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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Aivilik)

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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
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Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Culture and Heritage –
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Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee 907

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19. Are there any nays? There are none. We will proceed to Item 19. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 and Bill 3 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2), the

committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask all members to remain at their desks so that you can proceed immediately to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, Inuit and all Nunavummiut. Good morning to Gjoa Haven. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Environment, and, if time permits, the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we first deal the main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 –
Executive and Intergovernmental
Affairs – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Premier Taptuna, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. For the record, Premier Taptuna, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: On my right is Mr. David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. On my left is Mr. David Pealow, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to present the 2014-15 Main Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the 2014-17 Business Plan.

Today I am accompanied by Mr. David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. David Pealow, Director of Corporate Services.

As a central agency, the department provides support to cabinet in accomplishing objectives set out in

Sivumut Abluqta. It is the lead on the interdepartmental coordination for Government of Nunavut departments and agencies. It is responsible for overall coordination of the work for the public service. It also works to ensure that the Government of Nunavut's interests are represented in policy discussions, both nationally and internationally.

Within those overarching structure, there are four lines of core businesses. The Directorate, Strategic Planning, *Sivumuaqatigiit*, and Intergovernmental Affairs. The Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs remains focused on our commitment to four priorities identified in *Sivumut Abluqta*.

As I mentioned, the department supports cabinet under the Directorate branch, works interdepartmentally to communicate cabinet direction, provides support to government communications, and manages Government of Nunavut access to information and protection of privacy requirements and acts as the initial government point of contact in every government through our government liaison officers.

Through out *Sivumuaqatigiit* branch, our objective is to increase beneficiary representation in public service by supporting departments and agencies in the development of our Inuit employment plans, provide learning opportunities with focus on enhancing our public service with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their positions. And also provide leadership and coordination for planning and developing activities at the regional and community levels.

In relation to intergovernmental affairs, we are looking forward to the Western Premier's Conference which is being held in Iqaluit this year. We continue bilateral relations with Greenland, with council and federation meetings both scheduled for later this year. We believe in working closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit organizations, as well. We coordinate the Government of Nunavut implementation of the Nunavut Land Claim's Agreement and negotiation on overlapping land claims.

Through the Strategic Planning Branch we work closely with other departments on current business planning to ensure priorities in the Government of Nunavut Business Plan reflect those of the mandate.

There are a number of other activities, such as the Strategic Planning branch is pursuing, for example, completing the analysis of the Nunavut Food Price Survey and explore the feasibility of an annual survey. It also supports the government departments on their submissions to cabinet and continues to provide support for reviews of Government of Nunavut programs and services.

The department's main estimates for the 2014-15 fiscal year total \$27,309,000. This amount is comprised of approximately \$17.3 million allocated toward salaries and benefits and \$10 million for other operations and maintenance costs.

The department is seeking an increase of approximately \$400,000 to cover costs associated with the additional Member

of the Executive Council and support staff.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the departmental main estimates and business plan. I welcome comments and look forward to answering questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have opening comments? Please proceed Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The department's organizational structure, proposed 2014-15 main estimates and proposed 2014-17 business plan reflect the transfer of certain functions and personnel from the Department of Human Resources, which was dissolved as of April 1, 2013, as well as the transfer of the Social Advocacy Office to the new Department of Family Services and the transfer of the Energy Secretariat and Sustainable Development functions to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,309,000 is 1.5 percent higher than the department's 2013-14 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 135.0 PYs in 2013-14 to 136.0 PYs in 2014-15.

The *Sivumut Abluqta* mandate statement, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20, 2014, indicates that one of its primary goals of the new government is to "review government programs to determine what is working well, what needs improvement, and what we should stop doing in order to focus our resources on enabling Nunavut's success; and ensure recipients of Government of Nunavut funds are providing the outcomes we expect from our investment."

Mr. Chairman, the draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "co-ordinate, in partnership with the Department of Finance, an external review of government programs to ensure delivery in an effective, efficient and economic manner."

Mr. Chairman, the draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs also indicates that one of the Strategic Planning branch's priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "develop capacity to provide an oversight role for program evaluations and undertake quality assurance reviews of external evaluations of government programs."

Mr. Chairman, these issues have also been the subject of extensive discussion in the Legislative Assembly during the current spring sitting.

In June of 2012, the Legislative Assembly approved amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The amendments added provisions to allow individuals to request the Information and Privacy Commissioner review the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information, and to require public bodies to notify the Information and Privacy Commissioner where a breach of privacy has occurred.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2013-16 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for 2013-14 was to "Work with the municipalities of Nunavut to create best practices for access to information and protection of privacy that are consistent with the ATIPP Act." The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that "It was determined that the City of Iqaluit would be most capable of implementing access and privacy principles. City Council confirmed their support and commitment in moving toward the creation and implementation of access and privacy principles within the City of Iqaluit."

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Provide support to the municipalities of Nunavut in implementing access and privacy principles based on [their] successful implementation within the City of Iqaluit."

The standing committee also notes the importance of the government tabling an

annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The 2012-13 report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 6, 2013.

The standing committee also notes that the statutorily required 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 annual reports of the department's bureau of statistics were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2012. However, the 2012-13 annual report has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated at the beginning of my opening comments, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has assumed a number of functions and responsibilities that were previously exercised by the Department of Human Resources, which was dissolved on April 1, 2013. Other functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance.

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Information contained in the government's quarterly employment reports indicate that a total of 1,092 beneficiaries were employed by the government in December of 2003. By December of 2013, that number had increased to 1,643. This constituted an increase of approximately 50 percent over the course of a decade. On average, the government gained approximately 55 new Inuit employees each year.

Mr. Chairman, it is important for the government to develop realistic and achievable timetables for achieving full representativeness across all

occupational categories in the government, which is commonly understood to mean a public service that is composed of 85 percent beneficiary employees. This is a significant challenge.

Information contained in the government's December 2013 quarterly employment report, which is the most recent report to have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly, indicates that there were a total of 4,350 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies. 3,309 of these positions were filled, of which 1,643 were filled by beneficiaries. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 2,055 new beneficiary employees to achieve full representativeness.

The standing committee notes that the government's proposed 2014-17 business plan indicates that its current government-wide Inuit Employment Plan target is 51 percent Inuit employment by March 31, 2015.

In September of 2010, the Government of Nunavut filed a Statement of Defence in relation to the federal government's attempt to have the Government of Nunavut named as a co-defendant in the matter of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's lawsuit against the federal government. Mr. Chairman, in its statement of defence, which is a matter of public record, the GN indicated that the federal government "has refused to provide to the Government of Nunavut the necessary funding...to allow it to develop and implement the necessary training and other measures required to increase Inuit participation in government employment to a

representative level. To the extent that the Government of Nunavut has been unable to comply with all of its obligations in respect of Article 23, that is a result of Canada's failure to comply with its funding obligations."

In its response to the standing committee's report on the 2010 *Report of the Auditor General on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut stated that it will "continue to lobby the federal government for funding in regards to obligations under Article 23." Mr. Chairman, it is important that the government publicly clarify its current position concerning how much additional federal funding would be required in order to meet its obligations and achieve its objectives.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the ongoing gender gap within the public service. The 2012-13 Public Service Annual Report indicates that approximately 37 percent of the public service is composed of beneficiary women. Approximately 25 percent of the public service is composed of non-beneficiary females and an additional 25 percent is composed of non-beneficiary males. However, beneficiary males compose approximately only 10 percent of the public service.

The 2012-13 Public Service Annual Report indicates that 739 employees were receiving a bilingual bonus as at March 31, 2013. The standing committee notes that section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Inuit Language Authority "may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate

Inuit Language proficiency." Given the importance of complying with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the standing committee encourages the department to develop objective tests for evaluating language proficiency within the public service.

On June 5, 2012, the Government of Nunavut's Decentralization Action Plan was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Decentralization Action Plan states that "the current model can be strengthened by shifting focus on the number of positions and communities they go to and maintaining a commitment to allocating and maintaining over 60% of the public service outside of Iqaluit."

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that "As a result of the government restructuring of departments, the Decentralization Action Plan had to be reviewed and revised to reflect necessary changes. The revisions will be completed by end of 2014-15."

On April 20, 2011, a new co-operation protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was signed. Some of the priority areas identified in the protocol were to review the *Child and Family Services Act*, consult on the NNI Policy, and develop new regulations under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Renew the protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and continue to work on matters of mutual interest to Nunavummiut."

The standing committee supports a positive working relationship between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Mr. Chairman, it is also incumbent on the government to be clear and candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have disagreements on specific issues.

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Continue efforts on devolution Agreement-in-Principle negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated." The standing committee looks forward to reviewing progress towards a devolution agreement.

Mr. Chairman, on September 5, 2009, the governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon released a joint communiqué announcing the renewal of the Northern Cooperation Accord for a five-year term. The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2014-15 is to "Work with the governments of the Northwest Territories and Yukon, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Gwich'in Council International and the Arctic Athabaskan Council to provide a northern voice to Canada's 2013-15 chairmanship of the Arctic Council." Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports Nunavut having a strong voice concerning such issues as the need to enhance federal search and rescue capacity in the north, as well as standing up for Nunavut's seal harvesters.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Comments? We're going to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Page B-4. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask in regard to access to information and protection of privacy. What kind of methods does the department do to inform Nunavummiut that they can access government information if they wanted to? How do you let Nunavummiut know that there's such a thing as access to information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, most of the public is aware that there is access to information and through the departments, it's a well-known fact, including to the municipalities. It's a well-known fact that there is access to information that any member of the public can try and get more information on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I would ask members to shut off their cellphones, please. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. I would like him to, perhaps, state who can access information from

the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any of the member of the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can a Nunavummiuq from Ottawa, let's say, who lives in Ottawa access information from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Can any member of Canada access information from this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many applications did your office receive last year from the public requesting information from the government using the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that detailed information in front of us, but we can certainly make it available to committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that commitment. Would the minister know what kind of information is a typical request that public are seeking from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my previous experience as being an economic development minister, I have held that portfolio. There are all different types of requests for information regarding contracts, employment, and various other types of information that the public can request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us, is it usually the press that are asking for more information or is it mainly the public that is trying to access information from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information percentage wise of whether it is public, employees, or outside of our jurisdiction including the press. We don't have that information in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing that information as well. Just to go on to Utility Rates Review Council, their budget of \$604,000. Does that budget include travel costs for board members as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us who makes up the council and how often do they meet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman. There are five board members, including a chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us where the council members come from? Are they all Nunavummiut or are there some from outside as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two members from Nunavut and three members from outside of our jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often do they meet? I don't believe you answered that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main board meetings of the Utility Rates Review Council take place when the application comes forth from Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity now, perhaps, so we're all on the same page and people who may not be really aware of the Utility Rates Review Council's responsibilities are. The minister can just indicate what the process is. They get a request from Qulliq Energy Corporation, it goes to the Utility Rates Review Council, and then what happens from there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Once the council gets a request or an application from Qulliq Energy Corporation it is evaluated, assessed, then it goes to public consultation to make a recommendation to the Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the minister has received their recommendation, does the minister go to the cabinet with this recommendation for approval? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation can reject, accept, or modify the recommendation before it goes to the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us then, does cabinet have the final say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member please clarify that question? Final say in, I did not get the last part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak, the Premier is asking for clarification.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, once the minister has received the recommendation from the Utility Rates Review Council and has decided to or is thinking about accepting, rejecting, or modifying it, does he go to cabinet and get the cabinet's blessing on what he wants to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go on to speak about your working relationship with NTI. You know, it's been in the news over the last few years, really, about the different things going on and I know that you've been working jointly with NTI through *Aajiiqatigiinniq* Working Group.

Can you tell us what types of legislation have you been working on collaboratively with NTI? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a memorandum of understanding with NTI and within that, there is a number of initiatives that we try to do with collaboration with NTI and for the most part, we are in negotiations with regards to the implementation contract with NTI and Canada.

There is a number of initiatives that are ongoing and, Mr. Chairman, one of the key things is that, for the benefit of Nunavummiut residents, Inuit, we try to collaborate on any new initiative that may come up, including the collaboration on the anti-poverty or poverty reduction and the food coalition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand also that you

worked, NTI and the GN have worked on the *Child and Family Services Act*. What kind of input did NTI put forward in regards to this act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been some back and forth with NTI on specifically on that and I can't tell you exactly what the input has pertained to but we do collaborate and meet on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how often this working group meets and who sits on the working group representing the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: I apologize, Mr. Chairman. The working group meets on a monthly basis, including the officials, and I meet with the president quarterly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he tell us if the Article 23 Working Group has been re-established and who is our rep. on the working group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that has been re-

established and through our Inuit employment plans, we do have officials who sit on the working group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go speak a little bit about government liaison officers, GLOs. I'm wondering: what kind of an impact is the GLOs having on the community do you feel or is it too early to tell? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities, it's working out very well. They're being utilized to the fullest extent, including our officials who need to relay or coordinate some event or program into the communities. They're doing a very good job. Hopefully, before the end of the summer, we will have all communities filled with the positions of GLOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how many communities don't have a GLO and which communities don't have one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities without GLOs are Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, and Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us why those positions haven't been filled yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Baker Lake, the position has been re-advertised. There were no successful applicants. In Kugluktuk, we are still in discussions with the municipality. In Cambridge Bay, there's lack of office space. In Clyde River, we're still discussing that with the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us if every GLO works through the hamlet or are there different agreements in place, depending on the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several agreements with the municipality when it comes to providing office space, but coordination of work is done through here with the GLO coordinator who is here in Iqaluit. There have been some training programs that were held in February and we intend to do a little more of that going into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's annual business plan has indicated that GLO positions will serve as delivery agents for searching government services. What

specific government services are being delivered by GLOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, we utilized their services in delivering the driver's licensing and general identification process with the help of municipalities and the government liaison officers. We continue to use them for referrals.

