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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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B.

Bills

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Economic Development
and Transportation – Consideration in Committee 3973

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Nunavut Arctic College –
Consideration in Committee 3992

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Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Third Reading 4072

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Saturday, March 11, 2017

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and visitors, welcome to the House. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Are there any nays? There are none. We will proceed to Item 19.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 19, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 41, 42, and 43 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

I ask that all members remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed 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. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: 19, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, and 43. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 34 and continue with the review of the main estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by Nunavut Arctic College, and then the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Environment, Culture and Heritage, and ending with the Legislation Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would now like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister, Sherri Rowe, and to my right is my Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation, John Hawkins. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We will now proceed with the review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Page K-6. Following my list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Hawkins, and Ms. Rowe.

I want to get back to the question that I was trying to ask on page 200. One of the priorities for 2016-17 the third bullet from the top is to "Conduct studies which will determine the improvements required in order to initiate the re-design of instrument approach procedures at several Nunavut airports. In May 2016, NAV Canada indicated that it will assume responsibility for the approach designs..." I was trying to ask that question, but I was asked to wait, so I'm asking about the status of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time they have done a feasibility study on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to get clarification on what that means. NAV CANADA indicated that it will assume responsibility. Does that mean that the Nunavut Airports Division is no longer responsible for the airports in Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Qikiqtarjuaq? Are they doing that for the approach designs by NAV CANADA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NAV CANADA assumes the responsibilities for the publications and their date has been on June 22, 2017. We don't have control over that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different topic in regard to the driver's licence, as we are aware, it takes a very long time to obtain or renew a driver's licence.

I have been asking whether you have considered the temporary driver's licence. They also have expiry dates. They could be used for three months and then you're no longer able to use the temporary driver's licence when it expires. They have to reapply for a temporary driver's licence after it expires. They have to wait a long time again to get the temporary driver's licence.

Nunavummiut will have to keep going back and forth. While they're waiting for their driver's licence, perhaps leave the temporary driver's licence open without an expiry date. I would like to ask the minister if they can do that while we're waiting for the new driver's licence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wouldn't be able to do that. We have signed agreements with the provinces and also, we're expecting that we would be able to do the

turnaround for the three months when we get the new Motor Vehicle Information System in place next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Nunavummiut will now expect that.

This will most likely be my last question. On page 215 of the business plan, specific to the Iqaluit International Airport, it lists the P3 contract requirements. There are also specific requirements for Inuit employment and training initiatives, including contract figures.

I seem to recall the minister stating that reports would be available and I wonder what the status is, as we have yet to see a report. I wonder if the minister can speak to some of the details related to this, as last year, I asked the minister about the reports, but no reports have been tabled in the House to date, although they seemed to commit to be providing reports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report is ready, but we have to do internal processes before we're able to table it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): When will you be able to table the report in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not sure at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like the airport is on schedule for the opening this coming summer. Is the construction of the international airport in Iqaluit on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. August 9, 2017. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to urge the minister to table the Inuit employment and training contracting report as soon as possible. That's just a comment and I'm done for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a general comment. Following my list of names, we are on page K-6, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may have just glossed over it or perhaps I didn't see it. Actually I have asked about this matter in the House to the department dealing with transportation.

Today the old HF radios are no longer in much use as people have started to use other forms of radio communication devices, such as VHF and CB radios. In our community most Inuit have just started using these radios recently. I believe practically every boat has CB radios in the summer. The usage of CBs is more prevalent in the summer.

However, we run into limited range issues with these radios as the radio waves can be blocked by mountainous terrain. The eastern coast of Baffin Island has high mountains and the radio range isn't sufficient for hunters who go far field. When the hunters are off at the far reaches of our hunting ranges, they can no longer communicate with the community or when mountainous terrain blocks the radio signals.

In our community we only have one radio repeater antenna in our community for radios that is used by boats. It's very useful in our community and the two communities I represent have concerns about that. They have been asking if more VHF repeaters can be installed. Has this been considered to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. We're not responsible for that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a necessity for communication purposes and the communities have been really concerned

about that. Who can be approached for assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will discuss the member's question. I'll talk to Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. K-6. Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister. Good afternoon, fellow Nunavummiut who are watching and listening to the proceedings.

The minister was asked questions before by Mr. Joanasie about NAV CANADA and I would like clarification if I can go back to that. I think NAV CANADA is responsible for transportation in Canada. There seem to be reports that they will be in control or have new responsibilities. Is there a new entity or a new operation that's coming up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that it will be clear, I will ask my Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Hawkins, to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NAV CANADA is responsible for all air navigational aids, all public air navigational aids. They are responsible for the approaches. They are responsible for the waypoints in between communities. They are responsible for the radar and basically the entire navigational system in Canada. They have been for 25 or so years.

What we have been trying to do with our program is to incense them to come forward and design approaches into our communities and get them sort of moved up in their list of priorities. It has had limited success. We have advanced a couple. Basically, though, they do set the priorities on it and their main clients are the air carriers. NAV CANADA is a private company. They set their priorities a little bit differently than governments do. We do try to incense them with the approaches we design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, while on the subject of Nunavut Airports, your department used to have several employees in Pond Inlet, but I can't recall the exact number, perhaps three positions. Where did these positions go? Did you close down that office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is presently being worked on. One of the positions will not be advertised. What was it called? It had to do with CARS. We're not responsible for that anymore. One of them passed away suddenly, unfortunately. We know we will need to advertise for one more position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear that one position will not be advertised. What will you replace it with? The Nunavut government has stated that if any position is transferred or taken out from our decentralized communities, it would be replaced with a different position. What kind of position will replace the one being closed?

Additionally, with respect to the position where the employee suddenly passed away, (interpretation ends) that was two years ago. (interpretation) When will this position be dealt with? It has been vacant for two years. Will this ever come about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a complicated matter. I'll refer this to my deputy minister for a clearer answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information with us. We will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, can someone tell me why this position has disappeared? Ever since this position became vacant, I have asked the minister about it. Is it no longer within your organizational chart? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information with us. I'll go through you and I'll inform the members once I have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked two questions at the same time and you said you can give us the information on my two questions. When can we get the information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can give you the information on Monday. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look forward to receiving it.

Also related to a question raised earlier and one I have asked you, madam minister, just recently are related to driver's licences. Sometimes we have to wait over a year to receive our licence. Here you were not aware of it. I reminded you at that time that some residents received their licences over a year after their application, even with properly filled forms.

With respect to your earlier response, I may have been so expectant that I may have heard words not spoken. I would like to ask about it further. You seem to state and I may be mistaken here, but I seemed to understand that once the new system is in place for your department, licence applications will be processed within three months. Did you state that or maybe I so wanted to hear your reference to that matter that I may have misheard you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Yes, once the new computer system is in place, which is what our expectations are, it will simplify the process.

Further, to provide some background for Pond Inlet, the municipality runs the driver's licence program through an agreement. We were informed that within a calendar year three separate people held that position and with resignations some of the paperwork was never processed.

It is unfortunate when paperwork falls through the cracks between staff and unfinished forms as they have to be completely filled out. In some cases a birth certificate, which is a requirement, wasn't included. Furthermore, at this time you cannot submit the application via Internet nor through facsimiles, as they use the postal system to send them out. This also applies to the licences being sent back via postal service.

Once we have the new system in place, it will allow the processing of an application to be submitted online the same day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I am a resident of Pond Inlet, apparently you know more about the situation than I do as you knew that three different people have held the position already, although I doubt it and strongly disagree with you. Nonetheless, although I am from Pond Inlet, I may not have that information, but that is beside the point.

This situation doesn't just exist in Pond Inlet. As I stated previously when asking you about this issue in this House, pretty well every community has issues, as we have heard, not just Pond Inlet. Occasionally we mention that even proper applications take a long time and they're not told that the application needs more information or is lacking something. They're not informed and they just wait and wait. I'm happy that they will be able to deal with it on the same day.

What is the big problem today? In Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Kugaaruk, everywhere, what is the problem there? When the application is filled out properly, why do we wait for so long? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. The present system has been in place and they're still using 1980s equipment and that's the reason it's so slow. They have to send them through the mail system. It's for those reasons that we worked so hard to get the new system and members approved it. Thanks to you, we will be able to initiate that program. In 2018 all of the communities will have the system installed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. We will expect that. When in 2018, at the end, middle, or beginning of the year? When can we expect it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Only at the end of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I would like to understand why it's going to take so long. We approved the money quite a

while ago. Why does it have to be at the end of 2018? It's almost two years. Is it because it's so complex? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a massive system that we are talking about. The system has to be designed, tested, and rolled out to all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you telling me that we approved the money without knowing what we were going to buy? We just knew that it will be used for a certain purpose, but we had no idea what capabilities that system had or what problems it may have. Did we have no idea what we were buying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Deputy Minister Ms. Rowe answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a computer software system that we're buying off the shelf. This is one that we set up the specifications for the system on what the system needs to do when we went out to tender and to purchase this system. Now they are building the system to meet the needs

that we have requested. It's not a situation where we didn't know what we needed. We know what we needed and now it's up to them to build it to our specifications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The system needs to be built from nothing and you have to tell them what specifications you want. You told them that if someone wants a licence, it will pop out a licence in one day. We wish to realize the day where anyone applying for a licence can receive one in a day. The priorities members wanted and as per the minister's response, once the system is up and running, applications will be sent immediately.

With that in mind, is the funding sufficient for this system? I know that it hasn't been installed yet. Nevertheless, the department has requested supplementary appropriations several times for this system. Since I became a member, I seem to recall three separate supplementary appropriation requests over time. I wonder if the funding is enough to complete the system now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We collaborated with Community and Government Services on this initiative. Yes, our expectations are that the work requirements will be met based on the directions we have provided and that this system will be

implemented fully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Transportation. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff. My questions are about the same as the line of questioning of my colleague, Mr. Enook.

On page 200 of your business plan the fifth bullet says, "Review the capacity of the Transportation Policy and Planning division to determine the optimal staffing required..." When I first got to Gjoa Haven in 2004, the department was fully staffed and three people were working there, but now there is only one. Will you be filling those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was completed in December 2016. However, one person quit last week and we will have to fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. So do I understand now that there is nobody working there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: When do you anticipate getting the staff in there? Tomorrow, next week, or next month? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: I, too, would like a crystal ball, but I don't have one, so I can't say exactly when. Mr. Chairman, it will have to go through the proper competitive process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in the motor vehicles department, they had a driver inspector, I believe they call it. He moved out of the community. Will that be filled also? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. On page 215, Priorities (2016-17), it says, "Monitor the P3 Partner's compliance with all provisions of the construction and operations plans for the Iqaluit airport..."

Why have the Inuit employment and training reports taken so long to produce or publish given that there are monthly reports which include sections on Inuit employment and training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just discussed that this morning. Someone else asked that same question and I believe I said the reports are done. As soon as we go through the proper internal processes, we will be able to table the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is it taking so long? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NNI staff have to go through each and every report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak, second time around.

Ms. Angnakak: Today's a new day. Good afternoon. I just want to ask a couple of questions about the access road projects. Basically my first question is: how are these projects awarded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take a break from answering and I'll ask Ms. Rowe to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We send out a call letter each year and then what happens is it's application-based, so then we ask for applications and then we go through them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell us how they grade them? How do you pick what you're going to fund and what you're not going to fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The proposals are rated in the following criteria: how well the proposal meets the program objective, the capacity of the community to carry out the work, the extent to which the community is prepared to contribute its own resources, and the extent to which the local labour and municipal equipment is used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a limit on funding per community? I know there's a limit to the overall total amount, but is there a limit that a community can access? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently it's at \$300,000, but we're reviewing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell us if a letter was sent to the City of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The letters are being translated right now and they will be sent out to each and every community, including Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was the letter out sent to the City of Iqaluit the last time around? In regard to your Community Transportation Initiatives Program Report 2016-17, you gave a little over \$1.5 million out that was awarded, but

the City of Iqaluit is not on this list. My first question is: did you send a letter to the City of Iqaluit and, if you did, did you get a reply? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe they're sent to each and every community. I can double-check with Iqaluit, but I'm pretty sure they were sent there too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't get a response back from the community, does the staff do like a follow-up, "You know, we sent you this letter and we haven't received anything back from you"? Who is responsible for doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe we do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder at times if you don't get a response, it's because of a capacity issue and that the community might really lose out on something that could be very good and beneficial for that community. It makes me think that perhaps something should be done just

to figure out "Why aren't you responding back?" I would like more information about Iqaluit about why they're not on the list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We can look at what we can do in terms of reaching out to the communities if we don't hear a response from them. We can also look into whether this is part of a training aspect of the community economic development organization when they're doing their training and whether it's discussed at the community planning stage as well. We can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I like your response. I think that's a great idea. I would like to see that happen.

Just one more question in regard to access road projects. One of the things I think and I could be wrong, but I'm thinking the way that they developed the Sylvia Grinnell Park here was very well done with the roads, little roads, and stuff. I know it's different; we're not dealing with parks. I understand that. Sometimes people build access roads. I understand it's because it's a place that people can go camp or it's like for traditional use or what. To me that could go together with park development almost.

Is there a way of ever putting the funding together so that part of the funding is for park development that you could further that money through using access roads as well into it to make that project go further than what you give it funding for, for that specific cause? Just your thoughts on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Hawkins answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The access road program is built at the community's wishes generally. Part of the criteria, though, would be if they're leveraging other resources into them, we would score that highly in the evaluation process. Those other resources would be considered their assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the department would consider maybe... I don't know. Maybe you already do that where you sit down with communities and tell them about tips on how to access it, just to give a bit of support and maybe even advice on "You want to do this. Have you thought about doing it this way so we could further the dollars?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We usually give presentations at the mayors' meetings and other meetings that we go to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will go on to something else. The current air terminal that we use now in Iqaluit, for the record, can you tell us what is going to happen to that building once the new airport opens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Hawkins answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second and third floors of that building are going to continue to be used for aviation purposes. The need for the building is a little bit less certain, although it has to stay there. It is important that because of its location and that it's not replaceable as an airport asset. We can't build an airport asset somewhere else. It has to be adjacent and straddling the land site, ground site. It's important that it be used for airport purposes or at least that it could be converted back into an airport purpose in a fairly short period of time, five years, ten years, or something like that. A long-term purpose for something other than an airport would not be in accordance with the best use of the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell us just a little bit... ? I'm looking at 216, Priorities (2018-19). When you talk about commercial development of airport lands, what do you mean by that? What kind of commercial development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have Mr. Hawkins answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do lease a lot of land throughout the airport systems all across the territory. As I said in my last response, they are primarily for airport users. The land is best used that way. For development of hangars, office space for air carriers, and hangar and expediting space. There are also a lot of licences involved, the advertising licence, telephones, and things like that. It could be a little bit more efficient than it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, and be mindful of the interpreters. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can only businesses that have anything to do with the airport, such as airlines, secure lots on airport lands? For example, you said for hangars. If somebody wanted to build a hangar and

then rent it out, could they do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Hawkins answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The objective is to protect it for aviation purposes. If that seemed to be the best aviation purpose that this land could be used for, then it would be. Somebody would be able to do that. It's possible that would be on a shorter term than an air carrier that came in and built their own hangar just because the air carrier actually being involved in the space and ensuring that it would be used that way is a priority to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to do an example. I'm interested in this because with the new airport there might be some interest.

