and there have been changes since

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then.

It was evident that there was more understanding from the public out there that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association felt that the bills were too weak. They made a resolution in Cape Dorset by way of a motion to protect the aboriginal rights. So that's why we had identified in section 35 that it will not diminish Inuit rights in Bills 6 and 7. We have heard from the others because we have asked questions to the hamlet, especially the mayors and the SAOs. We met with them and asked: if the bills would consist of this, what kind of problems would you encounter? Would it be too expensive for you?

Also, initially we had sent surveys out which were drafted by the working group and they had identified which areas needed to be publicized. For that reason, the responses and the proposed changes could be given to the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* at the time when we started scrutinizing what kind of impacts it would have once these bills have been implemented, and we have done a survey on that.

So if the *Ajauqtiit* Committee was interested in seeing the results of the survey, we're able to provide that information to you. I think that you have to be provided the opportunity to hear exactly what had occurred. If these bills go ahead, the Language Commissioner would use that as a practice to make the public in Nunavut understand the contents of the bills and what their rights are through Bills 6 and 7, whether they're Inuit, or *Qallunaaq*, or French.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

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Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be useful for the committee to see the results of the survey, and also, the minister, in his response, indicated that there have been numerous changes made as a result of the feedback from different stakeholders. Would he be willing to commit to providing a list of those changes to the committee as well, with a little explanation of why those changes were made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Certainly, since we tabled them at the Legislative Assembly, we have all of the changes and we can make that information available to you so you will know just how many changes had been inputted to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question deals with the roles and responsibilities of the Language Commissioner outlined in the Act. My first question to the minister is: was the Language Commissioner included in that process of developing the roles and responsibilities for that position as outlined in the new Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of what I said earlier, the first Languages Commissioner was actively involved when this concept was introduced and the concerns that the commissioner had are **2)** (ϽʹϧϒΛͿʹ): ʹϭͰϧʹαͺΓʹͼ, ΔͼͰϘϘϹʹͼͼ. Δ΄, ϹΔͼϭϤ ʹϧϽϧͰʹϧϭϲͼϲ ΓͼͰʹϧͼʹͼͰͼͼͼ ʹͼϧϪϹϽϭϲϹ ΛΡαμͼͼͼ ϭͰʹͿʹ ΓσʹϹ Ϸʹϧ·ͼϧϧϧ·ʹ϶σ Δ϶Δσ·ϳͼͼ ϹΔͼϭϤ ΛΛϛͼͼ ϹϷͼϧϧ·ʹ϶ͼͼ σ·ϲϷΛΓͰϷͰϹϲͺϷͼϧͺʹͼ ϭϯϧϧͼ ϹϷ϶ͿϲͺϷͼͼͰͺϹ. ϹΔͼϭ ϭͰʹͿͼͼ ʹͼͼ ʹͼϧͼ ʹͼͼ

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ▷C<sup>6</sup>**6: <sup>6</sup>d۶<sup>6</sup>α Γ΄6, Γσ<sup>5</sup>C. DD.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«▷ር%**: <sup>ና</sup>dϧ<sup>6</sup>α.Γ˙<sup>6</sup>, ϽϽ. Γσ<sup>1</sup>/C C<<sup>'56</sup>√<sup>6</sup>.

also incorporated into the bills. We will also outline those changes in the documents that we will be giving you.

In regard to the powers of the Languages Commissioner, the Minister of Languages, and the Inuit Language Authority, they will be the main people who will be administering these bills. The Languages Commissioner was always invited to discussions in the draft ever since it became a concept in 2000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know as part of this process, as the minister indicated, they tabled the draft copies of both pieces of legislation and sought feedback on them. Maybe even prior to that happening; it keeps referring to the first Languages Commissioner; did they receive any concerns or issues that were raised by the current Languages Commissioner in relationship to the roles and responsibilities that are outlined in these two pieces of legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to Stephane, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go ahead, Stephane.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To respond to your question from the tabling of the draft legislation in March 2007, the Language Legislation Steering