There are a lot of members of the public that need direction on where to go, how to deal with their unemployment insurance, and various other things that may pertain to Canada. It's a useful resource for all of the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how long the government liaison officer has been in place now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program has been in place since 2010. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had a few years of this now in place. Can you tell us what is the most common request for help coming from a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of requests are for drivers' licensing and assistance on that, including general identification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does Iqaluit have a government liaison officer position here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, but we do have a government liaison officer coordinator that assists in dealing with the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the public from Iqaluit go to his or her office and get the same kind of help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you informed the public in Iqaluit that they have an office that they can go to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specifically. We're hoping that the number of Members of

the Legislative Assembly that are within Iqaluit can help us out on that through their constituency offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be more than welcome to that. We would love to do that. We just need the information. If you can make sure that the information comes to our offices then we can make sure it gets passed on. But I also think it's good to do some radio advertisements or posters around town. Thank you. That's all I have for now.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a comment. Next on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, before I start asking questions can you please direct me in regards to my questions about the use of the Inuktitut language by the government and the bilingual bonus that people can get extra pay out of. Mr. Chairman, if you can direct me, I believe we're on B-4. If I can ask those questions now while we're on B-4 or would you like me to wait until we get to B-8 and then I can ask my questions. Please direct me either way. Thank you.

Chairman: You should be able to ask on B-4.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I want to ask some questions about language. These days, people can make more money if they are bilingual. Many of us, it seems like they're just playing around with the Inuktitut language, the Inuit language, the way it's set up. The way

the bilingual bonus is set up. If somebody can say goodbye in Inuktitut they can get a bilingual bonus it seems.

First of all, let me say that I'd like to express my gratitude to what started this morning the Inuit Language Authority had an opening. The Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to that this morning. That is a very important thing.

Mr. Chairman, my first question is every department has a director. I believe they bring out the jobs that are available and then they fill out the job descriptions. I believe if the job requires a bilingual person in the job description. Let me start by asking if it is true that the director has to decide whether that position requires a bilingual person in it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The assumption that bilingual bonuses are paid to a person who knows how to say goodbye is not true. It's based on proficiency. We don't just play around with the Inuit language. We take that very seriously that's why we have legislation to protect Inuit language. When it comes to Inuit using the language within the workplace we were quite pleased that the numbers are going up. During the job description planning, the Inuit language requirement, the bilingual requirement is put in there then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have the freedom to express your opinion and so do I. Let me

ask a question, a director in a department, is the director the person who decides whether that position that will be created will require a bilingual person in it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once a position has been identified and a job description written up, that decides whether the position is necessary for a bilingual person to be in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who decides that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our policies in Human Resources and our Inuit Employment Plan that is a requirement that if a position requires a bilingual person that bilingual requirement would be put in the job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who decides whether that job requires two languages, a bilingual person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There could be a number of people from Human Resources and Inuit Employment Plan coordinators. We do

have positions in there that evaluate the job descriptions that are going out or positions that are going out and their requirement is to evaluate the job description, whether it needs a bilingual person in there or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): If there's a prospective job, does one person or a group of people decide whether that position requires a bilingual person? Is it a person or a group of people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're getting into details, I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. If we're going to create a position and they put the job description together, then the person who would be supervising that job... It gets worked on, the deputy minister signs it before it gets to the Department of Finance, and whether that job needs a bilingual person or a unilingual person, then the directors do the planning beforehand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this: does the final say goes to the Minister of Finance whether or not that job requires a bilingual bonus, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who decides whether a person will be making more money because they get a bilingual bonus? Who decides that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a committee that looks at these things. Once the job description is put out there and if the department requires a bilingual person to be in that position, that's when it is put in. Through the HR department, that is looked at and will try and fulfill the requirements of the department that wants a bilingual person in that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask for more clarification. As the Premier stated previously, he didn't believe what I said that the Inuit language is being played around with. Previously in some of the planning, it was stated and approved by the government executive that there should be planning on bilingual bonuses to promote the fact that they can get bilingual bonuses. It's called the Language Incentive Program.

That's because there has been abuse in the past. The fact is that you totally disagreed with me when I said that the Inuktitut language is being played with.

In the 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-2010, 2010-13, and 2011-14 business plans, this has never been thought of, although we say that it's very important. Let me ask. It is written that you are going to work with the Inuit Language Authority. What are your terms of reference for the bilingual bonus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not one single person that makes that determination of whether a position required a bilingual person in there. Since we are getting into the details, I will have Mr. Akeegok respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our business plan, in the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs business plan under page 7, it states, in 2013-14.... We work with Nunavut Arctic College. It states that in partnership with Arctic College, the Pirurvik Centre was contracted to develop resources and assessment tools to support the language incentive program. The language of the job description is included in the job description. They are also in our priorities for 2014-15, work with Government of Nunavut Public Service Human Resources Strategy and begin implementation for bonus and for employees it states in the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've read the business plan, too. My question is to date, what have you used for your foundation for your terms of reference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a program we are developing and once the program is developed I'm sure there will be terms of reference. Regarding the folks that are thinking that we are playing around with the Inuit language. I'd like Mr. Enook to have those folks come to my office so I can clarify the issues that they are having. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to reply to that comment because I need more time. Mr. Chairman, Inuit who can speak two languages. Do they qualify for a bilingual bonus for the government employees? Thank you.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. The bilingual bonus for people who can speak Inuktitut and English language. I believe the member is asking that question and to briefly respond, no, not all bilingual staff receive a bonus because it states that if they qualify for the bilingual bonus in their job

description, they get their bilingual bonus through their salary.

Some positions provide direct service to the people, so they're given the bilingual bonus, but it depends on the job description and the service that they provide. They review the service that they should provide and their application for a bilingual bonus is approved or denied. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, what do you use to assess the Inuktitut proficiency of government employees? What are your terms of reference on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Akeegok can respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. Currently, I don't have any detailed information in front of me and we will be able to provide correspondence on the criteria or eligibility criteria. The Nunavut government provides two full employees' bonus. One comes from the Nunavut Employees Union and their policy is a bit different from the Nunavut Teachers Association and they both receive a bilingual bonus. We can make those documents available to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, how many Nunavut government positions have been designated as a bilingual position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Can they provide us a copy of that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this question. Somebody has to approve a position. I know that the Nunavut government has HR and someone has to decide that the government position has been designated as requiring employees to be proficient in both English and Inuktitut. Is it concerning if they didn't believe this to be that way or would you not be concerned about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the member's question correctly, we're always concerned. We try do our best in getting qualified people the correct way through

a job description that may be written up for a certain position. Mr. Chairman, I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond in more detail about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To supplement the Premier's statement that when they are drafting the job descriptions, the Inuktitut language is included and they look at whether they need a bilingual or trilingual position, and we have to respond to each description that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Just the same question and my time is running out. I still did not receive the answer I'm looking for. Maybe my question is not understandable so I will try and read it in English.

(interpretation ends) Currently with the bilingual bonus you can have a director who sees no value in providing services in Inuktitut or French and therefore, does not include it in the job description.

How are we sure that this kind of stuff does not happen? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee member is asking if a director sees no value in having a bilingual person there...once the job description is written there is several other people that go through that

and it's not necessarily one single person that makes that determination.

If the position requires a bilingual or trilingual person, of course, that's going to be written within the job description for applicants to look at.

Mr. Chairman, when a new position is requested by a department or agency, it does go through the HR process and policies to make sure that every opportunity is taken to make sure that it's a proper job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they are satisfied with the job description, who should be satisfied? Is it the committee that approves the job descriptions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a department or agency is looking for a position, they make that application to HR and at the end of the day, after it goes through a number of different processes, the department requesting that position authorizes and approves the position to go out for public application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a policy or legislation where it states that the job description whether they need Inuktitut or a bilingual position or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Akeegok. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is stated that way in the job description, it would automatically be in there and they would during the planning stages, when the job description is being written, they have to make the determination whether it is going to be bilingual or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What do you use as your foundation? What kind of criteria do you have whether the position should be bilingual or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Human Resources, the Minister of Finance that deals with that can probably respond in a better manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could Mr. Enook repeat his question, please?

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is a position, during the drafting of the job description what do you use as your criteria or your foundation, whether this job description should be filled with Inuktitut or bilingual person? I'll speak English. (interpretation ends) What are the criteria to determine whether a job is required to speak Inuktitut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Job descriptions come from the departments. They are the subject matter experts. Typically it would be the department that determines what positions should be bilingual. Then of course the deputy minister of the department would sign off. Then it would go to Human Resources.

We have a Job Evaluation division and they would review the criteria, duties of the position, education, experience and then they would determine that that indeed it has the position required out of the second language or not. There would be back and forth discussion with the appropriate department.

Some of the positions in the Government of Nunavut that would desirably have a bilingual component would be public affairs officers, classroom assistants, community health nurses, hospital nurses, health promotion education officers, community health nurses, judicial officers, social service workers; that would be desirable. But it's not always the case that they would have the second language.

Some positions already had to have bilingual components very definitely would be interpreters, translators, legal translators, linguists, where you absolutely have to have those skills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple questions for the Premier. Mr. Chairman, I'm looking at the agreement between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated working together from 2011 and one of the categories is raise the standard of living, specifically housing. I'll just quote briefly from the document, it says that "The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will work together generally in the area of housing but will specifically revisit the existing 2004 Nunavut ten-year Inuit Housing Action Plan and renew joint efforts to implement the action plan or a revised version of the action plan."

Mr. Chairman, this is from 2011. That's three years ago. I was just wondering if I can get an update from the Premier on where that action plan for Inuit housing is right now? Thank you.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member point out the page? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: The document doesn't have page numbers but it is the second last

page of the document will be on your way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Housing is always an issue in Nunavut. We need 3,600 more units in Nunavut. Of course, we welcome any organization that wants to help us out in dealing with the drastic shortage of housing in Nunavut. There is no real set plan at this time with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, but we dialogue on that and we do have a housing strategy that we're updating to make sure that we can present to the federal government for more investment on housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question under this branch, I would like to go back to the ATIPP function. In your priorities for 2014-15 in the very last bullet on page 4 of EIA's business plan, it has "Conduct an internal review of the ATIPP function to determine effectiveness of administrative practices." And then "...identify ways to build on our internal support and capacity."

Again, I hate using this word, "assume," but I'm going to use it again. I assume because this review made the shortlist of the department's priorities for this year. There are some areas of concern with the ATIPP process. Is there anything the Premier could update the members of this committee on that review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The internal review is for the ATIPP function. The ATIPP function is relatively new to our government and to start implementing the legislation, we've had a few years that we have been conducting ATIPP. One of the determinations is that we should look at it internally. If it's working, it will stay that way. It's one of the good efforts of reviewing ourselves in terms of how we're conducting ATIPP functions. That's the intent of this review. It's new to the departments, but not to the GN, and whether the capacity is there or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I did say I had one more question and I was mistaken.

With the capacity issue, from what I understand, every department has an ATIPP coordinator who communicates with the head of ATIPP or ATIPP manager. How often does that group meet, and are there any new practices that are shared at those meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They meet on a monthly basis and also, there's various training throughout the year, not just for the coordinators but for everybody, as you mentioned, EIA has a manager who coordinates with the ATIPP coordinators. I hope that answers the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the department for that response. I do appreciate the value of the ATIPP coordinators in the departmental roles and your manager at EIA.

Going a little step further from the City of Iqaluit's interest in participating in access to information and privacy, are there any other municipalities that have approached the department to enquire about incorporating those practices at the municipal level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, the City of Iqaluit that supported their interest in being in compliance and we are working through our office, ATIPP office to assist them in that.

There's been a couple of other communities that are interested, also and there has been some participation in the past, being Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we go to the next person, we will be taking a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:55 and resumed at 15:19*

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. We are on page B-4, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say ‘Good day’ to the people of Baker Lake and whoever is watching us on TV in Nunavut. I know that one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly have asked, but I would like to ask as my first question, in relation to the Business Plan. (interpretation ends) On page 2, Utility Rates Review Council evaluate, “The council responds to the mandate set out in the *Utility Rates Review Council Act* to evaluate the cost structures of the utility and provide advice on pricing and rate structures”.

Are communities considered as to their cost of living or rate of costs or what is it based on when the evaluations are occurring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is legislation. Under the Act it states that the Qulliq Energy Corporation must not go into deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the same time, on that

particular section again, does the Utility Rates Review Council take into consideration the correspondence that they are receiving from the municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and from other organizations, including businesses and interested public individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for that answer. After they have conducted their review, how are the communities made aware of their findings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once an application is made the Qulliq Energy Corporation, they do put a public ad out for consultations and discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If a community appeals the rate set out for that particular community, is that taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the decision is made, whether there is rate increases or a

decision made, it affects all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that note, I will move on to business plan page 3, regarding the GLOs. I know my community has no GLO at present and I know one of my colleagues had asked this and it was nice to hear that a GLO will be possibly in place for my community in Baker Lake, this summer.