Let's take a look at either NorthMart or Arctic Ventures. They bring in a lot of food. They bring in planeloads. They have a charter that comes in. If they want to build a hangar to accept all of this food coming in, I'm just using it as an example. Would that be something that would be looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would look at it, but it would be a lower priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I want to ask something about the sequence strobe approach lighting system. I think there are some challenges to that and I'm wondering if you can just give us an update on the status of what's going on with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Hawkins answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some challenges with that. It projects out into the water farther than the shoreline, so there are some challenges with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I think the largest challenge that we likely have with that is with the sealift landing site because it is going to go out into what would be their normal barge landing/shipping lane or the approach into the beach. We think we have a solution for it. We think that we can sort that all out, but that is the challenge that we have at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Following the list of names, second round of questioning, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a couple of questions yesterday. In Kugaaruk, there's called a position called a GLO in English, who has a camera which could be used for driver's licences and other IDs. We need passport photos too. Maybe because the camera's focus is not sharp enough or that it is too big, it appears the camera cannot be used to take passport photos. Can we expect a new camera for Kugaaruk suitable for taking passport photos? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GLOs are not part of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation as they are under the Premier's Office and (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (interpretation) will be appearing before you later on, perhaps. When he is at the witness table, that question can be raised with him as his officials are responsible for that equipment, if I am not mistaken. We only deal with the driver's licence camera equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$28,462,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page K-3. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to get approval to go back to page K-5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to go back to K-5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): They have agreed. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question on K-5. Mr. Chairman, you asked a question in regard to the development partnership agreement. I know that you don't have that development partnership agreement, but I know that you are now working on the new development partnership agreement. Perhaps you can elaborate what the contents are going to be and what changes will be in there. Since you're working on that, maybe you can elaborate on some of the few changes that will occur in the new one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't have your question responded to today as I can't bring in the witness who deals with economic development and we finished that department. I apologize for that. I can say that we will inform all members in writing afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is your deputy minister involved or do you have any information regarding the DPA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): I do not deal with day-to-day activities, Mr. Chairman. It's usually the people who are responsible that deal with that matter. We can get the information, but the individual who answered that question the last time is not here and will be able to give the information to you on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As a minister, you don't give direction (interpretation) on what should be in the agreement? Are both you and the deputy minister not involved with the agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my Deputy Minister, Ms. Rowe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I'm involved in the overall DPA discussions, it's not at the level of

detail that you're asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you and the deputy minister saying that you will approve what is presented to you? Your deputy minister indicated that you get information on it, but you're not involved with the agreement. Are you just going to approve of it once it reaches your level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my Deputy Minister, Ms. Rowe. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a lot of issues going on in the department. This one is a work in progress. Once it gets to the level that it's ready to be reviewed, then it comes to my attention. Of course once it has been reviewed by myself, then it would go to the minister for her review. That is how our system works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you for that response. My question was if you know anything about the contents of the agreement as the minister and as the

deputy minister. Once it reaches your level, you're going to review it. What happens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my Deputy Minister, Ms. Rowe. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am aware of the overall picture of the DPA, but I am not in a position here today to discuss any details on the DPA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. We have been hearing the same thing for a long time, that it's in the works or it's in progress. When are we going to see this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know yet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's too bad. You were just saying that it's almost completed. Now you don't know when we are going to be able to see it. You indicated earlier

or some days ago that it's almost completed. We're talking about the same agreement and now which stage it's at. It gets me confused if you don't know when we're going to be able to see it when you said it was almost complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to try to answer the member's question. It's an important question.

The DPA is connected to the fuel tax rebate and as of January the DPAs and the fuel tax rebate were changed where in the past there was one DPA that included mines that are in production. Mr. Chairman, the change was to exclude mining companies that got into production. The fuel tax rebate is to assist the exploration firms and that was changed in January.

One of the things that we see there is that if a mining company goes into production, they're supposedly making profits, but the fuel tax rebate is still there, not necessarily under the DPA. The fuel tax rebate is for harvesters and exploration firms. As you know, exploration firms' income and investments are given to them by investors, but once a mining company is in production, they are generating their own revenue and profit. That was changed to better reflect the real, actual situation. The fuel tax rebate also includes harvesters that are out there. Any harvester that qualifies for the fuel tax rebate can access the fuel tax rebate.

There are a number of communities that have done that.

In the original DPA there are eight principles where certain conditions have to be met by the company that held the DPA. Of course in the past there was supposed to be some kind of discussions with affected communities where the mining production is actually taking place and work with the communities to try to build up the local employment rates, including building infrastructure.

I can't recall the other six principles that are included in the DPA, but again this has changed to reflect where we put better use to our funds to assist exploration firms because they don't get any assistance, but to take away that program from a producing mine. I hope that clearly answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the Premier taking the time to answer what the department should have answered or tried to. At the end of the day, because Minister Ell-Kanayuk has stated on a number of occasions that there's a DPA being developed, a new one with, I believe, the Department of Finance. On a number of occasions the minister has stated that "We're very close to getting this DPA done." Now the latest reply I get is, "Well, we don't know."

All I'm asking is on a number of occasions the minister has stated that "We're close to doing this," do we at least have a date? A month? Now the

reply is, “We don’t know.” If it was so close, we must have an idea as to how close we are. Is that impossible to answer? (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question earlier was, “What is in the new DPA?” We don’t have that information at this time and also we don’t have the information as to an exact date when the new agreement will be in place, but we do know it’s soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And soon is when? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): I just indicated that we don’t know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t think that’s how it is. You’re giving us expectations when you say that it’s almost ready to be made public and that you’re working together. On the other hand you don’t know when it’s going to be completed. What kind of anticipation should we have as Nunavummiut or as stakeholders, those who are going to be affected?

How can Nunavummiut expect something to be ready and then suddenly we don’t know anymore? What then? I don’t think we should be told that by our own government. If we can’t see it soon, then tell us or if you think that it’s almost completed, tell us perhaps we will be able to see it within this year. That could be a better answer than “I don’t know” and just give us those answers.

Mr. Chairman, in English the word “soon,” I don’t know how to pin it down in Inuktitut, but to me soon can be within a month and to somebody else it might be in the fall. Is there something less vague than “soon”? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister, Ms. Rowe, will respond to that question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are hoping to have it complete for the end of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. As per Rule 77(2), I will exercise my discretion and not recognize Mr. Joanasie, as you were recognized twice under this page.

Move on to K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$71,495,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first of all like to thank the members for their excellent questions on specific details of the department's operations.

I would also like to thank my staff, including Deputy Minister Sherri Rowe, Assistant Deputy Minister Bernie MacIsaac, and Acting Deputy Minister John Hawkins, as well as many others that work in the background, including the interpreters and translators.

Mr. Chairman, members understand that we cannot have all information with us at all times to answer every possible question. We would need a larger table, as a colleague once observed. That being said, I am committed to responding to the committee as fully and promptly as possible. In that spirit I would like to provide some additional information on specific details members requested over the two days of our review.

On Thursday Mr. Mikkungwak asked about how many people participated in the NNI community workshops and specifically the one held in Baker Lake. Mr. Chairman, my officials have located this information, which I am happy to share.

Mr. Chairman, staff of the NNI Secretariat have visited seven communities with GN offices, including Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay. In total staff met with 130 members of the public and the business community, as well as 85 GN employees. In Baker Lake the NNI Secretariat met with 10 employees of the Qulliq Energy Corporation involved in procurement. Separately they also met with two Baker Lake businesses.

Also on Thursday I committed to sharing the available details on the number of proposals received in 2016-17 under the Country Food Distribution Program. Mr. Chairman, we do not specifically track the number of proposals received. In accordance with the *Country Food Distribution Program Policy*, we track the name of each successful applicant, amount of each contribution, the type of investment being supported, and the community.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform you that the *Country Food Distribution Program Annual Report* for 2015-16 has now been posted on the department's website. I invite my colleagues to review the report and I can say that, as detailed in the report in 2015-16, the program funded 25 different projects proposed by 25 different applicants.

Yesterday I committed to sharing more information on the cost of completing the system to measure the economic impact of tourism in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, phase 1 of the project included the development of the Nunavut Economic Impact Model for Tourism. That phase is complete and cost \$105,610.

Phase 2 of the project includes the development of an integrated tourism data collection and management system. For this phase we have \$230,000 available over the next two years to be 80 percent funded by CanNor and 20 percent by the department.

Also on Friday Mr. Mikkungwak asked about the status of the renovation of the Baker Lake Air Terminal Building. Mr. Chairman, the design is complete and all necessary work required to go to tender has also been completed. The construction request has been prepared and once this document is approved internally, we will vote to tender. We expect that to be done by the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year.

This concludes my closing remarks, but Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank you for presiding over the review of the 2017-18 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister, please provide a copy of your statement to the Chair. Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

(interpretation ends) We will have a 15-minute break prior to proceeding to Nunavut Arctic College.

>>Committee recessed at 14:52 and resumed at 15:09

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would now like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, I would like to have officials with me at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today with me to my right is the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Joe Kunuk, and to my left is the Vice-president and Dean, Eric Corneau. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the House. Minister, please proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman and members, I am pleased to present to members today Nunavut Arctic

College's 2017-2020 main estimates and business plan.

As members know, one of the priorities of *Sivumut Abluqta* is self-reliance and optimism through education and training. Nunavut Arctic College has a key role in advancing this priority.

The college's total budget for 2017-18 is \$51.6 million, which is a \$6.1 million increase from the 2016-17 total budget of \$45.5 million. The majority of this increase is from third party sources, increase in the base funding for the Law Program, Social Works Program, Early Childhood Education Program, and additional person years for student support services, including the federal funding for the Iqaluit Community Learning Centre and Campus.

Third party funding is \$14 million for the fiscal year. For 2016-17 it was \$12.2 million. The college is actively working to review, renew, and expand these funding agreements.

The contribution from the Government of Nunavut of \$37.6 million is up from \$34.4 million. The balance of the college's revenues is from tuition and other sources of \$5,441,000.

The total number of PYs will increase by eight person years from 222.6 to 230.6. This is a result of an increase of three PYs arising from third party funding, three PYs in student services, and two PYs in the instructors.

Early Childhood Education

In 2017-18 the college will be investing \$1.3 million of core funding to continue the delivery of the early childhood

education programs. This offsets the loss of previous funding delivered by the federal departments of Public Health Canada and INAC, which phases out at the end of 2016-17.

With this funding, the college aims to graduate 70 students with a diploma in early childhood education and certify an additional 150 child care workers over the next five years. In doing so, this government is taking clear action in support of *Sivumut Abluqta*'s priority of promoting and recognizing the importance of early childhood education to prepare children and their parents for a successful start in life and school.

Environmental Technology Program

As the college moves forward, it will continue to work with communities towards addressing needs at the community level. One such direction it has taken with respect to listening to communities' needs is in the area of environmental technology. In 2017-18 we will look to expand on the delivery of the Environmental Technology Program through partnership funding and once again deliver this program in Pond Inlet.

Social Worker Program

The college is investing through 2017-18 and beyond in the Social Services Worker Program so that it can guarantee sufficient students to make a material impact on services that are offered to clients who need access to social services.

The Social Worker Program trains people for employment in a number of critical areas, such as social work, probation officers, school counsellors,

wellness centre workers, and addictions counsellors. In doing this, this initiative supports many of *Sivumut Abluqta's* objectives, including:

- Supporting labour force training, development and employment through strategic alliances with sector partners;
- Ensuring clinical expertise is available to Nunavummiut;
- Working with our partners, renewing and strengthening our efforts towards suicide prevention; and lastly
- Incorporating *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in the learning materials and course content.

In fiscal year 2017-18 the budget increases to \$1,400,384 to cover the costs of hiring an additional two full-time instructors and pay for the expansion of program delivery. Going forward this would decrease to \$1,220,884 of annual funding as one-time costs associated with expanding the program phase-out.

Nunavut Law Program

In 2017-18 the college will deliver the next Law Program as a priority stemming from our current mandate. In accordance with Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the college will make every effort to ensure Nunavut Inuit are given priority to this and all of our programs. The delivery of a law program through the University of Saskatchewan will give Nunavummiut the best opportunity to learn about and engage activity in the legal profession.

The Nunavut Law Program is designed as a four-year program. The first year of the program will be dedicated to

equipping students with adequate skills and knowledge to undertake the subsequent three law-intensive years of study. The focus of the program as a whole will be on leading students to understand, examine, apply, and critique legal doctrine, systems and processes. It will provide opportunities to students to explore both traditional and southern perspectives on law and to consider the role played by both systems in our society.

Nunavut Arctic College and the University of Saskatchewan will accept a maximum of 25 qualified applicants in the program starting in September 2017.

Going Forward

In 2017-18 the college will continue to deliver on its core programs, including the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, the Bachelor of Arctic Nursing Program, the Environmental Technology Program, cultural programming at Piquusilirivvik, the heavy equipment operator and trades and pre-trades programming, including identifying options for moving carpentry programs in Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet to have all trades delivered out of Sanatuliqsarvik, Inuit language instruction programming, as well as the jewellery and metalwork programs, and the Office Administration Program. It will continue to deliver its continuing education programming, including the Pathways for Adults Secondary School, the Nunavut Adult Basic Education, and the Getting Ready for Employment Training programs.

As the college looks forward to the future, it needs to consider securing long-term, non-Government of Nunavut funding sources, which would address

the ongoing funding challenges noted earlier.

Mr. Chairman and members, in conclusion I would like members to know that a significant amount of future planning is being undertaken in 2017-18. The work undertaken at the college is critical to meeting this government's mandate as well as meeting the long-term challenges Nunavut faces. Education is *Sivumut Abluqta's* top priority and this is the reason why I spoke about some of the aforementioned items.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Quassa, Mr. Adla Kunuk, and Mr. Corneau.

Mr. Chairman, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2017-18 budget of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources, such as tuition fees. The Government of Nunavut's proposed contribution to Nunavut Arctic College for 2017-18 is approximately \$37.6 million. The standing committee notes that the

college's overall budget for 2017-18 is projected to be just over \$51.6 million. The standing committee supports the minister and college administration in their efforts to acquire additional third party funding for 2017-18.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the college has been working closely with our two partner territories to access federal funding for industry training initiatives across the north under the Pan-Territorial Framework on Innovation and Training (PFIT). Members look forward to positive announcements on this initiative in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College has an important role to play in preparing, training, and educating Nunavummiut to enter the labour force. Education and training provided at the community and regional level not only supports our economy and improves our public service, but also helps to ensure that the services delivered match Nunavut's needs. Members have expressed some concern that training programs requested at the local level are not always offered at community learning centres. At the same time it is recognized that a minimum number of confirmed applicants for any program is necessary to ensure that it can be delivered in an economically viable manner. Members encourage the college in its efforts to secure funding and curriculum for programs and courses that will enable Nunavummiut to fill upcoming employment opportunities in such areas as elder care, tourism, trades, heavy equipment operator certification, and environmental monitoring.

The standing committee appreciates the college's willingness to try out new approaches to course delivery, such as a blended approach of distance learning and face-to-face instruction. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review the draft 2017-18 budget and business plan of Nunavut Arctic College, members appreciated receiving an update on the SmartICE Technology Application project that is currently being coordinated through the Nunavut Research Institute.

The standing committee supports the college's proposed focus on early childhood education, social work and law programs in 2017-18. Early childhood education in particular plays an important role in preparing children for a life of learning and can help to determine an individual's quality of health and well-being in the future. Social work programs also provide training that can be applied by counsellors, addictions workers, and those working to address domestic violence and mental illness and to support individuals, families, and communities in striving towards a healthier future.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review on M-3.