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**2)** (ϽʹͱϒΛͿϧ): ʹϭͿϧʹʹαͺΓʹϧ, ΔϧϒϘϷϹʹ·ϧ. ΔϧϒϘϷϹʹ·ϧ, ʹϧϷϒͰʹ·ʹʹ϶ʹϧͺ ΓϭʹʹϚͺϷʹϧͼϧϷϒʹͰϛ, ϹΔϧϤϤ ϒϧʹ·ϲʹʹϛʹϒϷϦ ΛʹͼͿϧϧʹϧϧ ϒϧϷϲϷ;ϒͰͱͰϹʹ ͰϲͰϲϷʹ;ϗ ΔͻϤϷʹ. ϤͱͰͻ ϽͰϒαʹͰʹϭͲϲϷʹʹ϶ϭͰͼϭͺ Ϲϧϥ ϹͰʹͼ ϤϽͲϤϲϷʹϧͺʹͼϫϧͼϧϧϧϧϧϧ ΔϞΓ϶ϽͿϧϧϧϷϲͼͺʹϲͺͼͺϲϫϷͿϧϷϷϒϲͲͼͺͿϲͺϷ ϒϧͰͿϧϲͺϒͼϧϲ ϒϧͰʹϧϲϤϒϷϤϧͼϧϲ ϒϲͲϥͲϷϽͼ ΚϲͲϥϤϲϷϤϧͼϧͼͺͼͺ

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ΡC<sup>16</sup>** (Ͻ<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>/2): <sup>1</sup>d/<sub>2</sub><sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>1</sup> / Ω<sup>6</sup>.

**ἀὀ·CΔ** (ϽΫϒΛͿϤ): 'ϤϧͼͼϮͼ ΔͼϒϭϷϹͼͼ. ΡΡΓϤʹͿ ϹΔͼͿϤ ΛʹͼͿϧͼʹ LcucpγάͼͿϲ ϒͼΡCΡcργσͼρε CΔͼͿϤ Δέ, γρετίζηρης. ἰςγ 2007-Γ Ρεβργσησείε Λίθης Κουρές Committee, which is led by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, with the active participations of representatives from NTI and the Office of the Languages Commissioner, we jointly had regional roundtables in Nunavut's regions to get further input, to discuss and consult on the content on what was being proposed in the legislation. So we got a lot of feedback from members of the public at these regional consultations.

During the spring, after the tabling, we also met with the steering committee, which we also continue to meet, and we met with NTI, with the participation of staff and officers from the Languages Commissioner's Office, to look at the issues and concerns that were brought up relating to the draft bill.

We met looking through these issues, and after considering all of the various interests, all of the feedback we were receiving from various stakeholders but also from the public, I think it was to make a good balance between all of these interests, resources that are also available to the government, and all legal requirements.

If you compare the draft bill to the introduced version, the March version to the June version, there were important adjustments that were made to these bills. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Stephane for that response. I was looking at specifically what the roles, responsibilities, and duties of the Languages Commissioner that's in here. Did the department receive any

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concerns or issues from the Languages Commissioner's Office on how those roles, responsibilities, and duties are outlined in these two pieces of legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer this question to Mr. Cloutier.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Yes, we received a submission from the Languages Commissioner's office. When we were doing the round tables of NTI, the Languages Commissioner's Office, and CLEY, there was a set of topics that were discussed at the consultations. NTI and also the Languages Commissioner had their own questions that they asked to the participants of these consultations, so it was a great opportunity to discussing some of these ideas.

As I mentioned, they would continue to meet with the Language Legislation
Steering Committee, with the participation of representatives from NTI and the Languages Commissioner's Office. The Languages Commissioner's Office brought forward his own submission regarding the legislation also relating to his roles and powers.

As we explained today regarding the promotional role that we have been discussing, it is in our view, as an independent ombudsman from the Legislative Assembly, as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, the

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**Δ⁰/ペ▷ር¹⁰**: ٩ժৢ⁰•Δ广⁰, ጋጋ. Γσ\C C<٩٠٠.

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Languages Commissioner must take all actions and measure necessary to ensure that language rights are recognized and the duties are performed.