My question is in reference to the government liaison officer position across the territory. What would be the difference in the current job description of a GLO as opposed to when we were with the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, I can't answer that question because I don't know what happened in the NWT with GLOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the government liaison officers are beneficiaries who is bilingual; would they be considered if they applied for this position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a requirement that the applicant be bilingual speaking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much. I thank the Premier for his answer. On the business plan, moving along, page 4, the very first sentence there, "Ensure government services are available to all Nunavummiut in a timely and effective manner through the government liaison officer program." On that particular sentence, timely and effective manner. What time frame are we looking at or does it vary by the particular subject matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand that question correctly, Mr. Chairman, we try and provide whatever services that are available as soon as possible when they become available through our government liaison officers. If the member can clarify his question on the timing of a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak. The Premier is asking for clarification.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do know if a government liaison officer has to deal with a matter in reference to assisting a community person regarding public trustee. That might take a bit longer as opposed to possibly an issue in reference to filling out a government document. That was my emphasis on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good example. Mr. Chairman, we do use our government liaison officers to the fullest extent to try and serve the public out there. When we are speaking public trustee, we encourage all members of Nunavummiut to fill out applications on wills, which cuts down the waiting period for a public trustee to go through the wills of the folks out there. Once an application is done, there are applications through the federal government website and the government liaison officers can direct and assist community members on dealing with that. That does cut down on public trustee time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his response. On that very same page, priorities 2015-16, "Ensure mandate letters reflect the *Sivumut Abluqta* action plan are in place." Does that apply to all departments of the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What if one department of the government or several departments of the government do not do what they are supposed to do. What would happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At full caucus we approved our mandate, the government's mandate *Sivumut Abluqta*, and we expect our officials in the departments to carry through what is within the mandate of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,196,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I only have one question here. In the priorities under 2014-15 in the second bullet, it has "Develop capacity to provide an oversight role for program evaluations and undertake quality assurance review of external evaluations of government programs." I notice in the department that there's only one PY added in the main estimates for this year. Is the intent of that to develop internal capacity or are they looking at adding PYs to this role? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the priorities we do have in our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate and there's an action item

within that to make sure that that takes place within our government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes (interpretation): That's it.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on page 6 of (interpretation ends) the business plan, priorities 2014-15, third bullet, "Improve labour market indicators. The Bureau will develop an occupational demand model for Nunavut to help identify current and future labour market imbalances (shortages and demands)." What are you targeting there or is there an incentive to entice labour market indicators? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeeagok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. For this particular one, it's to develop an occupational demand model for Nunavut. A lot of the data is national, so we need to figure out a way to get a lot of the data into something that's within Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a timeline to deal with this particular subject matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's 2014 and 2015, so some time in between those two dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question I would like to ask the Premier under Strategic Planning. I think this is where it would fall. When we asked the ministers questions, all the programs are going to get reviewed, being reviewed, or might get reviewed. Is it possible for him to get a list of all the programs that will be reviewed and timelines so that we, as the MLAs, will know whether the program is being reviewed or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly can provide that list in the fall and the number of programs that may be looked at, assessed, evaluated, and reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are at Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,626,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Next page. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. B-6. Questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification here under the Nunavut cabinet. "The Executive Branch of government is formed by the Premier and seven ministers." Does the Premier know something we don't? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. There are eight ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,642,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Next page, B-7. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$301,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. *Sivumuaqatigiit*. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8 of your business

plan, it indicates that as a result of the government's restructuring of departments the decentralization action plan had to be reviewed and revised to reflect necessary changes. The revisions will be completed by the end of 2014-15. Can the Premier explain what specific changes [to] the decentralization action plans are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of things that we are looking and assessing at this time within several departments. I know that there is a report that has been out there. We are using that as a base and a template to move forward on looking at decentralization issues. They are very difficult at this time to pinpoint exactly what we are going to be doing on that. The work continues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Sorry. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Premier can give us a few examples of some of the changes that may be coming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have Mr. Akeeagok respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's difficult to offer examples while we are right in the middle of revisions. Some of those examples may change. In that report there were a number of action items that we were tasked as part of the review. So each of the departments are looking into the different models and also within our own department, we are coordinating that, but it's difficult to put examples at this current time, as it continues to be revised. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does the Premier anticipate that these changes will be to the point where they can be publicly stated to us so that we can have our chance to debate the changes that are being suggested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, I'm hoping that we could come up with a plan by the next session in the fall time.

Mr. Chairman, we're dealing with positions and people out there. Our key intention is to provide better services for Nunavummiut and how we do that, at times, it's very difficult with the decentralized communities, depending on the type of services that are needed out there.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about decentralization and reorganization, we're trying to be as efficient as possible

and we're trying to maximize the services provided by the government. I'm hoping that we could start these discussions in the fall time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present, the Government of Nunavut has a total of approximately 460 decentralized positions. As of today, how many of these positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that number at our fingertips, but the 459 positions that are out of Iqaluit are integrated into the overall positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though he's not aware of how many are vacant, we're pretty sure there are a fair number of vacancies out there in the government positions. I'm wondering if the Premier can state some of the reasons why these positions are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At this time, I don't have that information with me, but the Minister of Finance may have that information in front of him. I believe the representative numbers were tabled by his department and he may have that information in front of him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I don't have that information in front of me at the moment, but I can get it if it's important. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He may not have the information I want on my next question either. I'm wondering if there are any government positions out there that are decentralized that have never been filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In communities where you're having issues or problems filling decentralized positions, is your government considering relocating any of these positions to other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Along the same lines, I would like to ask about the decentralized communities. Baker Lake is one of the decentralized communities and if our community is going to be affected by this, will the people in the community be met with or consulted?

And, the other communities that have decentralized positions in them, will they be consulted and met with, as well?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already said that the communities are represented by their MLAs and that the MLAs will be notified of any changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his response. Moving along, under that same Priorities 2014-15, third bullet under the Priorities, "Review the delivery of *Sivuliuqtiksat* Internship Program to ensure that it is effective in meeting its objectives".

My question to that firstly is; are they looking at internship programs to all government departments at the regional level, executive and senior management levels? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, that's the intention of the program, is to get *sivuliqtit* leaders and it is to develop for

managerial directorship and professional and specialized training, in whatever department that they are from.

And, yes, Mr. Chairman, the applications do come from all three regions, and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there has been four approved positions for this program in the past couple of months and all of them, I am quite happy to say that, they are all from outside of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to that *Sivuliuqtiksat* Internship Program, have they considered this internship program with decentralized positions that are not filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mentorship and training takes place with the existing supervisor in that position and in some cases, if there is no real position within the decentralized communities, that can be looked at.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, the mentorship and training the internship does take place with a senior manager, director and the aim of the program is to develop employees into becoming directors and other professionals specialized within any department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his

response. Are there any departments that currently do not have any *Sivuliuqtiksat* internships in their departments and which department would they be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of departments that do participate. It is based on proposals coming from the department, which is, in turn, coordinated through my Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. There is involvement from Economic Development and Transportation, Arctic College, Health, Community and Government Services, Nunavut Housing Corporation, EIA, and Justice are participating in the internship program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier, once again, for his response. The other departments that were not indicated, will they be taken into consideration of this *Sivuliuqtiksat* Internship Program in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we encourage, through a directive letter that goes out to each department to come with an Inuit employment plan. We encourage all departments to assist our department in getting applications for the internships. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very nice to know that the *Sivuliuqtiksat* Internship Program is a positive outlook for all Nunavutmiut. To ensure that it's properly up and running, would that be followed through right from priorities 2014 right up to priorities 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the inception of the internship in 2004-05, we've had 23 graduates. We intend to put more graduates out there through this internship program. When I said graduate I meant that the employees that graduated up to another level of directorship, managerial level, or senior position within the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very positive outlook for young individuals within the territory, or individuals that take the internship program. Would it not be more effective if all departments were obligated to utilize this worthwhile initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next person on my list. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to first touch up on, and it was mentioned before, the

bilingual bonuses. I believe it was under B-4. I am now bringing it up. First of all, are there trilingual bonuses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We have already approved that page, but I will ask of members want to go back. Do members agree to ask questions we already approved on?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my fellow colleagues. I wanted to ask on the bilingual bonus. I wanted to ask if there's a trilingual bonus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there isn't for trilingual, but there is for bilingual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was briefly touched upon on the proficiency tests. Is it like an oral or written exam or is there a specific number of questions that in order to receive a bilingual bonus, how many questions do they have to answer? Is it to that detail? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Arctic College is

involved in this and *Uqausilirijiit Taiguusirnik* is also included in it, but Mr. Chairman, if I can, I want Mr. Akeegok to respond in finer detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the members who are under the Nunavut Teachers Association, there is an assessment tool in place for their language incentive. For the individuals under the Nunavut Employees Union Collective Agreement, which applies to other government officials too, there is a bilingual bonus. The assessment tool for that particular one, as mentioned in the business plan, we're developing that and it should be completed by the end of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was outlined about how the bilingual bonus has to be dependent on the position. If it's in essence that it needs to be bilingual, then that position, I believe, they have to apply to receive this bilingual bonus. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we went through all that earlier when we were at that section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I'm repeating

some questions. However, it was also touched upon how there are two different types of bilingual bonuses, one through NEU and the other through the Nunavut Teachers Association. What are the two differences between the bonuses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you. The differences with the Nunavut Teachers [Association] collective agreement, there are three tiers where a bonus can be awarded and it depends. With the NEU collective agreement, it is one tier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could they please provide us with the amount for each tier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Akeegok respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok: With the NEU government agreement, I believe it is \$1,500 a year. I don't have the new Nunavut Teachers Association's collective agreement that was signed last month. But the one previous was; for level one it was \$1,200, level two was

\$2,400, level three was \$5,000 a year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answers. For the NTA, how do they progress to the next tier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to get that information if possible. I'll move onto something else. On another matter, according to the most recently tabled public service annual report, approximately 33 percent of Government of Nunavut positions have been designated as requiring employees to be proficient in both English and Inuktitut.

How many bilingual positions are allocated in headquarters offices in Iqaluit and how many are located in decentralized offices outside of Iqaluit? If they have that level of detail, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information in our databases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd be interested to know. It would be an interesting statistic to know and if we could find that out at some point then we would appreciate it.

Touching upon the interns that Mr. Mikkungwak was asking. I don't think he asked but are there any interns in the decentralized communities? That's my final answer... That's not my final answer, that's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment we have eight positions that are ongoing. Some internships last a year; some are two, some up to three years. We have some of the positions in mid-stream, two years out of three. Some are in Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Baker Lake and other communities throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on. We're on page B-8. Sivumuaqatigiit. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm also going to touch on the intern program, as I had made a Member's Statement earlier in this sitting and asked the Premier some questions. I received a number of answers that I was looking for there and throughout some of the questions that have been going around by my colleagues, I've got a few more answers provided to me.

Out of the eight interns right now who were hired recently in seven departments, if memory serves me correctly, when I was in the program there were 14 interns and I believe the budget at that time was for 20 interns. How many interns is the current budget capable of carrying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have positions for 16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that it's a proposal-based application that is provided to your department for departments to fill intern positions.

I believe I stressed it at the time during my oral questions or during one of my comments that I think this program, as good as it is and for some of the failings that it has had as well, I'm assuming the review, as it was reviewed in 2008 from the Office of the Auditor General as part of the HR review, identified some issues. I applaud your department for taking this review very seriously. In my opinion, I think it's overdue. I think this could be a very good flagship for creating Inuit into leadership and management positions throughout our government, throughout all of our departments.

I'm just wondering what his department is doing other than putting out a call letter to the departments for soliciting applications. Are there any more aggressive options that his department

could be pursuing to fill up these 16 positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in another witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Is the committee agreed to let a different official in?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official in.

Thank you. Premier Taptuna, would you introduce your official?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Ms. Sheila Kolola, Director of Sivumuaqatigiit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand your question correctly, what are other ways that we are encouraging departments to access the internship program, we have an active Inuit employment steering committee that meets on a regular basis. Through that is where we're promoting the internship.

Also, departments have accessed our department to look into more training opportunities for the development of their staff. We have been sitting down with various departments, but the

majority of it is through the HR coordinators, committees, DMC, and the Inuit Employment Steering Committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I realize that the department puts on a number of different learning and development opportunities and I myself have participated in a number of them during my time with the program, I think that one of the key factors is designating the mentors for these trainees and I think there is an opportunity, especially when we are dealing with the employees on a term basis where people aren't fearful of training their replacement when they are in an indeterminate role. I will leave that as a comment.

I will move on to my next topic, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind. I would like to touch on the action plan for decentralization that's been brought up a couple of times already and concerns with moving positions around.

One of the things that caught my interest from the action plan, unfortunately they are not page numbered so I can't give you the page number but in one of the key recommendations for making changes in the decentralized policy and governance, it talks about one of the key actions is the recognition of positions located outside of Iqaluit, the aim for a better fit between positions and community, including strengths, characteristics, and labour market.

The way I interpret that, Mr. Chairman, they're looking at reviewing some of the departments that are in decentralized

communities, to take a look at the workforce available in that community and potentially move departments around from community to community.

I guess, first of all, is that interpretation correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Kolola respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The action deals with revisions and review of the decentralization action plan that the Premier had said earlier, is doing all of that, reviewing the action plans that were provided to this House and seeing the feasibility, doing that with the consultations of departments. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Okay, so I'll take that as, that right now they're not looking at moving anything. They're just looking at doing a review; that satisfies my answer on that question, Mr. Chairman.

Another one, in the improving structures and supports for decentralized public service, as I am sure, all members are aware, sometimes it's a challenge when there is a workforce in a community that reports to a supervisor and headquarters in one of our regional offices, there is a disconnect sometimes between the management and the local workforce. It talks about in here as one of the key actions of "Wherever possible design

community based functions as intact work units with an onsite manager rather than isolated positions with remote management.” This is exactly what I just described.