I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review. Page M-3. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I just want to talk about Sanikiluaq for a minute. It's a leasing agreement question and I'm hoping the minister can answer for me. Currently Nunavut Arctic College in Sanikiluaq leases classroom space from the district education authority. It's my understanding that it was a five-year lease and the terms of that lease, I think, are expiring within the next year or two. I'm just wondering if the minister can update me today on whether or not Nunavut Arctic College has entered into a new longer term lease with the DEA in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for requesting more information on that. We are working on that now. (interpretation ends) We are at this time working on that particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When is this current lease supposed to expire? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The expiry date

should be November 2017.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I know that the school may
not be interested in renewing this lease
because I think they want the space for
themselves. I'm just wondering if the
minister can update us today whether or
not his department is comfortable that
they can renegotiate a lease for Arctic
College within the time period that's left
so that classes are not interrupted in
Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you
very much. (interpretation ends) The
Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic
College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank
my colleague for clarifying that. To date
we are still discussing the matter with
the Ilisaqsivik Society. We want to
renew another three-year agreement, but
as of now we haven't heard of any
concerns they have. However, as per my
previous response, this is still under
discussion.

Also, clearly we will need to revisit the
areas around (interpretation ends)
required upgrades (interpretation) as an
example. That is where things stand at
this time, as discussions are ongoing, but
we are expectant of getting an additional
three-year agreement. That is where it
stands currently, Mr. Chairman. Thank
you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you
very much. (interpretation ends)
Nunavut Arctic College. We are on page
M-3. Details are on pages N-I-1 to N-I-
4. Following the list of names, Mr.
Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister
and your officials.

I will use that as a foundation for my
questions. Actually I would like
clarification based on your opening
comments. On page 4 of the opening
comments you refer to "continue to
deliver on its core programs," including
the heavy equipment operator program.

Let me start with asking this question. I
believe there is another program,
although it isn't referenced here, which
is the mine training program, but I can't
seem to find it nor do I think you
mentioned it. Is this included in the
general program delivery comments or is
it a separate program?

As an example, regarding mine training
and the type of training for mining work,
as I have no idea of what is included in
this program, is it included in the heavy
equipment operator programming?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank
my colleague for that question. Yes, the
mine trades training includes these
components and I will speak in English
here, (interpretation ends) Ready to
Work North, airbrakes, class 1, class 2,
and class 3 driver's training course,

heavy equipment operators course, pre-trades (interpretation) are all included in this mine training program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are all aware, especially for the heavy equipment operator, you usually go out of the territory for training. I'm not sure exactly what they do now or where they go, but I know that in Nunavut we're starting to develop mines, for example, in Baker Lake and Pond Inlet. Have you ever considered having a heavy equipment operator training program in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have taken that into consideration for these communities adjacent to the operating mines. As an example, the Rankin Inlet location was chosen due to its proximity to the Meadowbank mine when they first applied for development, when anticipating the start date.

As an example, the computerized simulators to teach students on driving certain heavy equipment used at the mine can be placed at any community. Actually Pond Inlet is being considered.

Further, other examples are (interpretation ends) airbrakes and heavy equipment theory (interpretation) that are the types of training offered in Rankin Inlet.

If we look at the Kitikmeot region, we are working with (interpretation ends) Aurora College, (interpretation) such as (interpretation ends) small engine repair (interpretation) courses in Taloyoak.

We have offered those types of training courses and Pond Inlet was considered for these programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister. You said that you have been considering Pond Inlet. When are you going to start the program there instead of just considering it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently in discussions with Baffinland for Mary River to find out exactly what the best training program would be. We are in discussions at this time and once we hear from Baffinland, we will have a better idea of what kind of program it would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for that clarification. If you can respond to the question I want to pose, do you have an idea of how long the discussions will take or do you have a target date as to when you will have an

actual decision, or is this an open-ended discussion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are continuing discussions, but I can't quantify a target date at this time. Obviously this will move forward and discussions are ongoing. Although I can't divulge the exact date, clearly it will be completed in the short term.

Also, the simulators I referred to earlier will be arriving this coming fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and I approve Arctic College's main estimates. That's all.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. We're on Nunavut Arctic College. Nunavut Arctic College. Following my list of names, Mr. Qirngnuq.

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

Since my colleague was seemingly agreed with, I am a bit envious. I am quite pleased with the funding amount of \$51.6 million as it increased from \$45.5 million.

Your opening comments that I am reading raises this question in my mind. For the Environmental Technology

Program computer equipment... I am not sure if I said it properly. Maybe if I refer to the program in English, even though the minister may have understood, it is the (interpretation ends) Environmental Technology Program. (interpretation) Can the minister provide an explanation as to, actually for my understanding, what is in this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his good question. Just to elaborate a little bit further, the Environmental Technology Program is offered here in Iqaluit and in Cambridge Bay. If we can get more interest in Kitikmeot, the Environmental Technology Program is going to be offered there.

They are trained in various programs, for example... Hold on a minute. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. There are different areas, such as the wildlife officer as it is part of the environment, as well as the different (interpretation ends) environmental (interpretation) studies and training to conduct these studies. It also includes territorial parks, so they can work for the parks as patrol persons once they have graduated.

Occasionally they work with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Also, they apply for other environmental positions in various departments. For example, the training revolves around lands, wildlife, weather, and other areas in this field. When they graduate, they can also work for Parks Canada as well as other

companies. That concludes my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you be rolling out the Environmental Technology Program to the smaller communities? I'm asking that question because I would like to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have taken that into consideration. For example, although one of the first communities isn't really a smaller community, when we first looked at considering expanding the program, Pond Inlet was one of the first communities. We will be able to consider other communities for the expansion of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the minister's response to my question and that was pleasing to hear.

I will now move to a different topic listed in your opening comments about the use of the term "going forward," as the wording uses that term. I would like to understand what that term "going forward" applies to and what was taken into consideration at the time.

What about Inuit language teaching materials, whether it is in written format or published? Have there been publications of this type of course material or is this more of a plan for the future? I wanted to better understand that use of the term, which is why I am asking about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister responsible for Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood my colleague's question, yes, this is to move forward the course material at Arctic College that have been referenced through their (interpretation ends) media (interpretation) and that's the current reference.

There are also different programs, for example, for 2017, if I fully understood your question. I will speak to the various publications, for example, reading materials that are specific to Inuit, such as Willem Rasing's publication.

There are different things that we are going to produce in 2017. If I referred to them in English with your permission, as we have interpreters available, it would be comprised of (interpretation ends) *Inuit Oral History & Representation – Essays in Memory of Leah Aksaajuq Otak* (interpretation) written by John MacDonald, not my ADM, who is also John MacDonald. (interpretation ends) *Inuit Laws – Tirigusuusiit, Piqujait, and Maligait* (interpretation) is one of the subjects we plan to produce. It also includes (interpretation ends) *Inuit Worldviews – An Introduction*.

(interpretation) We want to produce material on those subjects in 2017 and other subjects, such as (interpretation ends) *Inuit Language & Dialects – Inuit Uqausiqatigiit* (interpretation) and *Hunting Polar Bear in the Winter*. These are the books we wish to publish in 2017. We hope to publish another seven books in 2018.

I'm not sure if I responded to his question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Yes, that was exactly what my question about. I'll have a good sleep tonight. I have no other comments to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. Nunavut Arctic College. Following my list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first of all like to start with distance learning, which can be applied up here and is being utilized more. How many students do you have that are taking distance learning online in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the fall of 2016 we initiated PASS. That is the acronym used to describe the students who haven't completed high school and wish to continue their education.

From September 6, 2016 to date, there were 34 students in that category of distance education or (interpretation ends) distance learning, (interpretation) which I believe he referred to it as. There are 14 communities that participate in this distance learning. As per my previous reiterations, September 6, 2016 was the start date.

Furthermore, let me say it in English, which states (interpretation ends) modified Social Studies 20-2, (interpretation) as this was also initiated in September. There were 22 students taking that course. These are the numbers to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any other distance education online studies or are those the only two available right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we only have those two, but there are three additional online programs that we're looking at. We're looking at three distance learning programs. To date those are the only two available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the other three distance learning programs that

you're looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what they're called in Inuktitut, but I'm sure our interpreters know. (interpretation ends) Social studies (interpretation) are being taught at our Arctic College, Math 20-2, and in English, (interpretation ends) Science 20. (interpretation) Those are the three programs that we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page NAC-7 it states that by March 31, 2017, your Inuit employment target positions are 11. What is the status of that initiative today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were you referring to Inuit employment? Yes, that is the purpose of the statement. Does he understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. These 11 positions will meet the target goal to be hired this month, towards the end of the fiscal year. Will you be able to attain that target? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand the question. Mr. Chairman, if the member can rephrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié, please rephrase your question. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. On page NAC-7, the last paragraph, by March 31, 2017, you are trying to get 11 Inuit employment target positions. Are you going to be able to meet that goal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will try to make sure that we fill the 11 positions we have identified. We are going to be looking for Inuit beneficiaries. Yes, we will try to fill them all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Are you going to try to fill those positions before March 31, 2017? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Arctic College has a year-end at the end of

June, not March. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that you will try to fill those 11 positions before June 30, 2017? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's our goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: (interpretation) Thank you. I also thank the minister. I have asked questions on the NTEP program and I'll now turn to that. We know that there was going to be a review done on this program. You indicated that there are currently 83 students. It's a four-year program.

In your business plan we know that all together the cost is \$2,961,000 and another \$2,815,000 in other items. That's over \$5 million. Have you considered accessing some of the \$50 million that the court awarded to NTI? Have you ever considered getting some additional funds from NTI to fund those types of programs, or are you setting up a plan or going to be making a request for some of the \$50 million that NTI is holding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely, yes, of course, we believe in getting beneficiary teachers and we will try to access some of those funds held by NTI. We are currently looking at the NTEP program and we hope that the review will be done by June 2017. Once it's completed, we will put together a funding request from NTI. It would be for the NTEP program, (interpretation ends) early childhood education, student support assistance, human services, (interpretation) and a variety of other programs. Yes, NTEP will be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how much they will be requesting from NTI? Do you have a figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, we are reviewing the Arctic College programs. Once the review is done, we will decide how much of a funding request we will be making. We don't have any figure right now, but once that review is done, we will be able to put a dollar figure on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can encourage Arctic College to look at doubling the funding for the Teacher

Education Program so that more communities can take advantage of the program.

At this time you have identified the following communities: Cape Dorset, Kugaaruk, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat, and Sanikiluaq as the communities currently offering this program. However, other communities are not offering this program.

Perhaps you can increase the fund from \$2,861,000 and my earlier reference to the other fund. These two funds total almost \$6 million. Perhaps you can request \$6 million. That's just a comment.

With respect to the Teacher Education Program, there are other aspects to training teachers, such as the bilingual approach to teaching students from the lower grades, as well as the (interpretation ends) middle school, (interpretation) but none geared towards the higher grades in high school. This program doesn't train them for those grades. I wonder if this has been considered to enable them to teach these higher grades. Is this part of the plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his suggestion and I agree with him wholeheartedly. We are going to be looking at this during the NTEP program review. We're looking at different reviews under the same program.

We're looking at K to 12 using the bilingual language of instruction. There are different programs through NTEP for middle school and from grades 7 to 9. It's clear that we can revamp it. It's clearly indicated in the *Education Act* that it is a requirement to use bilingual language of instruction from kindergarten to grade 12. That is the reason why this area will be carefully reviewed to determine the best way forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read in your 2017-2020 business plan on NAC-16 the department states that other communities are being considered for teacher education programming after it was completed in Hall Beach. Towards the end of fiscal year 2016-17 you made a statement that the first year students in Iqaluit total 8 and 15 in Kugaaruk. In the 2017-18 fall semester, this current calendar year, will there be any first year students? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we're looking at three communities. I can't say right now which communities they will be, but we're looking for three communities in which we will initiate the program. Let's be aware that it depends on whether the program is wanted in the community and how many students apply. For example, the three communities would use the college foundation course to make sure they have enough knowledge to take NTEP.

That's the usual practice. We're looking at three communities that we want the program to be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will you be able to identify the three communities where the program will be offered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now I can't say which communities they will be, but with the review that I'm talking about, we're thinking of implementing it in 2018-19. I think that's what I'm trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. For the benefit of our witnesses and interpreters, I ask members to be clear and indicate what page they are referring to when they are quoting from documents. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on Nunavut Arctic College's business plan page 16. They have different priorities, particularly the third bullet from the top. With his response, I understand that the ongoing review will be completed this summer. However, the program might not be available this coming fall. Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities where there are students continuing in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and their courses will continue. Some are in the first year, some are in year two, and some are in year three. They're at different levels. It depends on the community where the NTEP program is being run. Those are ongoing. They won't be stopped. I just wanted to mention that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that. However, there won't be a first year program this fall for the Teacher Education Program. Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the 2017-18 college foundation is just for starters. We find out what their level of education is and what further courses they need to take before they start the Teacher Education Program. This will go ahead this fall as before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Maybe I didn't quite understand him. He said 2018-19, but there won't be a first year program for NTEP in 2017-18. Is that what I understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They start with the college foundation and year one will not begin until 2018-19 for the Teacher Education Program. The first part in 2017-18 is when they will start their upgrading courses before the actual start of 2018-19 that will be the first year program for the NTEP program. That's the usual practice for our program delivery for the Teacher Education Program and other programs. They do upgrading the first year. For the Nursing Program and the Teacher Education Program, that has always been the practice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. It is slowing starting to make sense. The first segment of the training under the program is specific to proficiency testing. Is it or is this testing done prior to commencing the training, for example, for (interpretation ends) pre-trades?

(interpretation) I have heard previously or I am trying to understand the process because outside of Nunavut where these programs are offered for pre-trades plumbing or carpentry, if an applicant wishes to enter the program, they are required to have proficiency in certain fields. Will these initial tests include the requirements that exist outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that applies everywhere. Students have to upgrade their education before they enter a program. Upgrading is used everywhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I proceed to the next name on the list, members, Member Tom Sammurtok's Christmas gift list has just increased due to the birth of another granddaughter this afternoon. Congratulations!

>> *Applause*

Thank you. We are on Nunavut Arctic College. Nunavut Arctic College. Page M-3. Following the list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess we will have to increase the budget in the year 2024 for Mr. Sammurtok's grandchildren. (interpretation) Absolutely required, I believe.

Good afternoon. I would like to ask about the Social Worker Program in the minister's opening comments and in the business plan on NAC-18. Are graduates of the Social Worker Program at Arctic College able to become social workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that the continuing program will be improved and they will try to implement new things. Perhaps they don't qualify to be a social worker once they finish the program right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will respond, but I may revert to English in some parts. The current certification or (interpretation ends) diploma (interpretation) is what we are reviewing to see if we can offer a higher level or (interpretation ends) degree, (interpretation) as these levels are different. It is due to this reason that the wording is written that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will that be completed so that the graduates will have a complete education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working together with the University of Regina. We will start discussions with them this fall on how a higher degree will be implemented. We will be having talks with the university this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister's opening comments, on the fourth bullet, it states, "Incorporating *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* in the learning materials and course content." Is the Ilisaqsivik Society going to be involved as they are directly involved with that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we are working with Ilisaqsivik. I'm happy to say that we can work with them on a social worker program. Right now we're working with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Now that I know that, I can approve of it. I'm happy they're involved because they're quite capable and they use Inuit societal values. I'm pleased that they will be a part of this. That's all for now from me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. My first question would be about learning centres. Not all community learning centres deliver the same courses every year. How does the college determine which courses will be delivered in specific communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for requesting information on that. We are always looking for other programs that we can teach in the communities. The way we normally do things is every year before the school year begins we get our instructors to ask the communities as to what programs would be suitable for their community. We don't dictate that. We ask them what they want to learn in the community.

Sometimes we can accommodate their requests, but then everything has to be set up. If a community wants to introduce a program in the college, then we have to find instructors and housing for it. We have to put things in place. There are different programs in the communities. We search for funding for programs requested by communities.