If there is a concern about the use of some language by a government, or private sector organization, to fix the problems is to do more education, like to educate Nunavummiut what are their language rights, and also educate the service providers on what are their obligations, this is still available to the Languages Commissioner to take. This is a very broad duty and it's also the same as in current legislation.

You see that sort of wording in the current *Official Languages Act* where it says that the Languages Commissioner can take all actions and measures, and that's why he can do all of the promotion. Currently, in the legislation, we don't see the word "promotion" under the Act that we inherited from the NWT, but instead, what we see is that the Languages Commissioner can take all actions and measures.

So to our view, this is a very broad duty, where the Languages Commissioner, if it's necessary to do such activities that will ensure that language rights are recognized, or the duties are performed, if it's through an awareness campaign, educating Nunavummiut about all of these things, this is still available to him.

We also got input from other stakeholders. So there were some additional changes made to the role of the Languages Commissioner to that regard, to ensure that it works in the best interest of all official language communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So then if I interpret all of that correctly, the major issues and concerns that were raised by the Languages Commissioner in relation to that position's roles and responsibilities, you guys interpreted that they weren't really relevant because they were taken care of already under the legislation, so you just left it the way it was. Is that what you were saying?

Those concerns that were raised to you, they were nothing to be concerned about, so nothing changed and you just left it as it is. Is that a correct interpretation of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer this to Mr. Cloutier, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Can I get a response to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Sorry. (interpretation) I'm losing my voice. Please respond, Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier: The concern was that there was a diminishment of roles regarding promotion and regarding what is in the bills. The view is that we try to keep it there and ensure that the Languages Commissioner still takes all actions and measures that are necessary for the language rights to be recognized and the duties to be performed.

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The concern that was brought to us that there was a concern where the word "diminishing" and what we're saying is that is currently in the Act and it was brought in the new Act. So he has all of these powers, all of the duties, very broad application of that duty that can apply to various things, not only promotion but many other things as well.

All of the things that the former Languages Commissioner and the current Languages Commissioner are doing, they will still be able to do it. So we listened to that concern and we just made sure that what is currently available to the Languages Commissioner remains there.

I know there were issues raised about officers of the Languages Commissioner's Office yesterday that were brought up why the officers are not anymore a member of the public service. One of the reasons, if I can add to this, is for us to ensure that the Languages Commissioner's Office is fully independent and as an ombudsman, and that they are fully at arms length from the government.

Having employees in the public service, which makes them like GN employees; it's kind of an awkward situation for an ombudsman to have his officers that will be members of the public service under the GN. So that was the intent there, and that *Ajauqtiit* to consider this and give it some thought, but the intent was to really make that office fully independent and at arms length from the government as an independent ombudsman. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

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thank Mr. Cloutier for that response. I know and we all know that's why we're here. This standing committee has the mandate if they want to hire and recommend the appointment of the Languages Commissioner; it's also mandated to review the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner.

In such, I would probably be safe to say that this committee is probably the closest you're going to get to expertise in areas of dealing with the roles and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner, having gone through the whole hiring process and reviewing the annual report, and stuff like that, on the Languages Commissioner.

I just question why the department didn't consult with the committee on if they had any concerns over the roles and responsibilities, or suggestions for the Languages Commissioner being that this committee hires that person and this committee reviews the reports and everything on there.

This committee of the Assembly has gone through all of that stuff but no one in the department has, other than just looking at a job description, maybe, and looking at an annual report. Why didn't the department consult with the committee to see if it had any input on, or suggestions of things that have changes when looking at the roles and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. During the review stages of the bills, we consulted with all of the affected entities. The planning group had

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also consulted with your Clerk, John Quirke, and your Legal Counsel, Ms. Cooper and they have been consulted with. They consulted with the standing committee officials on what their views are on that. So I believe that we have consulted with the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll follow-up on that and check it out. The other question I have, Mr. Chairman, I think it deals with Bill 7. I think it's in there where it says, "Every headquarters, or head office, of any organization operating in Nunavut will be required to provide services in all three official languages."

Am I correct in understanding that any headquarters or any head office in Nunavut of a company, or a business, or a department operating in Nunavut is required to be able to provide services in all of the official languages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In Bill 6, there is a provision in there that states that the Nunavut Government and Nunavut Government Crown corporations or others are identified in Bill 6. There's a provision in Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, that states that if you're going to run a business, or if you're going to provide services in Nunavut, you have to provide signages.