How advanced is that review going and would the Premier be able to update us if they are looking at actually adding or taking away positions from some of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time there is no update on the specific request on the reviews and whatnot but hopefully by the fall time we should be able to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Sivumuaqatigiit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,222,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a lot of questions here but I do want to ask a little bit about the Western Premiers Conference. I know that everybody is very busy and getting ready for it. I am wondering if you can tell us how many premiers will be attending this conference. Thank you, Mr. Premier.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a teleconference at 3 o'clock that I was supposed to be at. The western premiers that are coming here are from BC to Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Premier can tell us what kind of agenda items he might have that will have a real impact on Nunavummiut that he wants to discuss with the western premiers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I made a Ministers' Statement on that. I talked about community competitiveness and our issues with remote northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the Premier about what he means about issues with northern remote communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure there are going to be a lot of discussions. The agenda is not finalized yet. As members are well aware, the high costs of servicing the smaller communities up north with lack

of infrastructure. In most communities in the north and in the northern provinces, the only connection that they have is through airlines. That is one of the issues that drive up the cost of living, both for the residents and for governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that agenda item in mind, are you looking for support from the other premiers to support the fact that we need more financial support for those communities in the High Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no doubt that there will be discussions on that. When it comes to that, we talk about public housing. As I indicated earlier, Nunavut is in desperate need of 3,600 units. Across the board through our northern jurisdictions and the western provinces, of course, that's an issue that we're hoping to carry forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you then hoping to take the support of the western premiers on this issue to the Prime Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The northern premiers, with the assistance of our western colleagues, we do prepare for these types of

collaborations to bring forth to the Council of the Federation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us what the budget is for this conference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget hasn't been finalized. Once that has been finalized, I will certainly provide that to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier just remind me once again when the conference start, and how long is it on for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The conference starts on July 9, Nunavut Day. That day was specifically chosen by my officials to showcase Nunavut, including all the activities that take place on Nunavut Day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to move on now to the

Arctic Council. Will this government be attending any of the Arctic Council meetings in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us what issues affecting Nunavut have been discussed at the Arctic Council so far? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Government's support of the chairmanship that we have within the Arctic Council and the three main themes of discussions for Nunavut is mental wellness and developing wellness strategy throughout the north throughout the arctic circle. The second item is marine pollution prevention and the third item is climate change adaptation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan it states that there was going to be a senior arctic official meeting in June 2014. Is this still on or is there a delay in this meeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can get that information to the member as soon as possible once we are made aware of what day of the month it is happening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. We look forward to that information. I would like to go on to talk a little bit about this Canada-US relations through the Beyond the Border Regulatory Corporation Council Working Group. That's a big long name. It says in the business plan that the Government of Nunavut continues to work with the federal government to advance the work of the Regulatory Corporation Council. I'm wondering what agenda items do you discuss on this working group that impact Nunavut directly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. May I ask which page you are referencing your question on? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at page 10 on the business plan that I'm working with.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 10 on the business plan, third bullet. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we get that information I'll certainly provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is with a little bit of interest that I noted in the Premier's opening comments to this committee that there was no reference to devolution. In the throne speech from Prime Minister Harper this year, he spoke to the fact that there is some interest at the federal level to initiate negotiations or at least to start working on the agreement in principle.

Within the business plan and the priorities pretty much every year it has continue efforts on devolution agreement in principle negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Now, I realize I'm not really looking for an update here. I'm sure that if there was one, the Premier would let us know. With the last government that we had, we heard devolution, it seemed like, every second word and I don't hear it quite so frequently now. Is the impending federal election stalling out efforts on this agreement-in-principle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that it was in the Throne Speech, and we applaud what the NWT has done. They have completed their AIP in that and they're moving forward with their file on devolution.

At this time, there haven't been any discussions on this yet as the federal

government does not have a mandate on this yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that response. I'm just looking back with the Devolution Branch's PYs. Starting off in 2009-2010, it started off with five and then an additional two PYs were added in 2011 and 2011-12, and that there was a request for more positions in 2012-13 that was denied. Now, in the department's PYs, they're listing nine right now. Are all those positions currently filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, all those positions are not filled. There are only four that are filled and five vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the five vacancies, are there any casual employees working in those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's nobody in the vacant positions at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So four of the nine positions are filled with indeterminate or term employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the previous question you asked, if there are casuals in the vacant positions, in the filled positions, we have one casual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I haven't been following the job listings or job postings as closely as I should have, Mr. Chairman. Out of the five remaining positions, are there current advertisements out to fill those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a new Premier on this devolution file, I intend to assess and look at the PYs for the branch, this division on devolution, and by fall time, I should be able to make a determination of how many PYs we're going to have within that division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm using the devolution as a bit of a soapbox here, but I have spoken

numerous times on my concern of using casual employment across the government as a whole. With this casual employee in the Devolution Branch, maybe specifically, are you looking at advertising or offering a term or even direct appointing the casual position in this circumstance, and has he or she been there for some time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't made that determination yet. Once Canada has determined that we can go ahead and start negotiating, things can move very quickly, but at this time, we have no further determination of what we're going to do with the casual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just finish off with a comment. I encourage the Premier to take a look at all casuals under his supervision and along with the Minister of Finance as the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Take a look especially at long-term casuals and work with them on their own career development to get more stable employment opportunities available to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Take that as a comment. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. B-9. Total Operations and

Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,322,000.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page B-3.
Department Summary. Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of
Expenditures. Total Operations and
Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,309,000.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Mr.
Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I appreciate the fact that we
have gone through this and I have to
give credit to our staff. All of the
departments that put these business plans
and main estimates together on short
notice, right after general elections. It
took a lot of work. It took a lot of
collaboration between departments. I
commend staff and officials that did all
of this work.

Mr. Speaker, the comments taken here.
We take them very seriously. We're
trying to find ways to improve our
services to the public. Mr. Chairman, the
last comment on casuals is something
that we will be looking at very seriously.
I do believe that there are people out
there that can make careers within this
government at any level. I look forward
to increasing the Inuit participation and
overall employment rate of this whole
territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Sergeant-at-Arms if you can assist the
minister and his officials.

Thank you very much. Before we begin
the next department, (interpretation
ends) we will take a five-minute break.
Thank you.

>>> *Committee recessed at 16:33 and
resumed at 16:46*

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 –
Culture and Heritage –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Order. I would like to ask
Minister Okalik if he has officials that he
would like to appear before the
committee.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to
bring in the minister's officials go to the
witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Okalik, please
introduce your officials.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right
is Deputy Minister Joe Kunuk, who is no
stranger to the House, and on my left is
Regilee Adla, our Director of Corporate
Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed
with your opening comments, Minister
Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased

to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2014-15 main estimates and the 2014-17 business plan.

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

Mr. Chairman, in line with *Sivumut Abluqta*, the department will review and evaluate our programs in order to focus our resources on enabling Nunavut's success and maximize the return on public investment. The review is a tool to revise, where necessary, our budget forecasting, grants and contributions policies and Inuit employment processes.

The department will continue to implement and support terminology workshops, Language Week, community contributions, and other language initiatives that help to ensure the prevention, promotion, and development of Inuktitut in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to announce that for the fiscal year 2014-15, so far we have awarded \$3,109,486 or 84 percent of our various community-based grants and contributions funding. Recipients awarded include not-for-profit, Inuit-based organizations, individuals, and municipal corporations who will direct their efforts to the promotion, protection, and preservation of Nunavut's official language, culture, and heritage. To this end, I look forward to the Legislative Assembly review of the *Official Language Act* and *Inuit Languages Protection Act*.

Mr. Chairman, since the creation of Nunavut we have been storing our history in other jurisdictions. The cost of the care and storage is now over \$1 million annually yet the loss to our identity cannot be quantified. Nunavut needs to take action to bring our history home.

Mr. Chairman, culture and heritage is actively canvassing storage space in Nunavut. We are looking for space in Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, and Iqaluit for heritage materials not requiring climate control. We will be working with the Nunavut Heritage Centres Society to develop a funding strategy for future heritage facility in Nunavut.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you. *Merci*.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we begin consideration of the 2014-15 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is proposing a budget of approximately \$25,600,000 for 2014-15, which is very similar to the department's restated budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The standing committee notes that the department concentrates its efforts on cultural and heritage initiatives as well as focusing on language initiatives and the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

The standing committee appreciates that the department budgets a significant amount of funding, over \$6.6 million, for grants and contributions in support of related initiatives. Members appreciated the minister's willingness to provide a breakdown, by type of activity and community, of funds distributed under grants and contributions. While members are in full support of activities, project and initiatives which promote and enhance Nunavut's rich heritage and culture, it is important to keep in mind that these are public funds and the principles of transparency and accountability still apply. Members encourage the department to provide regular and detailed updates on what has been achieved through projects and initiatives funded through the grants and contributions process.

The standing committee notes further that the department received yearly funding of approximately \$2.5 million from the federal government for the promotion of French and Inuit languages. The standing committee would appreciate further information on how these funds are spent and stands ready to support the government in its efforts to access further federal funding to ensure that the official language rights and obligations across Nunavut can be met.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that collections of Nunavut's cultural artefacts are located in other

jurisdictions across Canada and members encourage the department in its efforts to repatriate these artefacts whenever possible, including the inclusion of artefacts in local community based heritage displays.

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

Mr. Chairman, in March of this year, the minister tabled a report on the government's progress in incorporating Inuit societal values. The members look forward to further reports on this topic, including for example, evaluations of how various departments and agencies are achieving success in implementing *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within their policies and activities. It was also suggested that attention be paid to establishing practical and workable definitions for such concepts as elder and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within the context of policy and program development.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes the department's significant investment in promoting, revitalizing, and strengthening the Inuit language across Nunavut. Members encourage the minister to monitor initiatives in other jurisdictions, such as Quebec, which have strong and effective language policies. Members note that while the Inuit Language Authority, *Inuit*

Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, is at arm's length from the government, the department plays an important role in supporting its activities.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I am confident that members will have their own comments and concerns as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will now proceed to the page-by-page review. Page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to start off with the priorities for 2014-15. The very first priority listed is a thorough and evaluation of prior year estimates actual expenses conducted to improve departmental budget forecasting. Has there been a concern with the forecasting of this department? Has there been lapsed dollars? Or was there a repeated need to move funds from within department budget lines? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like our Director of Corporate Services to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Adla.

Ms. Adla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been noticed that various different branches do not spend their budgets, so the budgets are moved around within the other branches that do need it. For the exercise, the three-year forecast, starting the fiscal year 2014-15. We have made

adjustments using the last two and a half fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do these lapsed funds have an impact on any of the programming that's available through this department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Not at this time.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to touch upon *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, the Inuit Language Authority. A number of responses we had from other ministers, particularly from Education and Nunavut Arctic College, talks to one of the challenges that they have in providing education in the Inuit language, of the lack of a standardized dialect to be used, using other jurisdictions. Greenland, as an example, where years ago, decided on one dialect to provide their education system with.

Unfortunately, I don't recall seeing this anywhere in the minister's opening comments or even in our committee's comments and I think this has just been highlighted a little bit more through this procedure of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting that there is a real need to really get on this right away as it is impacting other areas of our government, not just the working language but the education of our children.

I would like to get some feedback from the minister on that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I fully agree with my colleague and the IUT, as we often refer to it, is the main body that is working on those matters at this time and I believe they'll be filing this in their annual report again, shortly.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How high of a priority is this on the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I know that they've been quite active in working with ITK, for example, so it's something that is ongoing and will take a bit of time as we are dealing with very entrenched dialects, for example and a writing system that we have been using for quite some time, so it will take a little while, I'm sure, but they are working on this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, we just struck a special committee to review the *Education Act*, just as recently as, a day

or two ago. One of the things that we will be looking at is the Inuit language education component within the Act and making sure that we are following all legislation associated with language.

When there is no real timeline, it makes it very difficult for us to review the *Education Act* with all of its components and obligations of teaching in the Inuit language.

I am wondering if the minister can maybe give me a little bit firmer timeline of when they're going to be reviewing this and when there is going to be something that we can take a look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I understand there will be a major conference on our language this fall, so there will be a good discussion, I'm sure and as I said in my opening comments, we're also reviewing the *Inuit Language Protection Act* along with the *Official Languages Act*. So, there will be opportunities there, as well, to put in timelines, if they are required.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. We are at Culture and Heritage Branch Summary. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. One of my colleagues asked this question already. I would like to expand on it. The Inuit Language Authority, he said that there was a committee that exists. How many people are in the

committee and staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. There are eight committee members right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where do these representative committee members come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. The committee consists of a chairperson, Elijah Erkloo from Pond Inlet and the vice chair, Mariam Aglukkaq from Gjoa Haven, Daisy Dialla from Pangnirtung, Mary Thompson from Arviat, and Ovide Alakannuark from Kugaaruk. That is the committee right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. We have different dialects here in the House and we represent many communities, so this is going to be very difficult to do. As my colleague stated, when we're trying to represent our communities, I would like to outline my position. As Inuit, we have to work hard to protect our language, the language that we grew up with, our dialects that we grew up with. We will always protect them. In the Inuit Language Authority Committee, right now, there are three vacant committee

member seats that you didn't mention, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, there should be eight, but right now, we have five and we're going to be looking for three more committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Being from Baker Lake, there are 12 dialects in my community and they came from different places. Baker Lake is made up of people who came from many different places and there should be a member from Baker Lake in the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We welcome anyone who is interested. We will be requesting interested committee members soon from all over the place in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. At the same time, I appreciate the minister's response and at the same time, when we look at the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliurniq*, does this committee also take into consideration the translation and fluency? At the same time, when will the nominations close and how long are they appointed for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): The term is for three years for committee members. As I stated, we will be putting out a request very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Who appoints the committee members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I will try to review them very carefully after we receive them in my office. I will look at them and follow them through policy. They have to be proficient in their knowledge of Inuktitut. Through the directorship, we will appoint them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions under Heritage. One of the first things I noticed under your priorities for 2013-14... .

Chairman: We're on Directorate, page F-4. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, you had grants and contributions over \$5 million. How do you check to see if the programs ran well or how they ran? How do you keep track of the contributions to make sure that they were spent properly in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have to produce a report as to how they spent the money and what they did. They have to report on how they spend the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If something doesn't run properly, would you stop the activity if they don't, for example, produce a report or if they didn't spend the money properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2014-15 you stated that the department would review and implement your grants and contributions policies. What kinds of changes will you be considering and what are the reasons for changing the current policies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): As we have stated in *Sivumut Abluqta* we want to review our programs to make sure they are effective and that is the whole plan of the government. We are part of it. We are going to review what we have used to see how we can improve things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your review, can regular people in Nunavut provide input if they have ideas on how we can improve how the money is used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): We run the program so we will be reviewing the program. We will look to see how we can improve it. We will just be doing that along with the rest of the government. We'll be looking at different things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to something else. In the Inuit Language Authority. I just want clarification. Language has been very important to me and in my workplaces. *Taiguusiliuqtiit* was one of the places where I worked. That group is now a real body. They work on terminology. How do you implement the terminology that they approve? How do you get them out there into the work world in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They come and report to me and then I review them. I work together with them as they implement terminology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know if this question was posed or not. If it was, I apologize. Does the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Committee, how long of a term do they sit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): They have a three-year term in accordance with the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines, I would like to request some more information from the minister. The *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, they both try to protect the Inuktitut language and make sure that it is used.