We also assess the communities to see what programs would be suitable and we follow what they want. We don't dictate to the community, "This is what you're going to be learning." We ask the community what they want to learn. We would rather hear from them instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what is one of the most commonly requested courses in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Upgrading is

still the most popular choice. This program is used by most students and by high school graduates who may want to be tested to see if they are actually at the grade 12 level by taking the (interpretation ends) GED course. (interpretation) As well, I made an earlier reference to (interpretation ends) adult basic education.

(interpretation) We're also quite happy to mention that the programs through the Department of Family Services provide assistance through pre-trades planning and training. It's called the (interpretation ends) G.R.E.A.T. program. (interpretation) This program is used more intensively in the communities.

Further, administrative and office work training seems to be the preference of most communities, and that is (interpretation ends) office administration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the college's priorities that you listed for 2017-18 is that you're going to review funding options specifically for the tourism course. Has this funding been found yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is called PFEIT. Am I correct? PFEIT, (interpretation ends) provincial, federal... . I am sorry. (interpretation) My tongue is getting tied, trying to speak this

phrase, and I seem to have trouble with the words. It is called the (interpretation ends) pan-territorial framework initiative. (interpretation) At this time we are just waiting for the funding transfer from the federal government, as that is where we would apply for the funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on another program, you're delivering the two-year Early Childhood Education Diploma Program in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. How many students do you have in each of those courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Right now in Pond Inlet there are six students and here in Iqaluit, let me look up the number. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

There are six students as well in year one of the Early Childhood Education Diploma Program here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the maximum amount of students that could be enrolled in that course? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There can be a maximum of 15 students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the obvious need for more child care workers, that seems a very low number of students to be involved in the program. What will the college be doing in the future to entice more students to take this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are always trying to find ways to see how we can increase the number of students, but for 2017-18 we're going to look at continuing this program in Cambridge Bay. We're always looking for more students. We always want more students, but I can say that in 2017-18 there will be a program held in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This course is a two-year program. Will Pond Inlet and Iqaluit continue with these two courses when you start the Cambridge Bay course? I guess I would also like to ask furthermore if housing was an issue with anything with why people wouldn't want to attend these courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are completing the program in Pond Inlet and that's why they're moving the program to Cambridge Bay. As to the question, I would say no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you describe how the college works with departments of Health or Family Services to develop support career programs that may lead to employment opportunities within these departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question and, if you don't mind, I would like the vice-president to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Corneau.

Mr. Corneau: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with Family Services primarily in the context of our program and developing our program plan every year. We look at labour market indicators and essentially they provide with some of the feedback in terms of how we develop our program plan for the following year. That's the major structure that we used in order to develop future programs. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many health care programs, such as courses to qualify individuals as home care workers or continuing care workers, are offered by the college? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking that really good question. I can't provide a number at this point, but we would have to get the numbers from the Department of Health. I hope that was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the college be doing a follow-up then with the Department of Health to figure that out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we would. To add to that so that my colleague and everyone else will know, up to now 120 students have taken part in the past five years. I just wanted to add that to my response. We expect the courses to continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of the college priorities listed in the draft business plan

for 2017-2020 note that certain trade programs will be seeking accreditation in 2017-18. However, information provided indicated that all programs are inter-provincial Red Seal standards. Why do these programs need accreditation if they already meet inter-provincial standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I would like the vice-president to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Corneau: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the process and in order to maintain your accreditation, you need to go through these periodic reviews in order to maintain your accreditation. That is why we're up for that process to be reinitiated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was actually trying to contact somebody from Family Services who I understood sits on the board of accreditation to get a better understanding about how this all works, especially with the trade school. I didn't get a reply back from him, so I would like to know a little bit better about how things work.

Perhaps I'll go to my next question first before I get into that. That is, your

business plan provides a breakdown of which trades programs are delivered at the three regional campuses. Will all these trades programs be offered in 2017-18 and, if so, how many students do you anticipate will be enrolled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We expect in the month of May we will have a better idea as to whether this program will go ahead and we will also have a clearer idea of how many students will be enrolled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 20 of your business plan, Priorities (2016-17), it talks about to "Seek accreditation for Pre-apprenticeship Cook Program, and offer first intake of Pre-apprenticeship Cook Program." I understood that your application was rejected. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean that the college will no longer offer the cook program? I understand that one of the biggest components missing from having a culinary program is that you don't

have a commercial kitchen. I would have thought that that would be the number one thing you would know that you need to have if you're going to offer that course. Can the minister provide me with his comments on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first want to clarify that this coming fall we will look for additional funding based on the rejection of our application. (interpretation ends) We will be seeking it again this fall.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you, I'll ask our president to respond to the latter part of the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the program in Cambridge Bay that was offered was the (interpretation ends) culinary program, (interpretation) as it is called in English. Currently we submitted an application for funding to renew that program. However, to date this other program called (interpretation ends) camp cook program (interpretation) is still ongoing in Cambridge Bay.

With respect to the minister's response about the program that was denied in Rankin Inlet, it was reviewed by a committee to determine the feasibility of the program. We are currently reviewing the report on that. There are several recommendations that the (interpretation

ends) accreditation (interpretation) panel submitted. These recommendations are now in the process of review and we expect by the fall the (interpretation ends) pre-trades (interpretation) along with the culinary program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What was the biggest component of the application that was rejected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the president to continue responding to that line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The papers had to be prepared for the testing. They were not completed and because they have to do an entrance exam, for example, first, second, and third training programs, they had to make sure or identify exactly what kind of testing they will have on the entrance exams. We had to redo the entrance exam, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's still an issue, I guess, of the commercial kitchen. How are you

going to accommodate that need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): They didn't have a major issue. Their main concern was with the kitchen. At Arctic College we consider what kind of programs we require and we look at what kind of additional programs we will need. We can provide various programs that can be beneficial to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk about trades access. I think that's the one that ran the pre-apprenticeship program. I heard that there were a number of students that were enrolled. According to the chart, I'm looking at page 19 of your business plan, it's offered in three regions. I'm not sure how many students participated, but the graduation rate for that program, I understand, is very low. Can you comment on that, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that for pre-trades apprenticeship plumbing, there were six that applied and two did not go ahead. For pre-apprenticeship electrician, there were 12 and 3 dropped out. For apprenticeship housing maintainer in Rankin Inlet, we had to stop that program because there was no one applying or no interest. For pre-apprenticeship cook, four applied and

one dropped out. In Iqaluit, three applied for trades access, but one removed their name. For pre-trades in Rankin Inlet, ten were approved but five removed their names and two took part in the program but failed and one did not write the entrance exam.

I hope I responded to the member's question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just seems a low success rate. I'm wondering what that might have to do with. Is that because the level of education requirements are not there before somebody begins or what? How can we get more students to get through the pre-trades so that they can go on to the trades? What are some of the things that the college is doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure there are various reasons. It's mostly evident that some students coming out of high school do not go ahead. Perhaps the programming is not appropriate or maybe they don't want to move to Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit. There are various reasons why.

We keep it open for trades. If they want to enter pre-trades, they have to do upgrading. Maybe that's one of the reasons why there is low interest. As I said, there are various reasons why they are low. We're always open all year long

for this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the list again on 19, I see that the carpentry course is complete here. The other ones, level 1 and level 2, for example, for plumber level 1 and level 2, I'm assuming there are more levels to become a plumber. This is a trade school. If I finish level 2 for being a plumber, where do I go? Am I able to continue my courses in Nunavut or do I have to go outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you want to become a plumber, there are four levels that you have to complete. Yes, you can complete those levels in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister stating that all levels of all of these apprenticeship programs can be delivered in Nunavut? If I went for an electrician apprenticeship, I can do all of my schooling in Nunavut and get my Red Seal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's

exactly how it is. Once you complete the last level, you receive a Red Seal. I don't know how you say "Red Seal" in Inuktitut. Although I don't want to keep going back to Pond Inlet as it's not the only community in Nunavut, there's a young person from Pond Inlet, Daniel, who has received his Red Seal. They're able to get certified in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what I would like to suggest is when you have such good news items like people getting their Red Seal, I think it's a big deal and they would be great role models. I would like to see you do more as a college. You should celebrate your successes much better. You need to show people what could happen at Arctic College if you go to school and you stick with it. You can do posters. You can do commercials. You can do so much to show people what can be done. That was just a suggestion.

My last question on this is: how much does it cost to get accreditation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give you an exact figure. We receive most of those funds from Child and Family Services, but I will be able to give you the information once I get it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're dealing with Nunavut Arctic College. Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get clarification on your 2016-17 business plan. You have the Nursing Program and other programs that are available at Nunavut Arctic College. With the Social Services Worker Program, do you include teaching them *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and traditional healing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program is in Cambridge Bay. We now have new curriculum being produced and it will be more Nunavut-friendly, but then again, as a social services worker, you have to also apply the program so that it meets national standards. I can say that the curriculum includes *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and they will be taught *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to stay on the same subject, but thank you very much for your response. There is nothing that states *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in what I'm reading. We are Canadians and we follow Canadian standards. Despite that, we have the existence of Nunavut and we have this desire to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the Social

Worker Program. Is it possible to integrate more and more of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the child development programs? Can you enlighten me on that possibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think I stated earlier that we work very closely with the Ilisaqsivik Society because it is an Inuit cultural organization and we have a close working relationship with them.

Further, all of the college programming we offer needs to be based on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as well. As an example, our government has that as a foundation, so all of the programs also need to have that foundation. Yes, I fully expect that.

Currently the Social Worker Program in Cambridge Bay has students and they also use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Piqqusilirivvik is a facility managed and run by Inuit, using real Inuit traditions. In working with them, we anticipate revamping these programs to determine how best to offer them. This will be our basis to collaborate with Piqqusilirivvik on this front. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I think I'll be smiling all evening, as will my colleagues. We have quite a few pages to go and my

time hasn't run out yet, but I will just leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College. Nunavut Arctic College. On page M-3. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$37,619,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues, along with our hard-working officials.

Another person who didn't sit at the witness table but who was available is Richard Paton. As well as Eric and Joe, and all of the teachers who teach these programs at Nunavut Arctic College, I thank them all as they will be able make these programs a success, especially with support from you.

Thank you all very much and have a very pleasant evening.

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

We will take a five-minute break while we prepare for EIA.

>>Committee recessed at 17:00 and resumed at 17:08

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole I would now like to ask the Minister of EIA if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Taptuna.

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

Thank you very much. Minister Taptuna, please introduce your officials. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy and on my left is Associate Deputy Minister Virginia Mearns, and over in the gallery there is Chris Hickey, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to his officials. You may now proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members. I welcome the opportunity to present the 2017-18 main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the 2017-2020 business plan.

Today, as I indicated, accompanying me are Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister, Virginia Mearns, Associate Deputy Minister, and I want to make that correction, Les Hickey, Director of Corporate Services, who is in the gallery.

As a central department that provides support to cabinet, EIA continues to lead interdepartmental coordination on *Sivumut Abluqta* for departments and agencies and the overall work of the public service. Besides interdepartmental coordination, EIA continues to move the Government of Nunavut policy discussions to ensure these interests are represented at the national and international levels.

There are six lines of core business within EIA:

- Directorate
- Strategic Planning
- Sivumuaqatigiit
- Public Service Training
- Intergovernmental Affairs
- Devolution Secretariat

In the 2016-17 fiscal year cabinet approved the reorganization of the Sivumuaqatigiit Division. As a result of the reorganization, the department has created a new division, the Public Service Training Division. The department is now in a position to dedicate appropriate resources to

implement the provisions in Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* through the newly formed Sivumuaqatigiit Division. The reorganization also allows for refocused and continued delivery of training and development opportunities to all public servants through the Public Service Training Division.

Prior to elaborating on the divisional details, I am pleased to report the department's main estimates for the 2017-18 fiscal year totals \$27,886,000. Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to present the departmental business plan at this time. The main estimate amount is comprised of approximately \$17,740,000 allocated towards salaries and benefits, \$340,000 for grants and contributions, and \$9.8 million for the remaining operations and maintenance costs.

The changes as they relate to core business areas are as follows:

The Directorate, as you know, provides the overall management and coordination of activities for the Executive Branch of government. As secretary to the cabinet, the deputy minister provides support to cabinet and ministers. The division also provides advisory services regarding access to information and privacy protection issues, overall government communications, and administrative support to both the department and the Utility Rates Review Council. The Directorate also supports the Senior Personnel Secretariat function.

The Strategic Planning Division continues to provide advice on business planning, strategies, policies, and

legislation, as well as support on collecting vital statistical information. The division has been involved in initiatives tied to the implementation of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Through the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, the Government of Nunavut has been involved in the collection of data that will help the Government of Canada compile the information needed for Nunavut Inuit labour force analysis. Through this partnership, the Government of Nunavut employee survey was conducted last year. I look forward to updating my colleagues on the results later this year.

Mr. Chairman, the Sivumuaqatigiit Division continues to be responsible for providing human resources planning and direction on initiatives aimed at increasing and maintaining Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut and for providing assistance and support to departments in training and developing their staff, including interns. Moving forward, this division will be the central point of contact with regard to the development and reporting on the Government of Nunavut's departmental Inuit employment plans. The division also oversees the development and delivery of new training programs specifically designed for Inuit employees.

Mr. Chairman, the Public Service Training Division is responsible for providing assistance and support to departments in training and developing their staff. The division is also responsible for leading and coordinating initiatives to support the government's decentralized model.

With the launch of the Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Program in 2016, the Government of Nunavut has seen the first cohort's graduation of the supervisors' series and the first graduation of the senior managers' series this past February. This is a program geared to enhance leadership development within our government.

The Intergovernmental Affairs Division provides leadership and coordination for the management and development of strategies, policies, and initiatives relevant to international, federal, provincial and territorial organizations. The division coordinates matters related to Nunavut's seniors, as well as establishing support throughout Nunavut with a network of government liaison officers in each of our communities.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year the Government of Nunavut provided a grant of \$100,000 to the Nunavut Seniors Society and we will continue to support the society in the 2017-18 fiscal year as well. The department remains committed to its responsibility for seniors by ensuring effective delivery of programs and services available to the territory's seniors.

The transfer of authority over Crown land and non-renewable resources in Nunavut is a priority for this government and essential for the territory's long-term political and economic development. The Devolution Secretariat leads both the Government of Nunavut's preparation for and participation in negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated towards the conclusion of a devolution agreement. With the appointment of a new chief federal

negotiator in July of 2016 and a new federal negotiating mandate approved in October of 2016, the secretariat has resumed tripartite negotiations on an agreement in principle.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' departmental main estimates and business plan, and I welcome comments from members and look forward to answering your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The department's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,886,000 has remained unchanged since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates.

The number of positions in the department has remained unchanged. However, the standing committee notes that a number of positions in the department appear to have been re-categorized and/or reclassified. The government's March 31, 2016 quarterly employment report indicated that the department had 46 paraprofessional positions and 7 administrative support

positions. The government's December 31, 2016 quarterly employment report indicated that the department had 6 paraprofessional positions and 36 administrative support positions. The standing committee encourages the minister to publicly clarify the rationale for this change.

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

The government's mandate statement, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Premier on March 20 of 2014, indicates that one of the primary goals of the 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."

In 2015 the government awarded a contract for its "operational audit" initiative. On March 16 of 2016 the Summary Report on Phase 1 of the Operational Audit was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that "Phase one of the operational review has been completed. Recommendations were provided to all departments on areas where improvements can be made in short, medium, and long term. A comprehensive review is underway with regard to shared services, as well as policy structure within the Government of Nunavut."

The standing committee urges the government to ensure that the final

report from the operational review exercise is tabled prior to the dissolution of the current Legislative Assembly so that its recommendations can be considered by the incoming Members of the Fifth Legislative Assembly.