There is a provision in Bill 7 that states

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that the federal government has to provide services using the Inuit language. Although it doesn't state that in Bill 6, this bill is more geared towards the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. In the case where you have a section of the government, or corporation, or division, or whatever, that headquarters out of wherever in Nunavut, that they would be obligated to provide services in all three official languages. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The information that has to be known by the Nunavut public and if they want to be provided services, they can request any service to be provided in either in English, Inuktitut, or French.

Any entities will have to identify and be ready to provide services in the head offices, the others, for example, I think there is a sign at the hospital that if you want to be provided services in French, then you can be provided services in French. Those are the ones that you have to request no matter who you are. In Nunavut, if you want to be provided services, you have to identify in what language you would like to be provided services for.

As the government, we have to make those services available when we're requested to do so, so that the public can make choices on what language they

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«▷ርና**<sup>6</sup>: <sup>ና</sup>d৮<sup>6</sup> α.Γ΄<sup>6</sup>, Γσ<sup>1</sup>C C<<sup>(56</sup><sup>6</sup>, DD.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One would assume then if someone walked into the Legal Services Board Office, which is headquartered out of Gjoa Haven, that someone could walk in there and say, "I want services offered in French, or in Inuktitut, or in English," that they would be obligated to provide those services in whatever that someone walked in and requested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have Mr. Cloutier respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That refers back to the two concepts we were discussing this morning: formal equality versus substantive quality. We have a headquarters for the Department of Education for curriculum development in Arviat. Would that office be required to provide their services in French? If they do provide services to the public, then they have to provide the services to the public in French.

What can be done and what is their requirement now in the legislation is that each department must develop its own procedure and own policies on how they will provide their services to Nunavummiut in all official languages.

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Knowing that the majority of the Francophone population is here in Iqaluit, and we already know that within the Department of Education there is an office already dealing with education in French and they have the staff that do speak French, when there is a request of things from the department, what they do is to coordinate requests from the public for services. That office here in Iqaluit can be used as a liaison between the department and the community, and try to provide the best service. The end result is that the public gets the service they need.

It could be the same for Inuinnaqtun. The Department of CLEY has regional offices, one in Igloolik and one in Kugluktuk, where we have Inuinnaqtun speaking staff, one in Baker Lake and here in Iqaluit. When we get requests for Inuinnaqtun, we do have staff that speak Inuinnaqtun but based in the office in Kugluktuk.

To put the procedures in place, that when we get these requests from the public, that we have a way to answer these requests given the resources we have. I hope that answers your question. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question that I have and it's getting into Bill 7, on clause 3, part 1 on page 6 of the bill, it talks about communications.

It says, "the communications with the public referred to... are the following where particular services to be provided in the Inuit language." On subsection 3(a) where it says, "all notices, warnings or instructions directed to users or consumers

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of the service;" I guess that would mean warnings for prescriptions. I'm just wondering what that would contain. I'm pretty sure that the government, right now, puts warning labels on alcohol and you see it on tobacco products and things like that.

So I'm just wondering: what does that applies to and would it apply to all of those cases? So if the government's sticking warning labels about alcohol on that product in the warehouse here, or in Rankin Inlet, if this goes through, there would be a requirement that they will have to put a label on and it would have to be in all four languages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. If Bill 7 is enacted, all of the services, especially warnings have to be written down, like what you just mentioned. The Inuit Language Authority will have to consider this.

Also, in the Act, for example, if there is a requirement for changes to policies that are geared towards government, the Cabinet can make directives to translate them into Inuktitut. If that was the case, perhaps, the government can ask the Inuit Language Authority to come up with a decision. If the Inuit Language Authority sees something that has to be translated into Inuktitut, they can advise the government to do so. The Minister of Languages can also make a decision and request that these warnings be translated into Inuktitut. There are avenues there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

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Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Say it's just in the case for the labels on alcohol, that's a service that the government does provide with the distribution of alcohol through the warehouse here in Iqaluit and the one in Rankin Inlet; they put the labels on them. I interpret this section of the Act saying they are required to put the labels on there in the Inuit language.