Minister, can you tell us, how do you try to make the departments use them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, the terms of reference are also set out and they are clearly identified in the policy as to how they should be proceeding under section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, according to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* I can give you the detail, if I need to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, I will change my question so it will be easier to

respond to. The *Inuit Language Protection Act*, as a minister, do you believe that it is being utilized properly in all the departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Language Authority have had their employee vacant for quite some time so they are not trying to fill the vacant position so I am sure they won't be as busy as they are now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, the Inuit Language Authority, the accounting structure, it states that there are eight PYs under the Inuit Language Authority. Are all these positions currently filled? If not, which positions remain vacant, if you have that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, there are eight PYs but we have five filled. The director has not been hired to date but we have an interim director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I can ask the question on page F-4. In your priorities on page 62 just below *Taiguusiliuqtiit*, one of the priorities for 2013-14 states, "Integrate the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit division into Policy and Planning." That

assessment has not been met and the priorities for the division has changed. What has changed in your priorities? If you can elaborate further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, to date, it has not been achieved because they are changing the division. We want to review the whole department. We're looking at two possible changes prior to making changes within the division. So we have to review two issues.

To date, the NEU would like to negotiate their new agreement prior to these negotiations happening, so we have to set this aside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,375,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going on. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions here. In the priorities under 2013-14, it mentions in one of the statuses on page 65 that the department had consulted with members

of the Francophone community to identify their needs and priority areas for the delivery of government services in French. Jumping to the priorities in 2014-15, the very last bullet talks about developing a strategy to improve the delivery of French language programs and services to the public.

I'm assuming that during the consultation with members of the francophone community there were a number of issues brought forward so that enough information has been gathered to actually work on developing a strategy. Would the minister be able to enlighten me on what some of the issues that he learned during the consultation process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, they have been very active, I must say. We appreciate their contributions to our community. They have been advising us to be more media savvy for the Francophone community. Those are some comments that we have received so far.

I appreciate their input very much, in terms of providing better services for the Francophone community, as we have used that information, as well, for Inuktitut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure there are a number of best practices that can be shared from both organizations for both languages.

What are some of the programs that are put in place for the Francophone community? I know that there are a number of cultural and artistic programs that the Francophone centre here holds fairly regularly. Is there a fair involvement from your department with a lot of those projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, we do coordinate our activities quite well. We fund through the contribution agreement we get from Canada, the daycares, the Francophone school, and the francophone centre activities. There has been some good work that has resulted, like one number to call for French services and we will be doing the same for Inuktitut. Those are some things that come to fruition with the good work of the francophone community that we are using for Inuktitut as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just reminded me of the central phone number for access to French services and future Inuktitut services. I believe that the minister had committed to me at one point to provide me with that number. I was wondering if he could do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: The French number is 975-5544 and the Inuktitut number is 1-866-684-5056. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, on page 65, at the top, it states, “Coordinate translation and editing services” in the three official languages. I would like to ask a question.

When the minister of Arctic College appeared before the committee during our review of their main estimates, we were asking questions in regard to the interpreter training program for languages. To date, there are not too many interested people for the interpreter training program. Wherever possible, as a government, we try to use all three official languages in written documents. Does the lack of interpreter/translators slow the filling of positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, it doesn't have an impact. Inuktitut interpreter/translators have stayed in their positions, so we didn't run into problems with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 66 in the fourth bullet, it states, “Collaborate with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and other organizations to strengthen the use of the standardized Inuktitut writing system in government.” Can you elaborate on what this means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our language has to catch up to the way we are operating today. We use computers. If I want to use Inuktitut on the computer, the syllabics are not readily available. If we want to use the Inuktitut writing system, we have to catch up to all the technology. We have to review it if we want to incorporate it into our daily operation. Therefore, we want to work with the Inuit Language Authority.

As I stated earlier, this coming fall, in Nunavut, we're going to be holding a symposium to talk about Inuit language and strengthening the use of the Inuit language. We will try and make ourselves available at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one I just read, although I'm supposed to know it but I didn't quite understand it in English. Maybe I do not understand the English. It seems to be saying that today there's already a standardized Inuktitut writing system at this time. We need to strengthen the already utilized writing system. That's how I understand it. Maybe that's why I'm misunderstanding. What is it saying? Is it saying that we already have a standardized Inuktitut writing system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. We have two written official languages and we are using them today. However,

we know that through some areas we should be strengthening the Inuktitut language everywhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on the list, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the aims 2014-15 on page 66. It says they will be reviewing promoting the use of Inuktitut among youth and communities so what will they be... what will they be looking to revive and promote? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every year we get requests about what kind of activities communities wish to do. We will be open again this year to providing funding in terms of what they wish. We will be approving practically all of them again this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Enook asked a related question in relation to the 'standardized Inuktitut writing system.' It is said that it will be improved and the two systems that are said to be used Roman orthography and syllabics are the two terms. Do you think that these two will always be used or will they eventually be using only one of the two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): We will try to be open to the conference that will be discussing these things. Looking at it from the outside we know that in the world they weren't having... Let's say for example the English writing system. They're able to understand each other. Within our own territory, we need to have a similar system so that everyone will be able to understand each other regardless of the differences in their languages. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all know that in Greenland, they have used the same language writing system, *Qaliujaqpait*, Roman orthography. Using Greenland as an example, that has one writing system. Should we not be looking at a system similar to that in order to be more up-to-date with our younger people today? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Any way we can we have to be open today. If I want to converse with my children in Nunavut on the computer, using *Qaliujaqpait* is the only way. That is the only way I converse with them. What we are using now are different from before like if we want to speak Inuktitut to anyone we can use *Qaluijaqpait*, even using fax machines and chat. Everyone now communicates through the Internet using *Qaliujaqpait* already regardless of whether governments tell them to do that or not. So we're already doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always try to talk to my children in Inuktitut. I mentioned the Inuit language is important to me. I will always try and use it as much as possible so that our descendents will always be able to use it. As a father, that is how I feel, but as a government, you also have to deal with this.

(interpretation ends) Roman orthography, you can read English and Inuktitut using English symbols. I think it would improve literacy, not only for Inuktitut, but for English for our literacy to be at the same level. Like I said, I just wanted to throw that out. Food for thought.

(interpretation) Let me get back to page 66 in English, and in Inuktitut page 72. The fifth bullet in the priorities for 2014-15, I guess they will be counting how many territorial services there are to communicate and provide services in all official languages. When will this be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. This will commence this fall in September. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How will this be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will try

to be finished by spring of next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will we be informed about the outcome of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Definitely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of your department priorities for 2014-15 will be to establish an annual songwriting contest to promote new music in Inuktitut. How will this music be promoted once it is written? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Oh, sorry. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was started last year. It is not new and since it was so well received we wish to try it again for the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for this very good news. How will you promote this contest in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be soliciting participants to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank him. This will definitely be of great assistance to the youth in Nunavut. I would like to go on to something else.

(interpretation ends) In previous business plans, the department's priorities was to collaborate with the Inuit Language Authority to develop Inuit language proficiency assessment tools for the GN.

Has any progress been made on the development of assessment tools to assess the language skills of GN employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, at this time, we are working with the EIA to make sure that we come up with adequate evaluation tools. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak. Oh, sorry. Next name on my list, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question. My colleague addressed this and our language is important. In relation to Roman orthography and syllabics, those do not exist in my terminology. For instance, Roman orthography I refer to as *Inuulingajut*.

Do I understand this correctly, that if Inuit wish to use Roman orthography they can or do we have to use two writing systems? What is being proposed here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this is not easy and especially the elders, they only know syllabics. I believe that we will continue to use syllabics at this time. However, in terms of the future, realistically what we use now if we need to strengthen the use of Inuktitut then perhaps we need to look seriously at whatever tool is available which is the Roman orthography or the anglicized version of Inuktitut writing using the alphabet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. Our language is important. I am a full blooded Inuk and I don't speak any English at all. They follow our language, our dialect. In our own homes if we our children and grandchildren hear English they will use it. That being the case, therefore, because of the importance of the language should we be trying to hold off any encroachment on the use of English in our homes for as long as we can? Naturally when we pass it on they will use it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want the Inuktitut language to remain alive so we will need to be having it modernized

because the younger people will be... we have to think about the future as far as the young people are concerned. There will be a major conference this year. We are interested in it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page F-5. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,905,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Heritage. Page F-6. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 67 of the business plan under archaeology program it says, "Archaeology program promotes the protection, conservation and appropriate investigations, interpretations of archaeology sites in Nunavut."

My first question is; how does your department go about identifying and documenting these sites throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There's a real good body called the Inuit Heritage Trust which has a very active role throughout the communities in Nunavut and we work with that body. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When these sites are identified, how does your department go about regulating and investigating, making sure these sites aren't disturbed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I actually have permits at my office requesting authorization to do work and I'm doing due diligence to make sure that they are fully qualified to do work on archaeological artefacts at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About four years ago, and I've tried for about three years. There are some sites near Sanikiluaq that are very close proximity to the gravel pit. I have been trying to get the department to at least go look at these sites and see if anything could be done to preserve them because of their location.

To my knowledge, nobody has ever gone in to look at these sites and there are approximately 12 to 15 sites all within a couple of hundred metres of each other and they all parallel the gravel pit. I'm just wondering if your department has any plans of going into Sanikiluaq to investigate these sites and see if there's any way of preserving them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we can do that. The main vehicle that we use is the Inuit Heritage Trust that works with the communities at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally. In looking at the business plan on page 68, I see there's a list of priorities that were for 2013-14 and almost every single was either not achieved or deferred. There was \$5.8 million set aside for that. I'm wondering: what was the money spent on if none of those were actually carried out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I'm sorry. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those different items have been done or we will begin the process of doing those. First of all, we have to do some planning that we want to be able to bring back our heritage to Nunavut and the first part was that some of the things that don't need some specialized containers, such as those items in Yellowknife that are not as delicate, will be brought back to Nunavut.

We have an MOU and according to the MOU, we have to be able to work with Nunavik with respect to doing some

heritage sites. We have to take a good look at those permits before we issue them to people who want to do a study on the sites that they find. We also get some assistance from Inuit Heritage Trust.

We have to provide some information to the hamlets and the communities to find out whether these people will give us information before they start disturbing or doing heritage sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're talking mainly about the heritage and preserving and promoting our heritage stuff or products. That really accounts for \$1.8 million. It's just kind of concerning to me. You write down all these things you're going to do and then almost none of it is done.

In terms of cruise ship, we were talking about archaeology and stuff and heritage sites and that. What kind of involvement does your department have when it comes to the issues surrounding cruise ships and people getting out of the cruise ship and maybe disturbing heritage sites or artefacts? What kind of work do you do with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We usually provide information to the tour guides that the tourists should not disturb anything while they are walking about in a community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does anybody from this government actually go and make sure that artefacts aren't being disturbed? How do you monitor that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before they go to a site there has to be an agreement in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): How do you find out that the things that have to be followed are followed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employees or the staff usually go to the sites to ensure that things are not disturbed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many people do you have that look into those heritage places to ensure that they are not disturbed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): There are three of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: The Nunavut genealogy research guide. Was there a reason behind this starting? What were the original reasons for this being one of the areas that the department is working on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question to ask. Apparently, there are younger people that wanted to take the training and there are now elders involved in giving out the genealogy program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Can you tell us what the current status is on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. In the High Arctic they will be having a meeting in the fall. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on the list is Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are talking about heritage I would like to make a comment that heritage is very important and the member for Sanikiluaq mentioned that he wanted those heritage sites protected. Near my old camp we also have near quite a few old Hudson's Bay buildings. Is there a rule or policy or law whereby those places are protected? Because the army usually travels anywhere. They usually go near our place. They have already

been to those sites and stuff like that near those old Hudson's Bay buildings. There are also ships that travel. Are you involved in protecting those sites from the people that go on cruise ships? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a research paper for permits that I have to sign before anything is done. Whoever asks for a permit, after they get the permit, we have to make sure that our workers are there to make sure that sites are not disturbed within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Those heritage sites have to be protected, if I was to hear or see anyone that disturbs artefacts who would I report it to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The phone number that I provided, 1-866-684-5056. An Inuktitut-speaking person would answer the phone and would be able to help you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page F-6. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,917,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Carrying on. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,322,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Carrying on. Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,157,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page F-3. Department Summary. Culture and Heritage. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,676,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Culture and Heritage is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues and my staff. Our department seems small but we have many responsibilities. Some of the things that we need to do takes a while to get done. Our staff keeps everything on par. Please keep encouraging us. We'll keep trying to protect our language and keep it strong. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from

the witness table. Before we go to the next department, we will take a five-minute break.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:09 and resumed at 18:19*

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Mike: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

For the record, Minister Mike, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Steve Pinksen, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, and the Director of Finance, Niki Nweze.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleagues and people who are

present in the House. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2014-15 is \$23,994,000. This is unchanged from last year. The Department of Environment works with various outside organizations and by partnering with these organizations whenever possible, we continue to be successful in maximizing the impacts of our funds.

In the 2013-14 fiscal year, we were able to leverage over \$5.2 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's 2014-15 business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta*. They also uphold the Government of Nunavut's obligations and areas of responsibility under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that relate to the management of natural resources, as well as ensuring that the department's many statutory obligations are fulfilled.

(interpretation ends) *Avatimik Kamatsiarniq*, or environmental stewardship, continues to be a key element of our departmental focus. This includes managing our wildlife carefully and effectively, and working with governments, businesses, and industry to ensure that industrial projects in Nunavut are undertaken in such a manner that negative impacts to the environment are minimized. Through

proactive pollution prevention initiatives, inspection, and enforcement measures under the *Wildlife Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*, we will continue to monitor and protect the environment for current and future generations.