The department's 2016-19 business plan indicated that it had been "working with the Deputy Ministers Committee on Quality of Life to coordinate Government of Nunavut services to Seniors provided by all departments." The department's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that "A Senior's Handbook has been developed, with plans for distribution to Nunavut communities. The department monitored the assessment of current and future long-term care needs in Nunavut...The department has participated in meetings with representatives from the Nunavut Seniors Society to discuss areas of joint interest pertaining to Seniors in Nunavut."

The department's proposed 2017-2020 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Continue [its] working relationship with the Nunavut Seniors Society on areas of joint interest pertaining to Seniors in Nunavut." The standing committee notes that the department's main estimates include proposed contribution funding of \$150,000 to the Nunavut Seniors Society.

The department's 2016-19 business plan indicated that one of its priorities in the 2016-17 fiscal year was to "Conduct a 360' evaluation of the Government Liaison Officer Program with the intent of improving service level expectations." The department's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its

priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Enhance services to all Nunavummiut based on the results of the 360° evaluation of the Government Liaison Officer Program."

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 of 2013. Other functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance.

It is important to acknowledge that progress has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Information that is contained in the government's quarterly employment reports indicate that a total of 924 Nunavut Inuit were employed by the government in September of 2001. By December of 2016 that number had increased to 1,762. This represented an increase of approximately 90 percent over the 15-year period. On average the government gained approximately 55 new Inuit employees each year.

It is important for the government to develop realistic and achievable timetables for achieving full representativeness across all occupational categories in the government. This is a significant challenge. Information contained in the government's December 2016 quarterly employment report indicates that there were a total of 4,773 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies. 3,537 of these positions were filled, of which 1,762 were filled by Nunavut Inuit. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 2,294 new Nunavut

Inuit employees to achieve a fully representative public service.

The 2015-16 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that 2,416 employees were receiving a bilingual bonus. 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.” The standing committee supports the introduction of standardized language proficiency testing that is objective and consistent.

The department’s proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that “The Government of Canada appointed a new Chief Federal Negotiator in July 2016 and a new federal negotiating mandate was approved in October 2016. Tri-partite negotiations of an agreement-in-principle have resumed.”

The standing committee continues to encourage the government to publicly clarify the number of federal positions that are envisioned to be transferred to the territorial public service as part of the devolution process. It is also important to be mindful that the transfer of significant numbers of federal positions and personnel may not necessarily have an immediately positive impact on the government’s efforts to achieve a fully representative workforce.

The standing committee notes that on January 27 of 2017 the governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon announced that the three jurisdictions will be working to develop a “new Pan-Territorial Northern Policy.”

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed to the page-by-page review of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, we will take a 20-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:29 and resumed at 17:53*

Chairman: I call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate on page B-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Premier and your officials.

I’m not sure which page my question will fall under. It’s about the Nunavut Seniors Society, Ilagiit. If I can ask a question about that, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rumbolt, in his opening comments, said that you want to give the society \$150,000. Can you clarify to us what that \$150,000 would be used for? I know it would be for different programs and services. I would just like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the \$150,000 is not yet approved. We’re looking forward to the approval of that

for the fiscal year 2017-18. I did mention that we gave them \$100,000 for core operations and to develop some official by-laws, including some office spaces. That's for the \$150,000 that's still yet to be approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I guess the \$100,000 that we approved would be to set it up. Can you say now what the \$150,000 would be used for? I'm sure they were set up with the \$100,000. What would the extra \$150,000 be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the \$150,000 being approved at 2017-18. The \$150,000 would be for core operation, training, travel and honoraria for meetings, and other things that pertain to administrations and operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for clarifying that. I'll move on to something else. On March 16 last year in 2016 you tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly on the first phase of the operational audit of Government of Nunavut programs. That was the first phase. The second phase of the operational audit was to have been undertaken between January 2016 and October 2016. That's the second phase. As of today what is the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. We did finish the first phase of the audit. In that first phase the audit included the finer detailed evaluations for the second phase.

At this point we're looking at some ways of dealing with the refining of some of the shared responsibilities we have between departments and corporations. One of the things that we're looking at of course is how to process a business plan between the departments. Of course we also did the transfer of some of the things that were in Family Services. We're initiating the move for seniors' care from Family Services into Health where it has a better fit, where it could be more effective and efficient for our seniors.

Overall the second phase continues. We will be looking at that with our other departmental partners, especially with Finance; again, business plans, as I had mentioned; how the grants are delivered through Finance; and policy development. Those are the things we want to concentrate on where it becomes more effective for the government and the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the second phase of the operational audit, will you be able to give us a report before the end of this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we intend to have that completed before the dissolution of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And in this House? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member repeat that question, please? There must have been some glitch in the audio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe it was my audio. Are you contemplating tabling the second phase report in this House before the end of the term of this government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

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

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on this topic, you already answered part of my question and, if that's the case, I apologize right away. Is there anything

really obvious after the first phase? Is there something really obvious in terms of employment positions or in the expenditures? Has there been anything moved as a result of the first phase of the operational audit? You sort of said something already about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I want to ask you to have my deputy minister clarify that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the first clarification is that I should caution members that there is not some overall report that is going to be produced.

The first phase of the audit was done by a consulting firm. The second phase is parcelled out to representative departments. The parts that the Premier was specifically speaking to are being performed by both the Department of Finance and by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. As the Premier said, we will bring a report into this House before the dissolution of the government, but it is not going to another consulting report like phase 2.

With respect to how things are going, certainly phase 1, as we have reported into the House before, did not suggest that we should be changing any of the programs *per se* or finding any ways to particularly save dollars or program

dollars in particular, but the second phases that are being looked at in the Department of Finance with respect to centralizing more functions or having a shared services model may produce some economies of scale.

In the department of the executive we are looking at the business planning process, although that's in its infancy. We're just getting started on that. In particular we're looking at policy development in terms of committee structures and how we start and create a policy and bring it all the way through to approval at cabinet and all of the committees that go along there. We're hoping that we can find some good economies of scale there as well.

Mr. Chairman, I apologize if I'm speaking a bit too quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Also, when we agreed on *Sivumut Abluqta*, which was tabled here in the House on March 20, 2014, all the MLAs agreed on the review of all government programs to determine what is working well, what needs improvement, and what we should stop doing. The final question I have is: during this review, what specific programs or services have the government identified that should be removed because they no longer serve an adequate purpose? Is there anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the first phase identified that there are no programs that should be discontinued. We did move over the Family Services' division for seniors care into Health, but at this time there are no programs. We may refine some in our contribution agreements. We certainly want to make sure that they're all relevant to the departments and to the purpose of what the intention is to do for the people of Nunavut. There is no program *per se* that is going to be discontinued at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I mistakenly asked the Department of Economic Development and Transportation about the GLO position unintentionally. I apologize for that.

Welcome, Mr. Premier along with your officials.

I have a question that I wish to raise regarding the issue stemming from our community last year and prior to that. When we have to travel outside of Canada, we require a passport identifying our citizenship. Passport photos require a specialized camera to take a photo that is specifically designed for the passport photo size.

A person who required a passport had their photo taken with the camera used by the RCMP, but when they submitted it, they were told it was not the right type of photo and that their passport was

declined. As a result they were not able to attend the event outside of the country.

Now, in consideration of the smaller communities needing to keep up with current technological needs, specifically with respect to passport photos, and because of the fact we have antiquated equipment, I wonder if this has been taken into consideration about future cameras purchased for driver's licences and have them include the parameters specific for passports.

The camera for driver's licences is used just for that purpose. I wonder if a better type of camera can be used to be able to do both types of photos. Has that ever been considered? I would like to understand, which is why I am asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GLOs are all trained up in processing passport photos. They have new equipment and new cameras. They qualify to sign the photos as legitimate. Again, GLOs do a lot of that work and they're the first point of contact for the government and the community. They are trained and qualified. They do have new cameras in all of our communities. The GLOs have been doing that. Going into the future, I'm sure that the passport photo issue has been resolved. They have new cameras, new equipment, and they're all trained in administrating that type of photograph. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I thank our Premier for giving me a very clear answer to that. When I get home, I'll help them understand it. I don't really have any other questions other than that, so I will just thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm not on the right page, please let know. I can only look at the Inuktitut copy. On page 46 in Inuktitut, around the middle of the page, there's a really long paragraph, but somewhere in the middle of that paragraph, I'm looking at the Inuktitut business plan on page 46. It's around the middle of the page and it states that in Nunavut the RCMP is going on the radio every month in all the communities and reporting on what the police had been doing the previous month. Is this part of their responsibility for the communities, reporting back to the community as to what they do in the community, or am I asking the question at the wrong time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood the committee member's question. Although it's not within our business plan here, it's probably in Justice. I do know, having been a past councillor and deputy mayor, that yes, the RCMP does report their activities monthly to the hamlet and the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, it's clear that this is a Department of Justice matter. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask it to the appropriate department, so that's it for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,706,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question in this particular area, but we will see what kind of answer we get.

Your department's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Revise the annual Nunavut Food Price Survey and examine the possibility of conducting a reduced version of the survey on a quarterly basis." To what extent is your department working with the federal Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs on its review of the Nutrition North Canada Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee member can identify the page number, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't reading off any particular page. It was just a question I had for myself. I was just hoping he would have an answer. If he doesn't, that's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Of course that's one of the priorities that we have identified. In the past I have written letters of INAC responsible for Nutrition North Canada. I believe that we have made at least 17 different recommendations on how to improve that.

Also, through the surveys we have conducted in partnership with the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics and the departments, we intend to make sure that we come up with data that's usable, that reflects what we're trying to do here. We want to make sure that we want to have data that we can use quarterly rather than annually.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have the deputy minister elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't add much more than what the Premier has already suggested.

We have certainly worked within all areas of the administration to provide suggestions for improvement to the Nutrition North program. We continue to liaise with INAC and the assistant deputy minister responsible for the north through the department of the executive, but nothing further to report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,303,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page B-6. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,403,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page B-7. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$299,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular section deals with GLOs, so I'll just ask a couple of questions in that area.

Just for the record, I wonder if the Premier can update us today as to which communities do not have a government

liaison officer in place at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last information I have is that all the positions have been filled. All the communities have GLOs with the exception of Iqaluit, where we do have the executive director stationed within this city. He acts as the liaison and supervises the regional managers, who in turn manage community government liaison officers. At this point we have all positions filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to know that they finally filled all these positions; it has been a long time.

Also, your department's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 year is to "Enhance services to all Nunavummiut based on the results of the 360° evaluation of the Government Liaison Officer Program." What specific service enhancements are being planned? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. At this point evaluation has not been completed. Once that's done, we want to ensure that we establish our priority areas for implementation of that particular task to ensure that the GLO positions be more

effective and efficient in dealing with our people in the communities for services and programs that we deliver as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Realizing that this report is not yet complete, I'm just wondering if, at this point in time, there are any specific services that will no longer be provided by government liaison officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we aim to enhance the delivery of programs through our GLOs, not take away some of these programs and services. This is to enhance the ability for them to provide timely and effective services to our people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Premier and staff, good afternoon.

My questions are in the seniors' area. Your department's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that "A Senior's Handbook has been developed, with plans for distribution to Nunavut communities." As of today what is the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Absolutely the handbook is completed. It's complete. I intend to table that on Monday. That should be distributed throughout all our communities in all official languages.

After that's done, we're going to distribute big-font documents where the visually impaired can have access to reading all the programs in all official languages.

Again, that certainly will enhance and make the programs more effective and have all the seniors at least understand that there are programs out there within the government. There are many programs in many departments. Through this handbook, with the help of GLOs and the hamlets, they will certainly be able to understand what programs they qualify for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the government currently reviewing the issue of harmonizing the age at which residents are considered to be "seniors" for the purpose of eligibility for certain government programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We quickly looked at that and realized that it will be very difficult to harmonize the age. As the committee member well knows, in Canada the federal government is 65; probably going to be 67 within a few short years. In NTI it's 55. In our government here

65 is a senior and an elder, but the eligibility criteria in the programs would state at what age you qualify for a senior for the seniors' programs. Most programs have an eligibility age requirement of 60. It will clearly state in these programs where seniors may qualify is at age 60, but age 65 is the federal number, which may at one point change going into the future to 67. At this point we're not going to harmonize the age because we do have eligibility criteria built into our programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On March 16 of 2016 the Legislative Assembly passed a formal motion which recommended that the Government of Nunavut "develop an updated and comprehensive strategy and action plan to address the needs of Nunavut's elders..." When will this be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? That will be my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the committee member's question on that. Again, on Monday I'll be tabling the strategic framework which will initiate the process of coming up with a strategy for the territory. We intend to consult with our partners to ensure that the strategy is going to be something that's workable. We're going to have action plans and implementation plans in it. I'll be tabling the framework this coming Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,982,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Page B-9. Sivumuaqatigiit. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Premier, Mr. D'Arcy, and Ms. Mearns. I'm going to start off on... I asked the Minister of Finance on the Language Incentive Program. As I recall, I asked the minister questions I think it was last year too on the same topic. (interpretation) Now where is it? Please wait a moment.

(interpretation ends) I'll start off with this, the government's staffing division. It's located in the Department of Finance, we know, and the government's Inuit employment initiatives are located under your department, EIA. How often do your two departments meet on Inuit employment targets or to coordinate initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, there are many partners that we do have with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and our agency partners. Mr. Chairman, if I can have Ms. Mearns respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs works with all departments and agencies across the Government of Nunavut and in particular the Department of Finance on employment initiatives. We are expecting to have more interactions and more partnership with the Department of Finance going forward, especially in the 2017-18 year with regard to Inuit-specific initiatives. Again, we work with all departments and agencies across the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I found my question on the Language Incentive Program.

The IUT's annual report 2014-15 was tabled on October 21, 2015, which indicates that the authority has collaborated with EIA and the Pirurvik Centre on developing competency levels.

What's the current timeline for introducing standardized Inuit language proficiency tests across government? Also with that, there are going to be three levels, if I'm not mistaken. Can the minister clarify what those three levels will be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a hard timeline, but we certainly hope to introduce this initiative during the 2017-18 year. Currently the tests themselves are being versioned and being translated into five dialects to ensure that each part of the territory is able to go through the testing in an adequate way. IUT is also determining how that testing is going to roll out.

Along with that, once we're comfortable with what their product is, ourselves in the department of the executive will be looking at the training programs that we provide to be able to further assist people in the three areas, which are what you would expect for any language: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

With respect to the Department of Finance, they actually hold the pen on the *Human Resources Manual* directive for the training programs where all three entities and Culture and Heritage, representing IUT, are working together to finalize the product and, if you like, bring it out into the marketplace some time during 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will current employees who receive a bilingual bonus, whether they speak the Inuit language or French, be required to pass this new proficiency test in order to receive that bonus in the first, second, or third level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

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

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my line of questioning to the Minister of Finance I had asked about how many positions in the public sector are required to be bilingual. He pointed to the number of people that receive a bilingual bonus, which is in the *Public Service Annual Report, 2015-16*.

If I recall, it was over 1,200 bilingual bonuses that were paid out. Do you foresee looking at, in working with the Department of Finance, any thoughts of having proficiency levels identified for an X amount of public servants, if you catch my drift? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Mr. D'Arcy respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The language proficiency tests would not be particularly job description dependent. There are two separate things that are at play here. Individuals would be tested for their language proficiency in French, for example, but it may not necessarily be tied to the job description. If they're completely proficient in the French language, they would be at the high level and receive a slightly higher bit of remuneration. It goes without

saying that Inuktitut would be the same thing.