Now, I just heard that they can decide whether they want to or not, so I'm just a little confused here. If I could just get a clarification because my interpretation of this is that you have to do it. The minister just indicated they can decide if they want to do it or not. Maybe if I can just get a clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make it clear that in the Act there are going to be rights. The Cabinet can make directives to translate things such as laws to be given to them and your question could also be considered. Perhaps, if I ask: what would you think if they provide that kind of thing to you? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll make our recommendations later based on listening to the comments and stuff that are made, and I'm sure that there will probably be something on that.

The other question I have is for anything that's produced here in Nunavut, there's

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not a whole heck of a lot. If you look at, for example, the meat and fish plant in Rankin Inlet and the one Cambridge Bay, what's produced here in Nunavut, would they be required to have their labels in all of the official languages on the products that the make? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Under Bills 6 and 7, that will not be a requirement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Please keep in mind that you're here to answer today's standing committee. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo** (interpretation): That's it.

**Chairman**: Sorry. (interpretation) Before I move to another section, we'll take a 15-minute break so that we can give people a break. We will resume in 15 minutes.

>> Committee recessed at 15:16 and resumed at 15:38

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We can resume. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. When we were asking questions earlier on I referred to the preamble of Bills 6 and 7. It states that these would be recognized by the whole of Canada and would be entrenched into the Constitution, and Inuktitut would be recognized nationally, not just in Nunavut.

Your Legal Counsel's response to one of the questions stated that only when we become a province can they be entrenched b°Γ°°-2σ°Γ, Δ°b→°)°Π
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PYOU C'A LCUCP®NY, LCUCLY DOBBO D'B®DL, Province-JJCJ® PYOU CAL D'B®BDLCUL into the Constitution. As I said earlier on, in the 1800s, the Yukon became a territory and they're still a territory today. Does that mean that we'll have to wait 100 years before these are entrenched into the Constitution?

With that, during your consultation tours, did you make sure that you got this information out there? This might not happen for another 100 years and that we shouldn't give them false hope as long as we don't become a province, Mr. Chairman, we don't want the people out there to think that it's going to happen right away and I think they're getting a little tired about getting misleading information.

If we're going to become our own province, we'll have to pay our own taxes, we'll have to have our own non renewable resources, renewable resources and so on, and generate revenue around \$1 billion. We might have to wait a very long time until the population is sufficient enough for Nunavut to sustain.

My question is: have you made sure that the information got out there to the people of Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an excellent question and because it refers to legal matters, it will have to be supplemented.

From what I understand, there are only two official languages in Canada, which are French and English. How can we get the Inuit language recognized to the same extent? And, for you to get a proper לני, ינינסיומו-שרביינסיומו-שירני שריבירונסיומו-שירני.

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response, I will refer this to Stephane and possibly Norman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Stephane.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, James. I would first like to say that you are Inuit and we live in the Inuit part of the country and we have to be able to work in Inuktitut. For those of us who are non Inuit, we have to learn the Inuktitut language because we live here.

As a Francophone, I have language rights that are entrenched into the Constitution, which gives me, as a Francophone, tremendous powers. (interpretation ends) I think what is important to say to that is that it's a long-term goal to ensure that the Inuit language, Inuktitut, is recognized. We have French and English recognized as the official languages of Canada, and because of that sort of recognition, the federal government provided the means to ensure that the Francophone community develops and thrives up to this point today.

It is in the preamble as a long-term goal, it will not happen tomorrow or overnight, it's a long-term goal but we need to keep pressuring the federal government to ensure that the official languages of Canada that's fine to have French and English but to make sure that Inuktitut is also recognized. We recognize that reality that we're not dealing with only two languages in Nunavut but with three languages.

This question was raised on a number of occasions, there were questions regarding this, and as I have explained, this will be a

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long-term goal but there are also other avenues where we can ensure national recognition, or try to get better recognition for the Inuit language from the federal government. I hope that answers your question. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tarnow.