(interpretation) In the coming year, the Department of the Environment will also work to expand air quality monitoring to include the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities. (interpretation ends) We will continue to provide ongoing support and training to the students of Environmental Technology Program who are the future stewards of Nunavut's environment and to Nunavut public service. This will continue to our local capacity to manage the wide range of new development project being proposed in the territory.

(interpretation) Sustainable wildlife management in Nunavut has had many successes in 2013-14. With support from the Baffin Island Caribou Workshop and the co-management steering committee, the Department of Environment undertook the first ever island-wide aerial survey of caribou on Baffin Island, including the northwestern area of the Baffin region. Working together with our co-management partners, I am confident we will rebuild the Baffin Island caribou through management plan development in the coming year. (interpretation ends) As well, new management plans for polar bear and Peary caribou are in development for 2014-15 with valuable input from communities and our co-management partners.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, wildlife harvesting plays a critical role in our

local economy, our health, food security, and our overall wellbeing as Nunavummiut. In 2014-15, the Department of Environment is committed to reviewing and realigning our hunter support and fur programs.

(interpretation ends) In the 2014-15 fiscal year, we will begin developing new management plans for Katannalik Park and Sylvia Grinnell Park and finalize land transfer for Sylvia Grinnell Park expansion. We will also work towards finalizing land tenure on Inuit owned lands at Katannalik Park and undertake a cultural landscape resource inventory for Katannalik Park.

(interpretation) the Nunavut Government research vessel, *Nuliajuk* completed another very successful research season in 2013. In 2014-15, we plan to complete the renewal of the Nunavut fishery's strategy and also draft new fish processing and handling regulations for Nunavut in collaboration with stakeholders and co-management partners and we will continue to support the development of new inshore fisheries in all regions of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2014-15 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and obviously provide real benefits to the people of Nunavut. Thank you. I will be pleased to take any questions you may have.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening to all the people of Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget of \$23,994,000 remains unchanged from the introduction of the department's 2013-14 main estimates. The number of positions in the department remains at 128.5.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The proposed 2014-15 main estimates of the Department of Environment includes approximately \$1,046,000 in harvester support programs; including core funding for hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife boards, the Fur Price Program and the Disaster Compensation Program.

The department's 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "undertake a review of the department's suite of harvester support programs, to assess effectiveness, program scope and funding levels, ensuring that the program is appropriately targeted to active harvesters and includes service standards for program delivery."

On March 13, 2006, the final report from the joint review of harvester support

programs that was undertaken by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Environment.

This comprehensive and detailed report contained a number of observations and recommendations that could serve as a foundation for the department's upcoming review of its harvester support programs. The standing committee also notes the importance of coordinating this review with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's review of its Country Food Distribution Program.

The standing committee also notes the importance of the department working with such entities as regional wildlife boards, Nunavut Arctic College and the municipal training organization to identify ways of providing training opportunities for local hunters and trappers organizations to strengthen their capacity in such areas as financial management, which can be anticipated to enhance their ability to effectively access and administer funding provided under the department's harvester support programs.

The Department of Environment's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "conduct a strategic review of the department's organizational structure in consideration of the changing pace of development and Government of Nunavut priorities."

The standing committee notes that the government's two central agencies, the Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, will be jointly managing an “external review of government programs” during the 2014-15 fiscal year. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the government’s different program review initiatives are undertaken in a coordinated manner.

The Department of Environment’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that it will undertake a significant number of wildlife management initiatives over the next three fiscal years, including the implementation of management planning initiatives for all caribou populations, the implementation of a new polar bear management plan for Nunavut, and the development of a grizzly bear management plan for Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of these initiatives.

The Department of Environment is responsible for administering the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. One of the statutory purposes of the fund is to “promote education and training respecting IQ, safe and humane harvesting methods, harvester education, and wildlife conservation.”

The 2012-13 annual report on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 6, 2014. Information provided by the department in response to questions asked in the Legislative Assembly on the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund indicate that new surcharges on licences issued under the *Wildlife Act* “will be the largest ongoing source of revenue” for the fund. The department has estimated that it will

raise approximately \$200,000 per year from such surcharges. The new surcharges are to be brought into effect in July of this year in association with new regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The standing committee looks forward to greater utilization of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund in future years.

In addition to the *Wildlife Act*, the Department of Environment is responsible for administering a number of other statutes, including the *Environmental Protection Act*. The department’s proposed 2014-15 budget for its Environmental Protection Division is \$2,649,000. The division’s responsibilities include “enforcement of the *Environmental Protection Act*,” a function which includes “environmental monitoring, inspections, investigations, spill response, and, in extreme cases, enforcement action.”

Given the importance of these functions to the health and safety of Nunavummiut, the standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly that accounts in detail for his department’s activities under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

The department’s 2009-10 business plan indicated that “a lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*.” The standing committee notes that the draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its goals for the 2014-15 fiscal year...

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Working now? Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will start from this page again.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that a lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*. The standing committee notes that the draft 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its goals for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to develop an environmental work plan for the municipal wastewater effluence strategy, as per agreement by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

The Department of Environment's proposed 2014-15 main estimates include approximately \$865,000 in funding for grants and contributions for fisheries related programs including the Fisheries Diversification Program and the Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy. The department's proposed business plan outlines a number of priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year, including the renewal of the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy, the drafting of the new fish processing and handling regulations for Nunavut, and the development of new inshore fisheries in all regions.

The standing committee notes the importance of ensuring that work in these areas is coordinated with such partners as the Nunavut Development Corporation, which owns a number of subsidiaries that process and market seafood products. The standing committee also encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the

Legislative Assembly on the activities of the government's Nuliajuk research vessel.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and the 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Comments. There are no comments. Go to page I-4. Corporate Management. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question regarding policy. As I'm sure most members are aware, there has been some coverage lately with the disagreement between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's interpretation of Article 5 on the economic benefit of, specifically in this case, it's the Southampton caribou, but I think it encompasses a Nunavut-wide issue, whereas the government's stance is such that the basic needs harvest limits should not include the commercial limit under the economic benefit part of Article 5. I'm confused as to both sides of it. I don't know enough about the file to make an opinion one way or the other. I was wondering if maybe the minister could educate me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking that question. The Department of Environment, in regard to wildlife agreements under Article 5, we have to make a decision on that, especially in

regard to the basic needs level that you just mentioned.

I can tell you that, as the Department of Environment, as a government, we are looking for the definition of that. We have been looking for the definition of that because we are not talking about the caribou population. We're concerned about subsistence harvesting because it touches the basic needs level. We are looking for the definition of that term.

We have submitted this to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for basic needs level, especially within the government Department of Environment. That's why we had submitted to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. NTI has to come up with their own definition and they have to suggest a definition to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is an entity on its own, at arms length. So that's how I can explain it, Mr. Chairman.

I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) Basic needs level. We have forwarded our interpretation of basic need level to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board that we are seeking in that term. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that there are complexities with the basic need level. I'm not a lawyer but I would interpret an economic benefit if I hunt an animal and sell it, I'm getting an economic benefit, whether if that's at the commercial or from selling fish outside of the NorthMart.

I'm still a little unclear. My apologies, Mr. Minister. I still don't understand the economic benefit side of things taken away from the total allowable harvest to the basic needs limit. I don't want to say irrelevant, because it's a factor into the consideration into the interpretation of Article 5. I think, initially, so you get a definition of the economic benefit of hunting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is a complex issue. I am very pleased that you're asking question on this issue because Nunavummiut need to hear and understand about this. As I stated earlier, that this basic needs level definition and the details, I cannot really get into the details in regard to this until we get the definition. Due to this, we need to resolve the definition. As a government, we have submitted the definition to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

I cannot tell you if the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board implemented the suggestion that we had given to them. So therefore, I'll have my interim deputy minister explain further on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister and it is a very complex issue that's got a lot of legal implications. The one thing that I would probably try and explain is that we make a distinction between harvesting by Inuit for sale, as opposed to harvesting by a commercial corporation, which is the difference in interpretation that we have with NTI. As

opposed to an Inuk harvesting and selling the product is, in our view, would be considered the basic needs level. Whereas, a corporation that is licensed to commercially harvest is a different issue.

That, in its essence, is the difference in the two positions. Again, it's the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to make that decision. The minister then responds according to the land claims process. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Between the two of you, I think I understand a little bit clearer now. My main concern there was I'm not trying to take any money out of any hunter's pocket and any opportunity for them to maintain their equipment, to purchase equipment, supplies, and materials so they can feed their family and their community.

That was just a comment, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the interpretation. I'll digest it a little bit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I kind of know the answer to this one but I would like the minister to tell the committee why it takes so long at times to fill a wildlife officer's, conservation officer's position when they leave a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinken.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of factors that play into how long it takes to staff positions. When a position becomes vacant we review the job description and submit it. It has to be evaluated and advertised and it goes through a competition process but even before that, oftentimes when there is no staff housing available, we actually would hold off on advertising, sometimes for up to a period of months, unless we feel there is somebody in the community with their own housing that would be interested. That is rarely the case. Most people expect staff housing to come with their position, so, all of those factors do play a role and of course, occasionally, there is an appeal, which adds to the staffing process, as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And on employment still but a different matter. According to the December 31, 2013, stats here, the beneficiary percent is only at 32 percent of the employees and for senior management and executives are at zero percent. Does the minister have any plans to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague from Arviat asking about the

lack of senior personnel in this department who are one of the beneficiaries, so as a minister for this department, I will continue to address this issue that it needs Inuit senior personnel of Inuit origin to be in the higher echelons of the Department of Environment.

However, the difficulties that I do know, the beneficiaries who are available, even though they have been asked, basically refuse to accept positions in this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his candid answer. Still on employment, I know and the minister knows that to be a conservation officer, you have to have training and certificates and I also know that there is a high turnover rate and then the hiring process starts all over again.

Can the minister or does the minister know why that turnover rate is fairly high? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my acting deputy minister respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do suffer a fairly high turnover rate both in conservation officer positions and in other technical positions.

Of course, the decision to leave a job is usually a personal one and people make their own decisions, but we do know that with some people, there's job satisfaction that we have learned from them on exit surveys. Occasionally, we know that for some of our non-Nunavut hires, they get experience and move on to other positions that they're advancing into.

There are various reasons. I'm afraid we can't give a clear answer as to exactly why we have such high turnover rates, but I think there are many factors that play into it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the minister's officials then: would I be close to being right if I said that we were training southern officers that weren't experienced enough to get employment down south to come up here and get training and employment, and then get employment down south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that could be the case in some cases, but just looking back at the staffing process, the staffing process is intended to be fair and giving special considerations to beneficiaries and long-term northerners. It is a fair process that also hires non-Nunavut

residents. If some of them make that choice to come here for experience, it is their choice.

I would note that in the past two to three years, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of graduates from the Nunavut Arctic College Environmental Technology Program. Just in recent, let's say, year and a half or so, we have seen quite an increase in the number of applicants from that program coming to our department. We have hired, I think, three in the last year and I know that there's active competition for couple of others, so that's very encouraging. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that there are more graduates now from the environmental program and I hear that they're highly sought after. From the last graduates that were from there, can the minister tell me how many went to go work for the Department of Environment? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those recent graduates just graduated two weeks ago and we haven't actually had any job competitions out, except there is one job competition open in Taloyoak and there are two of them applying for it. I believe that's the one.

From the last graduating class, we hired, I believe, two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along with my colleague, with the line of questioning that he was doing regarding the wildlife officers, are those posted out for advertisement publicly or what's the process there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Yes, they are open competition, publicly.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much. When an individual has completed the environmental technology course, are they directly appointed or do they have to go through the application process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would have to go through the hiring process, competition process.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there are no direct appointments to any of these wildlife officers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): While the competitions are open and there are usually wildlife officers with experience and there are students who are just completing and there are those that compete for those positions.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll rephrase my question here. An individual who hunts throughout the year. There are seasonal hunters and some of them are full-time hunters. An individual who has completed the environmental technology course through Nunavut Arctic College and has completed and successfully passed. If there will be a direct appointment, which one would receive the direct appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will answer this question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a bit of a theoretical question, I don't know if I can answer the question in that manner. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will rephrase my question. A beneficiary who hunts all year round applies for a wildlife officer position and another individual who applies for the

same position who has completed the environmental technology course.

My question here is would there be a direct appointment for that particular job offer or job description or job advertisement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If individuals are applying that means there is an open competition. If they are applying for the job there must have been a competition so there wouldn't be a direct appointment. Direct appointment is used only in vary special circumstances when a competition will be seen as unnecessary. It's very rare that that happens, especially with wildlife officer positions.

The minimum requirements for somebody to screen in for a conservation officer position is a post-secondary diploma. That is the baseline. I'm having some difficulty with the question. My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my question here is: have there been any direct appointments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will have my deputy minister answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: I believe the last direct appointment for a conservation officer position was about three years ago. So, yes, there have been in the past. The last one, I believe, was a trainee position, as opposed to a full-fledged officer. It has happened in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are any direct appointments, that obsoletes any job advertisements that are posted publicly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if there was a direct appointment, which is a process that's provided for in the GN staffing process, then there wouldn't be a need to advertise if there was a direct appointment happening. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,408,000. Mr. Mapsalak.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of us have been raising our hands and we haven't been noticed for a while. I don't have a real big question. I just have a request for clarification. My colleague from Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq was asking questions on it.

We don't have a conservation officer in Repulse Bay either. The ones that we've had worked for a while, even less than a year, then they leave. It's been like that for a number of times now.

Is there a conservation officer position in Repulse Bay open right now, or not? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the conservation officer position in Repulse Bay is just now starting the staffing process. It is going out for competition. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the officers that were previously hired don't stay very long. Maybe they don't like it there, or they find that they don't have enough to do there. We always

request for them. They have work to do there. This happened too many times.