With respect to how many jobs specifically need to be bilingual in the bureaucracy in the government, that's dependent upon their job description and what they're actually doing, and is not tied to the Language Incentive Program, although one would argue that if you needed to be bilingual for the position, you would preferably be operating at the highest level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I misquoted myself with the bilingual numbers. It's 2,416 according to the same Public Service Annual Report. Given that the dream of Nunavut with Article 23, Inuit employment, we were aiming to have a reflective public service. Is that something that the department, in working with the Department of Finance, you can work towards having 85 percent of the public service be able to speak bilingually? Can the minister comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Yes, that is our attention, to fulfill Arctic 23 where we have many programs and partnerships to try to reach that goal. There are a lot of technical things that are being done at this point. There are many meetings that take place, including with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, Ms. Mearns here participates in a number of these groups and working groups and she can explain clearly on how the processes work. Our intention of course is to reach that goal eventually. If I can, Mr. Chairman, have Ms. Mearns elaborate more on the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to identifying positions that require Inuktitut as a part of a position within the department, it is an element within departmental Inuit employment plans that needs to be reflected. That is dependent on the composition and responsibilities of the department. This is something that we expect to have a better understanding government-wide as to which areas and which do require Inuktitut or Inuktitut as a part of the jobs that are carried out.

With achieving a representative level, there is definitely the desire to have the representative level within the government and also the representative level to be able to operate bilingually with Inuktitut as the other language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. That leads me to the initiatives that the government undertakes with respect to Inuit employment.

We know that under this branch, Sivumuaqatigiit, their internship Sivuliqtiksatsat program... I'm quoting the *Public Service Annual Report 2015-16*

on page 51. The internship was started in 2001. I had some figures on this page and page 52 that kind of don't correspond. Since its inception, it says that 28 beneficiaries have completed the program, and then on the next page it talked about... .

There is a little chart that says, completed internships, 28 out of a total of 51, and then it says, "Of the 51 internships 84% (43 beneficiaries) still work for the GN." Is that saying that they started the internship and didn't complete it but they still work? Is that how I'm interpreting that? In 2001, since it started, 51 total internships. It's quite low in uptake from what I see.

I know there are some challenges. Maybe he can say what the main challenges have been with this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to today we've had a total of 29 interns complete the internship program. There have been instances in the past where Inuit have started the internship program and were not able to complete it for a combination of reasons. That may be the reason why there are conflicting numbers.

Right now we have 16 intern positions all together, all of which are essentially

spoken for by departments across the Government of Nunavut. In addition to that, we currently have a wait-list of departments that are interested in taking intern positions as soon as graduates complete their internships in their respective departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you clarify how many are on the wait-list? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we have seven departments that are on the wait-list to have interns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aside from Sivuliqtiksat we know the newer program, Hivuliqtikhanut, was recently in the last couple of years. It has 24 spots and, if I have my research correct, there were 19 that completed so far. Currently there are 34 that completed. Out of those 19 are Inuit that have completed that program. Currently there are 47 students who were employees under that, 27 of which are Inuit. If I calculate all those together, there are 29 interns in the Sivuliqtiksat, and then 19 and 27 for Hivuliqtikhanut.

That's less than 100, I would say, and that's over a number of years.

However, quoting back to the Public Service Annual Report on page 8, it shows a breakdown of GN public service. I note the Inuit population that's noted for 2014-15 is 84 percent and in the 2015-16 year it's 84 percent, which we know we're striving for 85 percent, but this report is saying 84 percent Inuit population.

Using those figures, I'm looking at also the TRPS report, the most recent one, 2016 December 31. I'm going to share some numbers here if you allow me to, but I'll have a question for the minister after because I'm just trying to paint the picture of what the public service is like and what we're trying to aim for to me. Using 84 percent on page 3 of the TRPS report, it shows the employment summary by government, all departments in different categories.

Let's start at the bottom; 1,337 admin. positions total, 320 vacant, 859 of which are Inuit. However, 85 percent of the total, 1,337, your 84 percent is 1,123. That's the target, I think, just for the admin. category. There's a gap of 264 Inuit positions that we need to fill. And then in the paraprofessional category, 1,012 paraprofessional positions, of which 421 are Inuit. Vacancy is 296, but out of the 1,012 positions, 84 percent of that is 815, which means there's a gap of 429. In the next one up, professional, 1,750 positions, 351 of which are Inuit. 85 percent of 1,750 is 1,470, so there's a gap of 1,119. If you go up to the executive, all together 84 percent is 2,247 of a gap.

When we're talking about the Hivuliqtikhanut program, there are how many other Inuit employment initiatives or programs? That's barely scratching the surface. It's peanuts; half a peanut of 2,247. Let me bring up the Makigiaqta training corporation. There's \$50 million set aside for governments. Where do you see the government maybe potentially using that fund to closing that gap of 2,247 positions that need to be filled by Inuit to reach an 84 percent level of representation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, that's our goal. We intend to train Inuit to fill in these positions. It's going to take a while. As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have many other organizations and entities that do hire Inuit. In fact in some cases the LHOs and municipalities in some communities are 100 percent Inuit, and we can't force our Inuit to work for the government.

At this point I'm very pleased that we do have funding that's designated for Inuit specific training. We've never had that before in the past where the federal government gave us \$10,000 specifically for Inuit training. Now we have \$40 million. The member quoted \$50 million; the other \$10 million is specific to the Government of Canada.

With that, we can make long-term training programs unlike in the past, where most of the training programs were just focused on one-year annual funding. Mr. Chairman, that's our intention. Makigiaqta has \$175 million

and we intend to work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to make sure that the Inuit get the best specific training.

We're not just talking about training for regular operators or even services; we're looking for paraprofessionals and professionals at this point. We're rolling out three new programs this year. I know there are a lot of numbers there, the new government-wide numbers that were quoted there. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would let Ms. Mearns explain in detail some of these initiatives that are taking place already.

We know it's going to take a bit of time to reach that 85 percent of Inuit content within the government. Also we know for a fact that just in Baker Lake alone, at the Meadowbank site there are over 400 Inuit working there. It's something that's very positive. It doesn't necessarily mean that Inuit are unemployed because we don't have the 85 percent number within the government.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Ms. Mearns go into a little more detail of the numbers that the committee member quoted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to do is start off with some clarification about the Hivuliqtikhanut leadership program. This program is a three-stream program made available to all Government of Nunavut employees. We have the emerging managers' stream for those that are interested in pursuing the opportunity to become a manager within

the Government of Nunavut. We have the supervisors' series, which is targeted towards those that are currently supervisors within the Government of Nunavut.

We completed the first supervisors' series last year, June of 2016, where we graduated 19 individuals. We also recently graduated 15 participants in our senior managers' stream. That was just this past month. We currently are in the midst of delivering our first emerging managers' series, which is going to continue with implementation plans up until the end of the contract period, which is 2023. We are just starting our second round of the supervisors' series, which will continue on for six modules.

With regard to accessing funding from the \$50 million implementation funds, we have successfully put forward two proposals to the Government of Canada where in which, as I mentioned earlier, we're able to continue delivering the emerging managers' series up until 2023.

In addition to that, we put forward four initiatives for consideration, which include a policy development program, training travel allowance to enable departments to ensure that their employees are able to travel to where training is offered, especially for those that are in smaller communities where travel costs become inhibitive.

We also have a career broadening program that we will be delivering, which will allow for Inuit employees to gain experience, upwards of three different positions, ranging anywhere from 12 months to three years.

Those are items that are coming forward and will be made available in addition to the current programming that we have available to our employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page B-9. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Sivumuaqatigiit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,723,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Public Service Training. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,112,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page B-11. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Devolution Secretariat. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,358,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page B-3. Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,886,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions from committee members. We take the questions and comments very seriously.

We intend to make sure that we try to improve wherever we can to make things more effective, efficient, and this is for providing services and programs to our people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my deputies here, including our director of policy, and the staff and officials that put a lot of work into this from all departments.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we are all sitting here to try to make sure that we serve our people the best way possible. With our power and means of resources, we intend to make sure that we make our programs fit Nunavummiut. As long as we all do our best, it's going to be a challenge at times, but we do appreciate the participation of the committee and everybody that sits in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you. We will take a five-minute break to set up for the next department. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:56 and resumed at 19:00*

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole I would now like to ask the Minister of Environment if he has officials that he would like to

appear before the committee. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials enter into the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. For the record, please introduce your officials. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the DM, Mr. David Akeeagok, and to my right is the ADM, Mr. Steve Pinksen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome. You can now proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present my department's business plan and main estimates for the year 2017-18.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2017-18 is \$27,742,000. There has been no increase from the 2016-17 budget. However, \$697,000 was reallocated from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Energy Secretariat to the new Climate Change Secretariat.

Climate change is an increasingly important issue in Nunavut, and in the coming year my department will work with the Government of Canada to begin implementation of the new *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

By partnering with other organizations whenever possible, the Department of Environment continues to be successful in maximizing the impacts of our funds. In the 2016-17 fiscal year we were able to leverage over \$4.6 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in the 2017-18 year.

This year my department will develop an environmental protection strategic plan to assist in the development of strong strategies and objectives for working as an intergovernmental team. We will also develop a strategy for dealing with contaminated soil and offer consistent spill training to stakeholders in order to prevent spills and promote best practices in spill response. My department has also introduced the *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*.

The careful and effective co-management of wildlife continues to be a main focus of my department. As a result of extensive public participation last year, a total allowable harvest has been set for the Bluenose East caribou herd and management actions are being finalized for the Bathurst and Baffin Island herds.

On Devon Island we are recommending an increase in the total allowable harvest for muskox, a measure which would greatly benefit the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and

Pond Inlet, and also provide an alternative source of country food for Baffin Island, which is still facing a scarcity of caribou.

Wildlife harvesting plays a vital role in the economic, cultural and physical health of our communities. Indeed we will continue our programs of developing educational resources aimed at promoting safe and responsible hunting practices in the territory.

We are trying to address the issues of polar bear abundance around the communities in western Hudson Bay through deterrent actions and implementation of the Wildlife Damage and Compensation Program. In the coming year we will also begin co-management discussions with the affected communities based on the results of the recent aerial survey and on the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* shared with us by people in the region. In addition we will carry out surveys of the Gulf of Boothia and Davis Strait polar bear populations.

In the 2017-18 fiscal year our Territorial Parks and Special Places Division will be finalizing master plans and mineral assessments for the new proposed parks in Arviat and Sanikiluaq, and we will complete a management plan for the existing park in Kugluktuk. In keeping with our obligations under the territorial Inuit impact and benefit agreement, we will also establish co-management committees in Arviat, Kimmirut, and Iqaluit.

My department continues to deliver the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory project, recording *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* that will inform

resource management and sustainable development activities. We are also continuing to deliver the Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program. We did provide training to a group of Iqalumiut and have been following up with the other communities that have received training to ensure that their fisheries are proceeding successfully. Fisheries development in all regions will be guided by the renewed Nunavut Fisheries Strategy.

We are continuing to work with the Government of Canada to [minimize] barriers to the trade in sealskin products by Inuit. My department is [seeing] strong growth in Nunavut of this traditional economy and we want to keep our doors open to the international trade in Inuit-made products while also supporting a vibrant local market for sealskin products.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's 2017-18 main estimates and business plan will bring real benefits to the people and wildlife who call Nunavut home. Thank you for this opportunity to share our plans with you. I will be pleased to take any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates

and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,742,000 has increased by 2.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 138.5. This is an increase of five positions from the 2016-17 main estimates, which the department is proposing to include in the recently established Climate Change Secretariat.

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

On November 8 of 2016 *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2 2016-2017* received assent. This bill provided for the transfer of funding and positions from the Economic Development and Transportation's Energy Secretariat to the Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat. The change took effect on November 30 of 2016.

The department's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that the Climate Change Secretariat will be responsible for implementing the government's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy, and the clean energy-related aspects of the government's Energy Strategy. The standing committee encourages the minister to table each of these strategies in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the administration of the government's *Grants and Contributions in Support of Harvesters Policy*, which includes provisions for the department's Fur Pricing Program, Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program, and Community Harvesters Assistance Program.

During the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of questions concerning the department's plans to introduce new harvester support programs. Members noted with concern that the department does not include plans to introduce any new harvester support programs in its proposed 2017-2020 business plan. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of updating these programs to ensure that the government's policies and funding levels remain relevant and adequate to meet the needs of Nunavut's harvesters.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the administration of the *Wildlife Act* and is responsible for fulfilling the government's responsibilities concerning wildlife management as mandated under federal legislation, national and international agreements and conventions, and the co-management of wildlife as required under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

On September 4 of 2015 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board issued a notice stating that it would be conducting a written public hearing to consider the Department of Environment's proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan, which was developed in cooperation with co-management partners, including

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, regional wildlife offices, and hunters and trappers organizations. Once it has received final approval, the standing committee encourages the minister to table this management plan in the Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Environment's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that it intends to develop and implement a number of wildlife management initiatives over the next three fiscal years, including a number of population estimates for various polar bear and caribou subpopulations, such as the western Hudson Bay and southern Hudson Bay polar bear populations. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly about the importance of using non-invasive wildlife research methods. During the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns regarding the use of collaring when conducting surveys on wildlife in Nunavut.

The standing committee continues to encourage the department to work with his federal and provincial counterparts to explore options that will allow all co-management partners to perform comprehensive population surveys that do not disturb the migration patterns and behaviour of wildlife in the territory.

In its proposed 2017-2020 business plan, the department also indicates that one of its goals for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year is to finalize the Baffin Island

Caribou Management Plan. Once it has received final approval, the standing committee encourages the minister to table this management plan in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Protection Branch of the department is responsible for protecting people, wildlife, and natural spaces in Nunavut through its environmental compliance, land use and environmental assessment, and pollution prevention programs. The department is also responsible for the government's Contaminated Sites program, which undertakes work relating to contaminated sites, and identifying and assessing the government's environmental liabilities.

During the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns regarding the need for disposal sites for contaminants within the communities that may be established under the *Environmental Protection Act*. The standing committee strongly encourages the minister to work with municipalities to identify and address each community's need for such disposal sites.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and draft 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. General comments? Go to page I-4. Environment. Corporate Management. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome Minister Savikataaq and his officials.

If I'm asking out of line, Mr. Chairman, please let me know. I will be basing my questions on the minister's opening comments. On page 2 it speaks to the issue of polar bear abundance around the communities. Mr. Chairman, I apologize to you if I'm not in line.

However, I heard last winter about the polar bears that can be harvested. I also heard about the Nunavik residents who took the matter to court because they were not happy about the total allowable harvest on polar bears. Can you explain a little bit about what happened? I would like to hear your side of this story so that we can better understand of what it was about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this could possibly be going in front of the courts, I can't talk too much on the matter. That's all I can say about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Enook, do you have another question aside from what the minister just indicated? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, is it prohibited to give the reason why they are taking the government to court? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook, I may have to rule your question out of order as it is

before the courts, but if the minister wishes to reply, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I can say is that the court case is involved. They don't agree with the process that is used to come up with the total allowable harvest for polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I probably understand and I don't know if that's already in front of the courts, but that's okay. We have heard that they are trying to get this through the court, but it's okay if you don't want to talk about it. I'll move on.

In your documents, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut government made an announcement that they would be working together to address climate change and the impacts to Nunavummiut. You also stated on November 7, 2016 that Nunavut Tunngavik and the Nunavut government sent a delegation to the 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Can you describe the specific outcomes of this conference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We sent one delegate to that meeting. I think they talked a lot about climate change. All I have right now is that they had a lot of talk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of talk but no action? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the most I can say about that is they agreed to reduce the greenhouse gases that each country produced. I'm sure they talked about the Paris accord and the targets there that have to be met. With the new carbon tax that's going to be implemented by the federal government, that's part of the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 7, 2016, at the same time, a joint news release was announced that "NTI and the GN will co-host the largest climate change adaptation initiative in Nunavut's history, and involve participation and input from Inuit from across the territory." According to the news release, this initiative was set to take place in Iqaluit during January 2017. If that went ahead, can you list the specific organizations that attended this event and can you describe the outcome of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that that conference did go ahead and I did attend it for a short while. There were two representatives from each community in Nunavut or supposed to be, but some candidates didn't come due to weather.