Mr. Tarnow: Thank you. I'm going to begin helping to answer this question by referring to the preamble to the *Official Languages Act* that's currently part of the law of Nunavut, the existing *Official Languages Act* that was passed back in 1984; that's a long time ago. You'll see, Mr. Chairman, in the preamble to that Act, one of the things that the legislature of the then Northwest Territories which this was part of at that time, what it said when it enacted that Act was this: "Expressing the wish that the aboriginal languages will be entrenched in the Constitution of Canada as official languages of the territories."

So what I'm pointing out by this is that the reference in our current; in the preamble in the proposed legislation before you, carries forward this goal of the legislature that preceded this Legislative Assembly. It's a long-term goal and that's why you see it again. It's not aboriginal languages. It's the Inuit language.

One of the things that I think the members, Mr. Chairman, should realize is that by their very nature, these two bills will be considered what's known as quasiconstitutional. They're not in the Constitution of Canada but they're going to be considered by a court, they will be interpreted in a way that gives them precedence and paramountcy over other laws.

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Case law has shown us that when it comes to language, when it comes to human rights, language is considered a basic right because it's so basic and fundamental to our society, and the culture of the society. Whereas we may not have it formally in the *Constitution Act*, 1982, the courts are going to look at these pieces of legislations and give them a special status higher than other laws.

The other thing is what I mentioned yesterday about section 35 and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act, how they all worked together and how they're all part of the same thing. That legislative authority that you have in this Chamber, the source of all of that comes through section 35, comes through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act, the authority that you have to preserve and promote the Inuit language. That's sacrosanct.

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One could say that may not be in the *Constitution Act*, 1982, but it is part of our constitutional law, that would be looked at by a court of law should there be some question about the importance of the Inuit language to Nunavut and to this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

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**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your answer and that is encouraging. Hopefully, depending on the type of lawyer you have, you'll win the case.

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politically tempting to announce or make statements, in reality, it's a long, long, long goal and I think it should be stated accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

I think Mr. Tarnow's answer should also be included in your information packages that there are other avenues that could be used under this preamble, for example, the quasi-judicial system, that it will make us feel more proud that yes, even if it's a long, long goal, it could have immediate implications if it's applied properly.

I would appreciate the minister if he can use that form of information to the public even if you're saying that it's a long, long goal but there could be some immediate results with that preamble.

(interpretation) I'm not asking a question, Mr. Chairman. That's more of a statement. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): There was no question. I have no other names on my list. If you would like to make any comments in reference to the last comments that were made, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was very complete. We can look at other avenues. For example, if we're looking at Ottawa, Edmonton, and the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife, if we look at the medical patients who have to move to those places, our goal will be to have Inuktitut recognized in Canada because there are quite a few of us. There are other avenues that we can use, especially the Minister of Language.

We also have meetings with our counterparts in the Canadian provinces and we have looked at their suggestions.

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One avenue that we can go through is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding if there are services provide to Nunavummiut that the Ontario Government, or Alberta Government, could have those services provided in Inuktitut. Alberta is very Inuktitut friendly and I'm sure that we could arrive at an agreement.

There is a Nunavut-Quebec agreement where the services that are provided will be provided in Inuktitut. Once Bill 7 is enacted and if Bill 6 goes through, then the opportunities will increase and there will be more opportunities to provide Inuktitut services in the rest of Canada. If Bill 7 goes through, it is only for Nunavummiut.

As Nunavummiut, we will have to enact them. I am saying that so there is hope out there, that there are other avenues that we can use in promoting the Inuktitut language nationally through the provision of services, and possibly, MOUs signed between the two parties. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Before I adjourn the proceedings of the standing committee, I would like to make a few closing comments.

The standing committee would like to express its appreciation to the minister and his officials for their appearance before the committee.

These hearings have provided an excellent opportunity for a number of important issues concerning Bills 6 and 7 to be raised and discussed in a public forum.

The standing committee continues to have a number of concerns with these bills.