Is the minister aware, or does he suspect any reason why these conservation officers work for a very short time in some of the communities? I'm sure this happens in more than one community. Do you have any idea why they don't spend much time up here? If you cannot answer that, I'll understand. We suspect that when they come from the south, they don't seem to want to stay in Nunavut very long. If you can find people with the right abilities in the communities, if someone who had passed their education, it would be good if someone could try and apply for that and if you get an application like that from the communities, would that person be able to get started on the job right away and be trained? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The MLAs concern, the fact that they can't seem to retain conservation officers, I can't tell you why but I can have it looked into, to see why they don't spend much time there. We have to know that. We want to know that and you want to know it too and people who take training to become conservation officers, they are always supported by the Department of Environment.

As a minister, I cannot really say, this person will be more suitable or that person will be more suitable. If someone comes from your community, if they will be more suitable, if the person comes from Nunavut, would that make him more suitable or if not from

Nunavut? That is not my job but I can say that people who are qualified, we try to hire people who are qualified, but it is unfortunate that some of them quit in a short time.

I will get this looked into to see why conservation officers don't seem to want to stay in your community. That's all I can say for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want the members to be aware that questions of staffing issues have been asked repetitively and one than one member, please ask questions that have not been asked. Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I was going to ask but according to your instruction I don't think I will be asking that anymore. What I was asking was, if there was someone who was properly educated in the community, who is qualified, I would prefer them to be picked instead, and because they are from the community, they will probably stick with the job longer. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: At the start of a branch, if members would let me know that they would like to ask questions, please let me know, put your hand up, way up. Thank you. Mr. Enook.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raise my arm really quick, hoping he will let me talk. I wanted to ask another question about staffing, though, if you can allow me to

do that? It is on this page, human resources and training. If you can allow me, I would like to ask the question, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me the chance. The question I would like to ask is, it includes training and staff needs to be trained and updated.

Let me ask first, when a conservation officer needs to go on training somewhere else, everything in their job stops in the community and it causes a lot of inconvenience to the larger communities, like Pond Inlet. Have you looked into this at all? It is very inconvenient when you direct your conservation officer to go for a training course or a meeting or to update their skills. Everything in their job stops in the communities. Have you thought about doing something about this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We understand that when any staff is out of their position for training or for holidays or for whatever reason, their job function is certainly affected. We manage it on a case-by-case basis in various ways. In some cases, for permitting and things like that, we have another agency take it over.

With the purchasing of furs and sealskin, which is a really important role, we usually have other staff brought into the community on a regular basis to provide that service or other similar arrangements, including having local hunters and trappers organizations provide some assistance.

Overall, in each region, the regional manager is responsible for providing services to all communities. If there is a vacancy, it's the manager's responsibility to ensure that the department's services are provided during that time. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, I can probably tell you that that does not happen. I'm speaking to you from the community's perspective. You stated that the job can be taken over by somebody else and that must be the case where non-trained people take over once in a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your concern is about when all of the conservation officers come to a course at the same time. I know that at those times, we don't have any replacements. However, we were referring to when the conservation is out on holidays or taking a short taking program. We send people there to go help the office for a while.

We know that all conservation officers go for a training program at the same time. They just completed one in Iqaluit and they spent quite a bit of time here.

That is to help them do their jobs better, to advance in their careers, for government employees like conservation officers. That's why they come here. They're trying to improve their situation and their jobs.

In regard to your concern, I can't think of any solutions right now for when all of the conservation officers in the regions come to Iqaluit at the same time. We will have to put some more thought into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the hon. minister stated that, I believe he included the HTO. HTOs sometimes take over the conservation officer's roles and responsibilities. That's why I had asked this question. Do you train HTOs to carry out the roles and responsibilities of environmental technology? Is that why they replace or do the work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I intended to describe previously was that it's not that we give the responsibilities to the HTO. It's managed in each community on a case-by-case basis by the regional manager whose responsibility it is to ensure service delivery. In some cases, certain responsibilities have been temporarily

handed over to HTOs, occasionally to the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police for issuing permits. To other staff or to whatever arrangements the manager can make to best provide the services when there is somebody absent from the community. It's not that we give it to the HTOs, but the manager is responsible for service delivery and makes whatever arrangements they think works best under the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister stated that the HTO sometimes take over if the conservation officer leaves so that's why I'm asking this question, because it was mentioned. I do believe that the HTO doesn't need to do the work of the conservation officer. Do I understand correctly, if a conservation officer needs to leave for illness, for training, or for meetings or workshops, their work is continues even though they're absent from the community at the local level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure we took part in HTO meetings. Having to support each other when the conservation officer has to leave because the HTO has their managers. I, too, know that when I was a member of the HTO sometimes HTO members if the conservation officer is away they do the work. I just wanted to elaborate a bit on that. In regards to the member's question, my deputy will elaborate

further on the response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a staff person is absent from their position for whatever the reason, work does not continue as usual because the person is not there. We take whatever measures are available at the time to ensure minimal interruption in service delivery. The responsibility falls back to the regional managers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to staffing, who decides that this community requires additional conservation officers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whether it is wildlife issues or terrestrial wildlife issues, the community knows exactly what to do within Nunavut. The busiest conservation officers in the communities. I know that if we continue to develop according to our knowledge we try to do that as they become busier.

According to my knowledge as the minister, not one of them came to my office. We consult with them on how they are operating according to the community how the community is busy the conservation officers who work for the government. According to how busy they are, that's how we know if they need additional conservation officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand then that the community does not take part when they want to request for an additional conservation officer because the environment officials are the ones that make the decision on whether they require an additional conservation officer. Does the community have a say whether they need to get an additional conservation officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The HTOs know, too, about these issues, especially with those entities because they keep working with our department. We can initiate, but just Department of Environment officials, because we're not the only ones that review whether they need additional staff. We also involve the HTO when we have to make a decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly if the HTO thinks that they an additional conservation officer, then if they make a recommendation then the Department of Environment will work with them? Do I understand it that way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the HTO will take part in the review. By

working together, that's how we deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that if the HTO feels that they require an additional conservation officer that they can request for one through your department? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They can also utilize their MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking about the HTOs in the communities. If he can respond to that, I would be very pleased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, that the HTOs are always involved when they're looking at how busy they are and how the wildlife issues can be dealt with. I've already mentioned it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that the HTO is also involved. The question that I have is that if they believe that they require an additional conservation officer, can they request for one through

your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only say that the HTO is always involved in the communities of Nunavut. In wildlife issues, the HTOs and communities know how busy they are. I know that the HTOs, and I have seen this personally because I was a previous member of the HTO and other board and agencies, I know that they can work closely together and know about each other. That's how I responded.

The HTOs are the ones that know about the wildlife issues at the local level. So therefore, they can work with our department, if we need to review the fact that they need an additional conservation officer in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I'm getting a response, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, under page I6 if that's ok with you, Mr. Chairman? Or should I wait until we go to I-5? I'm not sure where and when I should be asking my question. If you can educate me. I want to talk about the top grants under I-6.

Chairman: Thank you. As long as your question is under the \$25,000 item.

Mr. Enook: No. That's okay.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I'd like to ask if the department has considered hiring harvesters with a salary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could do that, we wouldn't be here, and Joe as well.

>> *Laughter*

This issue, as a minister for this department, I have not seen anything like that. I'm sure if it was the case many of us wouldn't be here. I'm sure Steve Mapsalak wouldn't be here either. Therefore I'll have my deputy elaborate on that further, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand the question, it's have we considered paying harvesters to harvest. With the exception of the Harvester Support Program that we have under the grants and contributions, the answer to the question is no.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. A lot of us wouldn't be here because if they just wanted to hunt. The reason why I'm asking this question is because many people in the community are just hunters and harvesters. I was wondering if you can consider this aspect in view of the fact that we have community freezers

and Inuit crave country food. I was wondering why you have not considered harvesters or hunters? That's why I alluded to it. If you could make a comment in regards to my comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not looked at that in the past as the Department of Environment. Our mandate is for wildlife management, environmental protection, creating parks and more recently, fisheries development. That's where our mandate lies. To expand the government's role into paying people to harvest would be a huge policy shift with immense financial implications for the government and we are not looking at it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank them for the answer. It is just something to think about. On another angle, I don't know if this is related to this. We heard recently that the government had a contest in terms of naming the Sylvia Grinnell River. When the people would think the ice would go away, was this project initiated by your department or is this done by some other organization? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a public outreach initiative that was sponsored by our Parks division. We have a position that does heritage appreciation and community outreach and it was a little fun initiative to encourage interest in the parks program. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this was initiated it appeared to be geared for Iqaluit residents only. That is why I am asking about it. I don't think too many Nunavut residents are aware of where this river is or how far it is from Iqaluit. It appears to be geared for Iqaluit residents and that was my concern. I would like to see the other communities included if the government is to have contests. If these could be open to Nunavut residents, it would be better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recognize the concern but we actually do have various public outreach initiatives that happen all over Nunavut. We have parks support staff in each region and they each run little

initiatives like this on a community and a regional basis. It's not as much a Nunavut-wide program as it is a...people customize their program delivery according to regional needs. They don't necessarily happen everywhere and we don't have territorial parks everywhere but we do try to make sure that our initiatives are spread around the territory. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page I-4. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. To be voted. \$4,408,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page. I-5. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion to report progress.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion.

>> *Laughter*

All those opposed. Defeated. We're on page I-5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, it got defeated so take that.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. On a serious note here, the Department of Environment. I'd like to make a serious correction on page 141. Utilizing Inuit knowledge and seeing that my community is also listed. On the fourth bullet, under priorities 2013-14. Page 141. Okay. With the support of residents from Gjoa Haven and Baker Lake, develop formal nomination documents for *Uqqusiksalik* Back River. That is a serious mistake. Whether it be a typo or not, having been on search and rescue and maintaining Inuit knowledge, our place names in our hunting grounds. If an individual or an employee from the Department of Environment gets hurt in that area you will mislead an individual to that particular land area to try and save a person's life, if the case may be.

I would like to make a correction. *Uqqusiksalik* is Wager Bay. I presume that the majority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly will agree with me. I want to make a correction here. Back River in Baker Lake is *Hannigajuk*. I do hope that will be corrected in all of the documents by the Department of Environment. That will be my first comment. If the minister wants to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for this. I believe him. The correction will be made.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If those proper corrections are going to be made, I'd

really appreciate that because that is a vast landmass when you are traveling on the land between *Hannigajuk* and *Uqqusiksalik*, between Wager Bay and Back River. That is quite a landmass when you are traveling on the land. Thank you.

Moving on, I'll be very direct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions concern the issue of heritage rivers. Page 141, again, of the department's business plan indicates that one of the department's ongoing priorities has been to complete negotiations for an umbrella Inuit impact and benefits agreement for Canadian Heritage Rivers and Nunavut. However, the Business Plan also indicates that negotiations have stalled due to disagreements between Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the regional Inuit associations over implementation funding.

Yesterday, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that it will exercise its ability, under the Nunavut Land Claim's Agreement to have a conciliator appointed to resolve this matter. This issue is of great importance to my constituents in Baker Lake. For the benefit of public record, could the minister or his officials clearly explain what the Government of Nunavut's position is on the development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most definitely in this Assembly when the same MLA had asked this question in relation to the benefits that would have accrued to the Inuit. It needs to be put forward first. Looking at the benefits, if

there were to be an agreement, and that the creation of the agreement should be the first priority instead of just... . The issue can be clarified more if the finances were talked about. I would like my acting deputy minister to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the members are aware, the department has been pursuing the Heritage Rivers program for some time and we're pleased to see at least some progress by NTI's insistence on a conciliator. Negotiations have been stalled for too long and if the conciliator can assist in moving things forward, it's a very positive development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a few questions under the environmental protection section. I'm sure minister will know where I'm going with this. In the past week and a half, I've asked him a number of questions regarding this topic, but I want to generalize it a little bit more than just the Iqaluit landfill fire here.

In the enforcement, compliance, and pollution prevention category, it talks about the environmental monitoring, inspection, investigations, potential enforcement action, and promoting pollution prevention activities. As well as know, as I know the minister knows, a lot of communities have controlled burns at their landfill sites.

We all realize that the Minister of Community and Government Services has a tough role to hold as well, getting proper infrastructure in place across the territory with regard to landfills and solid waste management.

What type of activities in pollution prevention regarding landfills is your department doing? Would there be a possibility of banning burning altogether at landfill sites? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the latter part of the question, in theory, it would be possible to ban controlled landfill burns, but for many Nunavut communities, it seems to be a choice that they're stuck with having to make that choice to burn to reduce volume. It doesn't seem to be a feasible solution across the board at this time. I would fear, actually, if they did stop burning, then they would end up with a huge scale like has been referred to in Iqaluit.

We have taken some steps to assist communities in managing waste, but we have actually focused more on hazardous waste. We supported the development of a hazardous waste training program for landfill operators and similar initiatives to that more focused on hazardous waste as opposed to household waste. That has been our

focus. CGS works with communities on solid waste in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be honest, I anticipated that response. What I was going to lead to with the response they provided is: is there an opportunity to work with the municipalities on separation into “burnables”? Like you said, there is hazardous, but there is also a lot of chemical reaction to fire in a lot of the waste that we have, diapers, plastics, electronics, you name it. Those might not be termed hazardous until it is burning and it’s not healthy for our populous, it’s not healthy for our children, it’s not healthy for us.

I’m just wondering: what type of initiatives are possible from your department to work with the Community and Government Services on having separation plans or strategies at our landfills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have focused primarily on hazardous material management recognizing that communities do their own solid waste management with the support from CGS. We do continue to work closely with our colleagues at CGS and municipalities on solid waste

management but we don’t have any other initiatives on solid waste management at this time.