It was a productive conference. A lot of it was from *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, traditional knowledge. There has been an audio and video recording of it. The elders made a lot of recommendations. This audio and video will be produced and will be available in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you clarify who was responsible for covering the cost of this event? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government department, INAC, gave the funds to NTI and then NTI funded the workshop. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to your department's 2017-2020 draft business plan... I'm trying to side translate this myself and I'm not sure of the actual terminology. The Climate Change Secretariat is responsible for the clean energy aspect of the Government of Nunavut's Energy Strategy. Can you describe what specific clean energy initiatives your department has undertaken to date, particularly for the 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Climate Change Secretariat is more involved in the tracking of the emissions and effects of climate change. I believe that the member is about energy-producing stuff like solar panels or wind generator. That might be more under the QEC. We are involved, but we don't have any programs in terms of funding stuff like that at the moment. This is a very new secretariat and we're just starting to get the positions filled and getting the secretariat up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to its draft 2017-2020 business plan one of your department's priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Expand the delivery of the climate change adaptation training course to additional users beyond GN departments." I hope I was understandable. Can you describe what the climate change adaptation training course involves? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the member's question correctly, I believe he's talking about the climate change adaptation course that was put on to government employees. What it is, is it's stuff like make them aware of the permafrost and the permafrost databank that we're creating and other stuff so that they will know that, for example, if you have the permafrost databank and you know that permafrost is really active in one area,

you might not want to build houses there because then the houses will move or you might have to want to put a bigger pad or the roads have to be thicker. It's just a course to try to mitigate any effects that climate change could have or will have on our infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is probably my last question. For the transition of the Energy Secretariat into the new Climate Change Secretariat, perhaps it's just a name transfer. When will the transfer of the Energy Secretariat be finalized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. We took four positions from ED&T from their Energy Secretariat and we added them to the three positions we had in climate change. Currently we have seven positions in the Climate Change Secretariat and jobs are being advertised, but currently all seven positions are filled, four with casuals and three with permanent employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Environment. Corporate Management. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the

Minister of Environment, along with my sister's son-in-law and the other official.

I would like to know if I can ask question on the minister's opening comments. Yes? His opening comments refer to Devon Island that we are familiar with, but I would like some clarification on the four adjacent communities listed. I know it refers to their rights to harvest muskox and it lists Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Resolute Bay.

Grise Fiord has a lot of muskoxen in their area. I wonder where the right to harvest muskox is stemming from and I would like to ask when this harvest will be allowed. In reading the opening comments, will this occur next year or this summer? I would like to know when this will be implemented. That is my first question that I would like an explanation on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Devon Island muskox quota has been increased recently as it was scheduled to be increased. The studies have been completed and the quota now stands at 100 muskoxen. However, that is in front of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, who will decide on the allocation between the communities and the number of tags per community. The QWB will determine the allocation of the 100 tags among the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the response from the minister. However, you stated that it hasn't been finalized yet. Did I understand that correctly? I do understand that the allocation hasn't been finalized, for example, amongst these four communities as to how many tags they will each receive for harvesting muskoxen.

What may become a problem is the access through Lancaster Sound to Devon Island, as it rarely ever freezes over anymore. We used to travel via snowmobile to Devon Island in the past, but for the last three or four years now the sound hasn't frozen to its historic places. Further, in the summer the sound becomes quite windy. That may present a problem to our communities wishing to harvest muskoxen due to the lack of caribou in our areas.

Who was that, maybe the Kiviuq? It can be used to access the island, but if it were to stop, then how would we be supported to harvest muskoxen when the hunting season is officially opened in our future? Perhaps the minister can explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. Currently my officials are working with the Department of Economic Development on ways to support the communities and the application process for funding assistance to use for accessing Devon Island to harvest the muskox. It hasn't been completely identified at this time,

but discussions are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that information as I really wanted to understand the process.

I will move to an entirely different matter in your business plan. I believe we are on page Ji-4 in the Inuktitut version. Are we on that page? Yes. I will keep it short, but I have a question on the Department of Environment's plans for 2016-17 regarding the improvements to the harvester support programs and it was for training hunters, as it is written. What sort of training will this be? I'm just following the Inuktitut version, as it states a training program for harvesters. Can the minister provide the details on what type of training is being contemplated here? Please clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the question raised by the member on training, at this time it would involve classroom classes on various species. The Department of Environment created several training programs, for example, how to hunt for caribou or seals and how to properly butcher and prepare the meat after the harvest.

Also, there are several other training modules under development related to polar bear and narwhal harvesting. They film various aspects of the hunts, which

are viewed in a classroom setting. There are only two modules that have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further, what group is being targeted for the training program? Is it for youth, which I imagine would be the category, or is it also for older hunters? It is for the youth. I really love the idea of a training program as this plan is laid out very well, at least from my perspective, especially the focus on larger species such as polar bear or narwhal due to the work required.

Do you have an idea how long the training program would last or would it become an ongoing program that would last as long as funding is available? Will this become a permanent program? I would like to hear the explanation from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two modules have been completed for two species. There are two more modules being developed for two more species. We anticipate developing two modules every year by filming and teaching the youth about proper harvesting techniques. By using them, it teaches the proper hunting methods. Yes, it would be ongoing until we have the training modules available for all the large species. That is what we would like to try to accomplish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful to the minister for explaining that to my satisfaction. This will be my last question on the training subject.

Will *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* be incorporated and will elder experts on these species be included? There are some Inuit who may be young, but who possess a lot of knowledge and could teach others about certain species. I would like to have elders involved so are they included as possible expert resources for these training programs. Are those the goals of this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the goal is to include elders as well as *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as filming takes place. The elders who are recognized experts on certain species are used to hunt these species. The elders will be both in the video or serve as instructors. However, when the video has been completed and training commences in the classrooms, they will also invite elders to view the video and add anecdotal evidence on the species. It will be left to the instructors on their inclusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question under this division and it's to do with the

distribution of the operations and maintenance budget on page I-7 where it says under headquarters for travel and transportation, a little over \$2 million. I'm wondering why that amount is so high. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason it's that high is the research budget is there and any surveys that are done usually entail helicopters and aircraft. They are very expensive to use. Generally wildlife surveys are very expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give us an idea of how many surveys that will buy him? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, for the coming year, for 2017-18, two polar bear surveys and one caribou survey. These are population estimate surveys, but there is other travel in there. That will buy us three surveys. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Environment. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,880,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page I-5. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably have just one question here. Mr. Chairman, the NWMB had a hearing in Pond Inlet about harvesting narwhals at Albert Harbour and Admiralty Inlet. I'm not sure what that inlet is called in Inuktitut. One of your staff was there at that hearing. Can you tell us why your department didn't provide a written or oral report about the NWMB hearing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Narwhals are managed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They were the presenters. The Department of Environment had an observer. All the data was DFO data and we had no input on that data, but we did send an observer to the meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarity, if they're going to be holding hearings on narwhal or any other marine species, you have never participated because it's run by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the DFO, but it is their mandate to manage all marine wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it stands, your department only has observer status. You can't make any suggestions as to how a hearing should proceed because you only have observer status. Do I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is usually their data and unless we have something otherwise that would... We can say something if we have data that is different, but we are just observers when it is a DFO matter. Anyone from the public can voice their concerns, I believe, when they're having these public consultations in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As if I would understand it right away. With respect to the term that you stated in English, "something otherwise," when would that apply? If it's a marine species, it's the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. You seem to be saying that you're involved sometimes. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is their mandate and we can voice our concerns, but it is their mandate to manage marine wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I clearly understand that it's the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. What I want clarified is if you have ever been involved or not involved in making recommendations or suggestions because it's the mandate of the DFO. I seem to hear that you were never involved because it's the responsibility of the DFO, but you're now saying that you can get involved if it's "something otherwise" or make recommendations or suggestions. Now I'm totally confused. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can explain a little further, it is their mandate, but we work with them and with NTI as co-managers. When the DFO makes a decision, they don't make it in a bubble. They do consultations. They work with the GN. They work with NTI. We talk and then they make a decision. That's about as simple as I can put it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At the end of the day your department is always and only an observer. You don't make recommendations. You don't make any suggestions because it's a DFO issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has it pretty well right. The only time that we might have had recommendations might have been with fish quotas. Other than that, the member has it right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Environment. Program Management. Next on my list, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the department's 2017-2020 business plan, one of your department's priorities for 2017-18 is to "Provide a new population estimate and total allowable harvest recommendation for the...Southern Hudson Bay polar bear population to the NWMB based on survey results and community consultations." That's a quote from your business plan.

On January 19 of 2017 the Makivik Corporation issued a news release announcing that it had filed a judicial review application with the Nunavut Court of Justice concerning the total allowable harvest decisions that were made by the Government of Nunavut and Canada in October of 2016.

Can you clarify what decisions you made regarding the total allowable harvest for the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation, and can you explain what factors lead you to make this decision? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The calculation of the TAH for southern Hudson Bay, we would use more or less the same formula for any polar bear subpopulations we have in Nunavut there. They do a population estimate count. They plug it into a formula which is very complicated and cumbersome, and then a number comes out on the other end which is the recommended TAH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier somebody was asking about the budget for over \$2 million for researching and whatnot. Are there any plans to do a new survey for the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The southern Hudson Bay polar bear population survey was done in 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long before another one is done? How many years have to go by before you do another population study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The schedule is every 15 years. That's what we strive for, but there are many different polar bear populations, so what we strive for is 15 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On September 4 of 2015 the NWMB provided public notice that it would conduct a written public hearing to consider the Department of Environment's proposal for a decision on its proposed Nunavut polar bear co-management plan. Can you provide an update on the status of this Nunavut polar bear co-management plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NWMB will be holding public hearings on the polar bear management plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start by asking about this subject. Members

have previously asked the minister about hunters who lose equipment due to wildlife damages, in particular equipment damaged by polar bears, as many hunters have had their equipment destroyed by bears.

I would like to ask if his department will be looking to simplify that, as members have alluded to the fact that the application process is too complicated and many hunters are reluctant to complete these forms.

Has the Department of Environment prepared new policies or amendments to the application process for wildlife damages? Has this process been started? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps to state it in English, (interpretation ends) wildlife damage compensation, (interpretation) it is currently running and the application forms are in the conservation offices. Anyone can submit an application if their cabin or other equipment is damaged. The harvester should approach the conservation officer for assistance in filling out the form and sending it out. If anyone's cabin is damaged by wildlife, they have that right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds to replace the damaged materials are available, but some communities have pointed out that due to the complexity of the application

forms and required information, people are not comfortable providing that information. This would apply more to unilingual Inuit, as many of them give up trying to complete the forms. I wonder if the funds for wildlife damage compensation have been expended for the fiscal year or if they were even accessed this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time the current process is that an elder or unilingual Inuk who cannot complete the form should approach the conservation officer. If the officer is unable to converse in Inuktitut, then they would call their supervisor in Iqaluit and second an officer who is bilingual or another employee and they would assist the person.

With respect to the fund, the annual amount is set at \$40,000 and there are still funds available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has this compensation funding been increasing or has the fund had growing surpluses every year or does the fund get spent quicker for compensating damages annually? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. As more applications are being submitted to date compared to prior years, the surplus funds have been dwindling every year since the program started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the minister and his officials.

I have three questions on his opening comments starting with page 204. The second paragraph refers to caribou herds. I will read the herd names in English. I want to get some clarification on the herd written as the (interpretation ends) Bluenose East caribou herd. (interpretation) I imagine that population estimates are known, but I would like to get the current information on the population of the herd, if a population study has been completed and, if not, an estimate so that I can know what the status is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Bluenose East caribou herd is situated near Kugluktuk and they cross over to the Northwest Territories. They did a population survey recently and the estimate is 38,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the population estimates for the (interpretation ends) Bathurst and Baffin Island herds? (interpretation) What would the population estimates be for those herds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Bathurst herd is presently around 20,000 and the caribou comprising the (interpretation ends) Baffin Island herd (interpretation) based on the last survey only totals around 5,000. It's still estimated to be around there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to another subject. This is in regard to the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Pond Inlet. This region faces a drastic scarcity of caribou that can be harvested. Our colleague from the High Arctic spoke earlier about the plans for the muskoxen populations that have increased in the areas around Grise Fiord, I imagine.

In the area around the interior mainland we call Iluilik (Adelaide Peninsula), the muskox populations are increasing. I wonder what plans the department has to assist hunters to hunt other species that are not in decline so that pressure isn't applied to them by supporting harvests of the other species. I am thinking of caribou here. If I were to say this from an Inuit perspective, the elders have stated in the past that muskoxen will

push caribou out, and I believe that theory.

I wonder if this has been considered or not, whether they can look at culling certain overpopulated herds either by commercial hunting or by selling the meat that a community may harvest where muskoxen populations are high. I am asking if any plans are in place. I am asking that question for clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opening of the harvest is for (interpretation ends) Devon Island (interpretation) around Lancaster Sound. With respect to your question about Iluilik, I have no clue what he is referring to. Pardon my pronunciation of Iluli. Can the member please clarify the area he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iluilik is what we call the (interpretation ends) mainland (interpretation) and certain parts of the mainland have muskox populations that are increasing. I was trying to find out about muskox populations, which I want to understand, thereby my question on their populations. Hopefully I was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can imagine that area now. With respect to the muskox populations in that area, I don't have the estimates for that area. However, I wrote to the chairman about the various names for the caribou herds and their general areas. This would also apply for particular herds and what the total allowable harvest would be for muskoxen, but it would depend on the TAH for that herd. The tags would have to be within the TAH and I can't respond on the actual number. It would depend on the muskox tags and whether the tags are used up. If the tags have not been fully used, then that area would have more muskoxen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to something else. In your opening comments on page 3, the third paragraph references this area, which I will have to pronounce in English as I have no idea of the Inuktitut place name. That is the (interpretation ends) Davis Strait (interpretation) polar bear population numbers and the proposed population survey.

I hear many comments from adjacent communities that the numbers are constantly increasing and not declining, as community members observe more polar bears in the Inuit homeland. Our colleague alluded to it earlier that the NWMB has planned a consultation tour to the affected communities on this polar bear population.

I wonder if his department will have representatives due to the discussions over that population. We all know that Inuit who are on the land will say that the quotas should be increased for polar bears due to their increase in numbers. I wanted to get a better understanding of that area, which is why I ask about this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the question correctly, let me go back and give you some background about polar bear TAHs and how they come up with the number. They do a polar bear survey first and then the data is analyzed. Once they get to the number for the TAH, they take it to the NWMB and then the NWMB goes to the communities to consult with them and ask them if that number is okay. The Department of Environment will have officials there taking part along with the NWMB when they go to hear the concerns of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's clearer now and I thank the minister. To move on to something else in your business plan on page 161, I'll read it in English about the (interpretation ends) Community Harvesters Assistance Program. (interpretation) It's called CHAP. Can you give me a brief description of what this program is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The CHAP funding is for hunters and trappers organizations that are sometimes called hunters and trappers associations. They are for those groups. They can request funding and explain what they want the money for. It can be for smaller things, not major items, things that can be used in the hunt. It's how HTOs can help their local hunters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's clearer now. I'll go back to my colleague's question about damage to equipment by polar bears. Once in a while cabins or shacks get damaged. To give an example, there's someone who has a cabin that has been damaged and the person will report that. How will they report it to the Department of Environment? If there were no witnesses, do they need to give you a photograph or what do they need to give you as proof? I'm asking about that for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they should take a picture of it and have the renewable resource officer go and inspect it. That officer would take a picture of it and the damage to the shack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Just when I got the giggles.