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These concerns include the following issues:

- The role, powers and structure of the office of the Languages
   Commissioner. It is clear that MLAs, the government, the Languages
   Commissioner and other stakeholders, such as NTI, have differing perspectives on the appropriate role, powers and structure of this office. It will be difficult for the standing committee to support the continuation of the Languages Commissioner as an independent officer of the House if that role is unduly limited.
- Uncertainty concerning the extent to which the territorial government has clear legal jurisdiction with respect to the operations and activities of federal bodies and federally-regulated companies in Nunavut.
- The role of the proposed Inuit
   Language Authority with respect to the issue of a standardized writing system for Inuktitut. The standing committee was surprised to hear the minister comment that this issue will be addressed by the Department of Education.
- The issue of imposing translation requirements on the Legislative Assembly that are not present with respect to the production of other government publications, such as Bills and the *Nunavut Gazette*. The standing committee will have difficulties in supporting a double standard in this area.

The standing committee will continue to carefully consider the submissions and information that it has received, and we

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look forward to further dialogue with the minister in the New Year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of elected ministers responding to questions concerning the merits of government policy.

Although the committee recognizes the role of departmental officials to respond to technical questions, it is elected representatives who are ultimately held accountable to the Legislative Assembly and the public for policy decisions and direction.

Given the complexity and importance of these issues, the Standing Committee may need to seek a further extension to its review period when the House reconvenes. Thank you.

(interpretation) I would also like to thank the interpreters, there are three booths: Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French languages provided. Thank you very much for having participated and also the individuals who are at the Gallery, who were here listening to the public hearings of the standing committee.

Before we leave the House, as the Chair of *Ajauqtiit*, I would like to thank the Nunavut Languages Commissioner who will be stepping down from his job. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him very much for his contributions and we hope things will go good in the future. We can adjourn.

For the information of the standing committee, we will be holding a meeting in the Tuktu Room right from here. Thank you. The public hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I need to take this opportunity to thank you too. I would like to thank the Standing Committee of *Ajauqtiit*. We would like you to understand the bills because they have to be enacted while the Second Assembly is still sitting in Nunavut.

If this is deferred again, the Inuit language will have no protection at all because we currently have no protection for Inuit and we need to work hard as a government to protect the Inuit language and the use of language. We need to have protection within the courts, and that they are able to use the Inuktitut language and to protect it.

The bills were very difficult to draft and we needed to draft the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Also, there's already an existence of English and French languages and it was quite difficult to resolve this situation. The main reasoning why we're rushing to deal with this is since 1999, when the Nunavut Government was established, we have been working on this issue until now.

Elders, who are unilingual speaking Inuit people, that we have to provide services in the Inuktitut language is insufficient.

Nunavummiut who cannot speak English do not have diminished rights; they have to have equal rights for providing services. Why do we need to make the Inuktitut services less than that? So therefore, we have to consider this very carefully.

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ΡΦΦ Δ°αΔ΄ ʹϧʹ·ͻαΡϧΡ°α°ΓΓΟ· Α΄΄
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One of the things that we are more focused on is that we are losing our language but for the administration purposes, such as the Languages Commissioner, the Inuit Language Authority, and the Minister of Languages, so that we can implement the Act. One thing that we're working hard on is to protect the Inuktitut language. There is no Act that protects our language, so let's pay particular attention to that because we have created Nunavut to acknowledge that.

It became evident that there's still a misunderstanding with the standing committee in regard to the Department of Education having the responsibility. I did not talk about the Department of Education. I was talking about the Inuit Language Authority that has to be responsible for that but the Department of Education is responsible for teacher training programs and cultural development.

So we're going to be open so that these bills can go ahead before the next general election that this needs to go through. For that reason, we will make ourselves available if you have additional questions or additional recommendations prior to the bills being read for the third time, we'll be open.

I also would like to thank you for listening to us and we will want to hear from you what your views are on this. It doesn't necessarily have to be by way of a meeting but we can meet with each other. For that reason, I wanted to make my closing remarks and I'm very glad that I let them out because I feel more comfortable on that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're not asking when the

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bills can be implemented and we didn't
even state that we're going to defer this
matter but the standing committee will
review them. I thank you and your
officials for appearing at the hearings. At
this time I will adjourn the meeting for
real.

>>Committee adjourned at 16:08

*>>b∩L*とらこっゅゅっつ 16:08