I am aware that there is training provided to municipal landfill operators for proper landfill management, including separation but we don’t play a direct role in that training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 133 of the business plan under the category of environmental protection, it takes about some of the key functions of the Environmental Protection Division, including the following and if you look at the fourth bullet there, “Undertake preventative programs directed towards protecting the environment and mitigating any negative impacts resulting from human activity, industrial, or domestic.” Would not landfill fires fit that category? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. Environmental stewardship or protection and because Nunavut’s landmass is extremely large and mining companies and other resource companies are becoming more active in Nunavut all the time and looking at our future Nunavut is being looked at by a lot of people that want to make money out of it and what was just read, that’s part of it.

And, I know that, in the communities the garbage is becoming larger and larger and because of that situation, we have to

try to take care of our environment and it is getting harder and harder.

We, at the Department of Environment are aware that we cannot do this on our own. For example, there was an online petition. It has been another indicator to the department that the people in the communities are expressing their concerns about pollution and dumps. It's great that they are becoming active in trying to do something this and trying to preserve the environment, and the fact that we have to be stewards of the environment. I see it and read about environmental protection. I would like my acting deputy minister to expand on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The dump fire in Iqaluit is an example of what can happen, it really is a catastrophic event. It's not an everyday event. Most of our programs were designed around ongoing management non-environmental issues. As opposed to responding to what can be referred to as a catastrophic event, it was unplanned.

You could say that you could capture a burning dump as a pollution source, but responding to it as an enforcement-type matter doesn't really match the circumstances for the city. I hope that helps. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there might be some misunderstanding here. While I do appreciate the concern with the Iqaluit dump fire, I'm talking about a more territorial-wide basis. You both of you

have stated, there are a number of communities that have controlled burns. Basically, they're in a situation where they're forced to do so, as you have stated. My concern is the type of materials that are burning in those dumps.

As the minister is more than aware, when the wind shifts in Pangnirtung, when their dump is burning, that smoke goes right back into town. What I'm suggesting under your key functions is undertaking a preventative program toward protecting the environment and mitigating any negative impacts by working with the municipalities and communities on separating the garbage into "burnables" and "non-burnables." It may fill the landfill, but it will do it at a slower pace; where cardboard, woods, and combustible materials that aren't toxic can be, more or less, safely burned; protecting us and our environment.

That's where I was going with that question. Maybe if you guys want to reconsider your answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Environmental protection and making sure that people don't go into hazardous areas has to be dealt with through partnerships. The Department of Environment is trying to do what it can by working with the municipal governments and the Department of Health.

I can use an example of the DEW line sites. When the former DEW sites were starting to be cleaned up, we heard that they had PCBs in them. There were old

DEW line sites in the High Arctic that were totally contaminated. There was some initial planning done in Iqaluit to try and burn all the PCBs. It is one of the hardest things to incinerate. You need really high temperatures to do that. They tried to plan a disposal facility for PCBs for Iqaluit, but they looked at the costs and it didn't happen. I'm just using those PCB-contaminated sites as an example.

We started talking about PCB at that time and it was considered very hazardous to our bodies. At that time, there was no problem in shipping out those PCBs to incinerating facilities in the south because they exist down there. We're starting to think along those lines for the town dumps. We can try to work with the communities especially outside of Iqaluit.

Pangnirtung was used as an example. We live in the plateau. The Iqaluit dump smoke came up to the plateau and it was like being back at home in Pangnirtung. I'm not saying it's good; it just reminded me of being back home in Pangnirtung.

People should not have to live in conditions like that. In the Department of Environment, we're doing our part and doing what we can within the policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 137 of your business plan under the Fur Pricing Program, there's a budget of \$645,000 and it was the same in 2013-14. Was that budget used up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget is for the Fur Pricing Program. We pay subsidies that go to the auction house down south. We also use this budget to pay for the fisheries organizations that provide the equipment and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead, Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you. As mentioned in the budget, we felt we found a lot of good things.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was if that budget of \$645,000 was used up in the 2013-14 year. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The finance person will respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Yes, we spent the whole budget in 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if you have that level of detail, but how much of that was used for shipping fur out to the auction

house? If you don't have it here, I'll understand it, but do you have it? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. The finance person will respond.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the information, but if you need it, we could provide it to the House. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm going towards is on [page] 136 of your business plan, the Fishing and Sealing Strategy, it states here that "The Fisheries and Sealing division focuses on developing viable and sustainable fisheries, sealing and fur industries that maximize the revenues and opportunities derived from the sustainable harvest of Nunavut's renewable resources for the benefit Nunavummiut."

I asked the minister in the House once if he would pay for the shipping of fur to other places other than the only fur auction house that they pay the shipping of fur to, so I'll ask again. Will the minister pay for the shipping of fur to other places other than the one auction house? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue, those who use the fur and seals or the

auction house to purchase through there, at this time, it remains the status quo that the funding... I have not seen or heard of any changes to this program but we are now reviewing this program.

The Harvester Support Program is still being reviewed at this time. I have already stated that maybe in October this coming fall during the fall session, I will be able to table information on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask the minister, do I understand correctly that this coming fall, that they will be able to pay for the freight to send the fur and seals to another auction house?

In Arviat and Kivalliq, they only send them to one auction house. If I understood the minister correctly, that this coming fall, that the minister is going to come up with a program to send fur and seal other than this one auction house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we are reviewing the Harvester Support Program for the fall session. We are reviewing right now and once the review is completed, then at the time, I will be able to announce the results of the review. If that is clear and understandable, I don't think how it will explain how we will be doing it but we will see the results after the review. At the fall session, I will be able to provide the results at that time. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Let me ask the minister. I am talking about asking questions in regards to program management. If you are going to review all the programs, will the minister not be able to respond to my question as long as the program is being reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for asking that question. The main estimates that we are reviewing now. Main estimates for the Department of Environment and the business plan. It states in there it does not change if there is going to be any changes for the Fur and Sealing Program but I can only tell you at this time that we are reviewing this program for harvesters support, but we will go ahead according to the plan that is in front of you. It's not the plans. Some will be utilized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate to us now which programs are being reviewed so that we will know that we won't get an answer on those programs? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs that we are conducting a review on other than the current year are the harvester support programs, which includes disaster compensation, the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, the Community Hunt Program, the Fur Pricing Program, and the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program. That's the block of them. Also included are the two polar bear programs, the Polar Bear Damage Prevention Program and the Polar Bear Damage Compensation Program. So it's all of the programs that come under the umbrella of harvester support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Pinksen for the candid response and I have no more questions because all the programs I want to question are under review. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on page 137. When the shipping vessel, Nuliajuk, was doing research over here, how much did it cost per day? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail with me for the minister, but we do have it in our office and we would be pleased to provide it to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. I would also like to ask in regard to the vessel. In the wintertime, does the vessel stay somewhere idle? Where does it stay during the winter? If it stays idle in the wintertime, I'm sure it costs money. How much money would it cost per day for it to sit idling? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The vessel does sit idle in the winter. It's stored at a shipyard in Newfoundland. There is a cost associated with the winter storage, but I don't have that level of detail with me at this time and I'll be happy to provide it to the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be expecting that information. I would also like to ask a question under page I-6 and I believe it is included in I-5 in regard to disaster compensation.

I do believe that I'll be receiving the same response as Mr. Savikataaq, but let me ask a question. This line item used to be \$70,000, but it was reduced down to \$40,000 for disaster compensation. Did you consult with the harvesters who experienced disasters? It was reduced from \$70,000 to \$40,000 because it was not utilized enough. Did you consult fully on why it was not utilized, or how it could have been used more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. We made the change to this line item because it was not completely utilized. That is why we make changes so that it can be more accurate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who requested to make it more accurate? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those individuals who are impacted... Pangnirtung was affected also by this. I believe that they didn't know where to go. I can't tell you whether Pangnirtung was the reason why it was changed. There are other issues why it was changed. With good reason, I'm sure they made those changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's a bit too

much if you based your decision on one community. It's a very important program. There are 25 communities in Nunavut. It seems like they were not considered.

This is an issue that has been raised and the one thing that I cannot understand is in Pond Inlet there have been quite a few disasters and also in other communities. I have also heard of incidents in Arctic Bay in the summertime.

Many hunters have told us that when they're trying to get compensation and beforehand, if they get confused with all the questions they just give up. I have been told this many times. They also say that there is no one to turn to. Which is truer? They just give up because of the hassle. You have to fill out a questionnaire, write a letter, and notarized. There are many obstacles. That is what I don't understand.

I am happy that the Hon. Minister stated that these are being reviewed. I also understand that you will take into consider all communities and not just one community. I anticipate that the funding for this program is going to be increased. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Next name on my list. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a little about environmental protection, you monitor and investigate spills. How do you go about monitoring spills in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my acting deputy minister respond. Thank you

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two very different ways that we track what's happening in the communities. One, of course, is our staff who are trained and tasked with paying attention to what's going around. They provide any information about spill incidents in the communities.

In each region we have an environmental protection officer that there to support the community based staff and that's a technical expert to provide them with advice.

More recently, we started about two years ago and it's been rolled out across Nunavut now is what we call a Complimentary Heating Oil Tank Inspection Program where our staff are going around at no cost to anybody and conducting inspections of fuel storage areas and providing a report to the building owner or resident on if there are any deficiencies in their fuel storage system. That's how we monitor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I would like to say that I think you guys are doing a great job with that. You actually notified us of a drip in our oil tank before it got too bad. That's really good to hear that is continuing.

Last week I tabled a letter in the House from a Mr. Adam Malcolm, he's from Gjoa Haven. He was the principal there. He talked about a recycling program.

As you know, I've raised this in the House a few times now. I believe that we all have our part to play when it comes to recycling. I think I've spoken with the minister about this before.

I would like to know what is your department doing about recycling? Do you have a plan in place? And if so, if you're starting to think about implanting a plan, who have you been working with to implement the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, those groups we work mainly with are in the communities. The Arctic Cooperatives Limited who collect pop cans that are recyclable. We work with them in pretty much every community wherever there is a co-op we have a program with them. Pop cans are always great in number, so we have Arctic Cooperatives Limited that we work with. We had a two-year pilot project. We have extended the project to five years, for a further three years. We will be recycling pop cans. This is one of the programs that we work with.

ACL also has an Inuktitut name, *Ilagiisat*, that's what they're called in Inuktitut and that's the group we work with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, what about the plastics and other hazardous waste that we have. Just go boating out on the water and you see lots of plastic bags floating around. What are you going to do about that? I mean, if it's bad now and we are not addressing that problem, as an example, and then how is it going to be ten years from now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My acting deputy minister can answer this.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly recognize that solid waste management is a challenge for every single community in Nunavut. We are working within the Government of Nunavut and with municipalities to look for long-term solutions. The Department of Community and Government Services, I'll refer to it now, they are playing a lead role in developing a long term plan for solid waste management. We do recognize that it's of substantial concern to communities about the amount of waste and litter that is entering the ecosystem and ending up in the water and stuff. It is a concern and long-term solutions are needed. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if you could elaborate on exactly the role that the Department of Environment has and what the role is of Community and

Government Services versus the role of Environment when it comes to recycling? Is this something that you are jointly working on together and coming up with a plan? I just want to get clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My acting deputy can answer this.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Environment is taking a new look at recycling. In 2009-11 we ran a pilot project that operated in three communities to see what it would cost to run a program. It cost us a little over a million dollars to run that pilot project and we projected it out across Nunavut. It came in at many millions more. That is what we did at that time. This current year the minister has made a commitment to taking a new look at recycling and whether or not there may be a more economical model that we can follow.

Lastly, the minister did mention it, we've already partnered with Community and Government Services to make a financial contribution towards the program that the Arctic Cooperatives is running. They are putting in a lot of their own resources and we gave them a small financial contribution to help them keep it going for a few more years. That is our current involvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. It's encouraging to hear but I think there is a long way to go yet. I think it's great to start to start with all of the pop cans and that. I'm not sure if Mr. Pinksen has read the letter from Adam Malcolm who explains what they did in Gjoa Haven and that it cost \$5,000.00 to do what they have done. Just as a start. I feel that if this government doesn't do something about the toxic waste products that we have in our communities, it's going to cost a lot more than a few millions in terms of health care and other kinds of negative implications that that will have. I look forward to hearing more from the department about their work in the area of recycling and of course I shall be asking the Minister of Community and Government Services over the next few years of our mandate with their involvement as well.

Just to go on a little bit now, when you talk about enforcement, compliance and pollution prevention has the department used enforcement action in the past and, if so, in what areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my acting deputy minister to answer this subject. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Enforcement measures in the past have included spill clean up orders. If a party has an oil spill and they don't deal with it or any kind of hazardous spill and don't deal with it they can be

issued a legal order requiring them to do so. That has been the most common tool in terms of enforcement measures.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. What happens when you issue them legal requirement to clean up and then they still don't comply? What kind of rights does your department have in a circumstance like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my acting deputy minister answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a party is issued a cleanup order and does not comply, they can be charged with failure to cleanup a spill. That's one thing that can happen. The government also has the authority, under the legislation, to conduct the clean-up and bill the individual for the cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you for that answer. Recognizing that everyone is tired, it has been a long day. My last question has to deal with the Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan, it's a very long title. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs also told us that they were also involved with climate

change adaptation. Is this a file that you work on together with? What does the plan entail? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will have my acting deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan involves quite a number of GN departments. There is actually an interdepartmental committee that's developing it together. It has implications for various departments. Some of it is education based, the actual actions. Much of it goes towards planning for infrastructure impacts from changing climate. A number of ranges in between. So it's quite a comprehensive document that's been drafted. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page I-5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$19,586,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to I-3. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23,994,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for the opportunity to answer your excellent questions. We will provide answers to the questions that we couldn't answer to the members at a later date. I would also like to thank the local HTOs. Without them some of them operations would be weaker. I also thank the conservation officers in the communities. I also thank the staff for the Department of Environment in Iqaluit and also in other communities. I also thank the members for your questions. I can go on, but you guys seem to want to go. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please the minister and his officials from the witness table. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to report progress.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Any abstentions? The motion is carried 9 to 8. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for June 12:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:40*