>> *Laughter*

But I do have a serious question.

>> *Laughter*

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Is my name even written on the list?

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Angnakak: We're all fighting for the Chair's attention here.

Minister, I would like to ask you: what is the department doing to minimize the barriers to the trade in sealskin products internationally? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is ongoing, but with the European Union we do have an exemption for indigenous-harvested sealskin products right now. We do have an exemption, but it's ongoing because the market share that we can get is very small compared to if it was open to all of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what our participation rate is in regard to

sealskin and the international markets?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Mr. Chairman, if she can just clarify her question. I don't quite understand about participation rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Please clarify, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I would be happy to. What I mean is what portion of the market or how much business does Nunavut do internationally when it comes to sealskin products? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying. Most of the sealskins that are harvested and sold in Nunavut are sold back to Nunavut. Our share is very small in terms of international sales. Most of the Nunavut sealskins are brought back, sold, and used in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department looking for new markets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are always looking for new markets not just for sealskins but for any other fur that is harvested in Nunavut. We look for any markets. Polar bears had a really good market for a while in China, but that has softened. We are always looking to open up any more markets for fur products from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what other specific markets he is looking at? You say that you're always looking, but is there an actual place that you're right now investigating and hoping to secure a market there that we don't currently have now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at Asia. We're looking at any other markets. When there are any exhibitions and stuff going on, we are always interested and want to open more markets. Plus we also work with the fur buyers and they're always looking for more markets because any fur that we sell through the fur auctions, they get a commission. Their interest is to increase the sales in not just volume but in terms of price too. We work with fur buyers and with the Government of Canada to try to get any more markets we can for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to change topics now. I want to talk about contaminated sites. I was just reading on 164 in his business plan about the environmental operations. You have under there enforcement, compliance, pollution prevention, and you also have under there that's stated contaminated sites. I would like to know the number of contaminated sites that we have across Nunavut that still require cleanup. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number is high. I'm going to assume that the member is talking about out of municipal boundaries. Yes, we have done an inventory. I can't tell the member the exact number right now, but we have done an inventory and they're coming up with how much it would cost to clean it up. That's registered as a liability. I can get the member the numbers later if she wants them, but right now I don't have that number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, actually my next question was going to be: what is the liability cost to the government? We will wait to hear back from you on that.

Can the minister tell us where most of the sites are located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're all over Nunavut. They could be old exploration sites, old weather stations, or old DEW line sites, any old human occupation that involved hydrocarbons or producing power and stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how his department monitors the contaminated sites and how often? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're just more or less developing policy on how to do it right now. We identified them and we looked at them to see what the liability is. We don't have the capacity to do it all at once, so it's an ongoing process right now.

If there is an active spill or an active pollutant moving, then yes, we would stop the pollution from spreading. Right now they're just being monitored and we're working on eventually getting all the sites cleaned up. It depends on where it is or who did it as to who might pay for the cleanup of the site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A little bit, still contamination, but I think a different

type of contamination. The lack of modern and adequate waste and wastewater infrastructure in Nunavut's communities has been an ongoing concern for this territory, and I have raised it on a number of occasions in the House.

Can you indicate of your department monitors solid waste and wastewater sites in Nunavut to ensure that these facilities are not discharging contaminants into the environment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't do that. Solid waste sites and wastewater are municipal. It's run by INAC. INAC does all the water sampling and any contaminants that might be coming from waste sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does INAC then come back to the department and say, "By the way, we have a few communities that don't have water licences or they're not dealing with their wastewater in a way that we want them to"? If so, do you have no role whatsoever to help communities comply? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the CGS minister is responsible for that. INAC would inform

CGS about whether they're not water licence compliant. If there is an active spill like an oil spill or any kind of contaminant and it's reported, then our department would be involved. It depends on what type of land it's spilled on and whether it's spilled on water. We have MOUs with the DFO and I believe with INAC. It depends on where the contaminant is spilled is who is responsible for making sure it's cleaned up and making sure that it's cleaned up properly. We don't pay for the cleanup, but we make sure that it's cleaned up by whoever is responsible for the lands or the waters that it's spilled on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it comes to solid waste and wastewater, you're saying that your department has no role. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask about something else and it's to do with your proposed territorial parks and conducting mineral assessments. Those two seem to be opposite things, so obviously that's why you want to do the mineral assessments. If there's a proposed park that the community wants and you have done an

assessment and the assessment comes back strong for mineral development, will the area still be considered as land for park development or would the department reconsider? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that process is done is because the communities might reconsider and we would also look at it clearly. For example, let's say a community wanted a park close to the community and they did a mineral assessment and they found a whole whack of diamonds, well, the community might change their mind because there might be a lot of jobs involved there. It's just part of the process that is followed before a park is designated a park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's say you did find a whole lot of diamonds and it would be very good for the economy, but the community decided that no, it would rather have a park, what's your role there, if any? Do you just go ahead and say, "This is going to be a park because everybody wants it," or who gets involved? Can a mining company have a say in that if they saw that there was an assessment done and that there are a lot of diamonds there? I'll use that same example. Is this something that the mining industry would have a say in, in any way or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The locations of the parks are community-driven and the community, I would say, would have the final say because they pick the location. For territorial parks, we work with the communities, but the communities pick the location. We work with them to finalize the boundaries and make sure they do a mineral assessment. It's just part of the process.

I have never heard of any mining companies being involved in any process of territorial parks because generally territorial parks are really close to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One last question: what is the Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program? Can you explain to me just what that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program is we train local people to sample fish. They take the length. They take the weight. They take otoliths like ear bones out. They just get baseline training in that category so that if they're ever doing a fish population estimate survey, if the DFO is doing one or the NWMB is doing one, then they are already trained to do the work and they don't have to bring anyone in. These people that are trained

on that can do the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, are you finished? It's up to you. Are you finished? Mr. Mikkungwak.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the extra time.

My first question is in your business plan on page 163, the very last bullet, to "Undertake a population estimate for the Ahiak caribou herd." I was wondering why this has been delayed. I'm asking this because some caribou populations have declined. Don't we need to know what the estimated population of caribou is and where they are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All caribou populations seem to be in decline and we can't do them all at the same time. We can only do one estimate a year. It's just in queue. It will get its turn when we get there. It's just that we don't have the resources or the money to do more than one caribou survey a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the Kivalliq for sure, we need to consider the other two caribou

populations, Qamanirjuaq and Beverly herds. When are you going to consider doing a population survey on these herds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qamanirjuaq caribou herd population survey will be done this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. What about the Beverly herd? When will you survey them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can get back to the member on that because we don't have that information here right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to ask this supplementary question. When one is from inland areas and other species that are harvested are currently managed by the Department of Environment, I feel that there should be more consideration of foxes, wolverines, and wolves. I wonder what the department's position is related to these species. Can he respond? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member could just clarify exactly what he wants because I think he's just asking whether we're concerned about them or not. I just need a little more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, please elaborate further.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to rephrase my question to clearly outline the issue. In reading the business plans, I noted this wording and although I am an inland person, I keep hearing about your plans regarding sealskins and marketing plans specific to Europe. This includes your plans for polar bears as well, as plans for marketing them exist. I wonder if consideration has been given to see if any economic benefits could accrue to Inuit from the increased harvest of furbearers, such as foxes, wolverines, and wolves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying it. We do support the people who hunt and trap them. For example, we just came out with a new pilot project to pay for the shipping of frozen wolf hides. That's help for the wolf hunters. In terms of the foxes, we do buy them under the Fur Pricing Program.

It's unfortunate, though, that there appears to be fewer trappers now. The older trappers are getting a bit too old to trap and there are not too many younger ones picking up the pace. The fox population just cycles.

Sometimes we have good fur markets and in other years we don't. I believe the market is strong right now for white fox. It's just on year to year on what the fur industry wants to buy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Related to the response from the minister, if a hunter harvests a wolf, they skin it right away and freeze it prior to sending it. I believe that a minimum amount should be paid when the pelt is sent out, and the buyer can then purchase the pelt and the remaining funds could be paid after the auction.

However, the current practice is that when a hunter harvests a wolf, they have to first skin it, clean the pelt, and string it up on a drying rack. After the pelt is processed, the hunter can finally take it to the conservation officer, where it is sent off for an auction and proceeds paid afterwards. Will this process remain the same or will changes be put in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This pilot project on paying the shipping of wolf hides is the department just pays the shipping. All

they do is just pay the shipping. When the seller gets paid for it by the fur buyer, whoever it might be in the south, they can make sure they get the receipt and they take that receipt for how much the fur is sold for and take it to the wildlife officer. It will be included in the fur sales and it would be used for part of the second fall payment, just like other wolf harvesters do that dry and sell their wolf pelts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's usually in the summer that they get that type of support from the government. They usually get the second payment around that time. What's the process going to be like? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I just explained to the member earlier, that's exactly what I said. If the seller of the frozen wolf sells their fur, they would get a receipt for how much the wolf sold for. The wolf hunter can take that receipt to the wildlife office and it will be entered as part of the fur program, and then they will get a cheque later on, depending on how many wolves they sold. It will work exactly like the Fur Pricing Program for the wolves, except that it won't automatically be entered. The wolf hunters have to take their receipt to the wildlife office, give it to them, and get it documented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 166 of your business plan, Priorities (2017-18), your second bullet, "Develop a practical guide for managing large volumes of petroleum-hydrocarbon-contaminated materials at remote sites..." Having been a past inspector prior to being elected, what authority and how do you plan to do this work when you have no authority on Inuit-owned lands or on Crown lands? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is just part of the same processes. Right now we're identifying any contaminated sites. We don't have authority over Inuit-owned land, but I would think that if there's a spill on Inuit-owned land, then the RIAs would want assistance of anyone that can help them mitigate the effects of any hydrocarbon spills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question on that particular bullet again is within municipal boundaries. I think you have more jurisdiction there. How do you notify and enforce any spills that may occur within municipal boundaries and who would you give that directive to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a spill line and it doesn't matter where the spill occurs. If anyone sees a spill, they can report a spill to the spill line, then that spill is recorded and all the particulars are recorded on there, and then from there it goes to who is responsible for the spill, depending on what kind of lands or water it's on. The first process is to report it to the spill line, which is a 24-hour spill line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me another opportunity. I have a short question regarding polar bears. You indicate that every number of years you count the polar bear population. When was your last survey on Baffin Island this past year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Baffin there are quite a lot of polar bears and we do separate surveys. Two were done and one is going to start. I think there are four subpopulations in the Baffin and those surveys are done annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. We have a lot of polar bears in

the communities and it's getting very risky and becoming a safety issue. Instead of the other way around, people are at risk from the bears and no threats to bears. Our property is being damaged and some people have been mauled.

After you do a survey and if there's no decrease in the polar bear population, could the hunters and trappers organizations ask for an increase in their polar bear quota? Is it the NWMB who will continue to decide that issue? Can you clarify that for me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually I have the information at hand for the Arctic Bay polar bear quota. If I say it in English as I don't know the Inuktitut term, the (interpretation ends) Lancaster Sound (interpretation) polar bear population survey is scheduled to commence in 2019.

As well, I can't recall which member raised this question, but I responded that the NWMB is currently scheduling a hearing on polar bears. At that hearing they will discuss the polar bear status and management issues. At that hearing, hunters and communities will have an opportunity to speak on three questions related to the polar bear.

The quota and the number of tags are two of the issues. The first issue is whether the polar bear population should be kept high, the middle one is to not make any changes, and the last one is that the polar bear population is too high

and that the quota should be increased to lower the population.

The NWMB will be holding public hearings on how the polar bears will be managed in the communities. They will be consulting communities and Inuit about their views on how to properly manage polar bears in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. As that's the case, after the survey and the hearing have been completed, you would take some action to increase the number of quotas. Is that your goal for the future or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are polar bear subpopulations and they're each going to be treated separately. Accordingly they would make a decision on whether to decrease, increase, or stay status quo on each subpopulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. It is very important to understand that. Usually there are no boundaries for polar bears. They tend to move from one area to another. For example, after a survey in Arctic Bay, the surveyors would say that there was a

declining population near Arctic Bay, but of course that would be because the polar bears have moved somewhere else. I look forward to how this issue will be managed and I wish to thank you for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I believe that was just a comment. We are on page I-5. (interpretation ends) Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,862,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page I-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Environment. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,742,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq, closing comments.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my two staff that are here and everyone else below them that worked on this budget and the business plan. Obviously they did good work because you guys agreed with it and approved it. I thank everyone for being engaged and we worked like a well-oiled machine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Thank you very much. We will move on. Minister of Culture and Heritage, please go to the witness table.

Thank you very much. We will proceed. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage if he has officials he would like to join him. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. We will proceed once again. Minister, for the record, please introduce your officials. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, colleagues and Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings.

I'll begin with my left. I have the (interpretation ends) Director of Corporate Services (interpretation) from the Department of Culture and Heritage,

Regilee Adla, who is to my left, and to my right is my Deputy Minister, Pauloosie Suvega. That's who we are.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome, Mr. Suvega and Ms. Adla. You can go ahead with your opening comments. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage 2017-18 main estimates and business plan. The department's modest proposed budget is \$25,697,000.

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

The Heritage Division places a major importance on funding heritage, culture, heritage facility and heritage building grants and contributions.

My department is taking steps to ensure the proper care of the Government of Nunavut's arts, culture and heritage collection until such time as Nunavut has its own territorial heritage facility. The transfer of Nunavut's museum and archives collections to the Canadian Museum of Nature will present exciting opportunities for collaborative research, education and exhibition programs.

The Heritage Division has commenced preparations for the move of its heritage collection from the Prince of Whales Heritage Centre in Yellowknife to the Canadian Museum of Nature's research

facility in Ottawa. This move should be completed by the end of the summer.

Mr. Chairman, my department is continuing to coordinate the implementation of language programs and services across the government, including the development of a set of guidelines and regulations on the delivery of communications and services in the official languages that implement the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

We are also working on Uqausivut II, which is our roadmap to implement our language obligations. The department has developed a project schedule for developing Uqausivut II for implementation of the Language Acts for 2017 onwards. As required by the Acts, Uqausivut II will be developed with Inuit involved, particularly in collaboration with NTI, the RIAs, and others.

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

The Elders and Youth Division is also planning its first hunting and tool-making program workshop in the Kitikmeot region later this month, with participants coming from the Kitikmeot region to Cambridge Bay.

My department actively promotes our grants and contributions policy to Nunavummiut. Earlier this month two Culture and Heritage staff members travelled to Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. We have also tried to take advantage of existing activities throughout the territory like community meetings, AGMs, and workshops to promote our programs and services.

That concludes my opening remarks. I look forward to answering any questions my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk, Ms. Regilee, and Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$25,697,000 has not changed since the introduction of its 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the Department of Culture and Heritage is 90.8. This number remains unchanged from the previous fiscal year.

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

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

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of providing this information to the public and strongly encourages the minister to table the government's most recent annual reports on the administration of the *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* in as timely a manner as possible.

On October 30, 2012 the minister of the day tabled the government's first comprehensive plan pursuant to the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which was titled the *Uqausivut Plan* and which set out the government's objectives for the 2012-16 time period. For a number of years, MLAs have raised concerns regarding the need to update this plan.

According to its proposed 2017-2020 business plan, one of the department's goals for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Improve the monitoring of the implementation of the 2017 - 2020 *Uqausivut Plan*." The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the government's 2017-2020 *Uqausivut Plan* with care.

On October 18, 2016 the minister tabled the government's formal response to the Standing Committee on Oversight and

Government Operations and Public Account's report on its review of the most recent annual reports of the Languages Commissioner and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. In this response the minister stated that the government anticipates the full implementation of the Inuit Language Incentive Program in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on the implementation of this program.

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

Under the authority of the *Archives Act*, the department's Archives program collects public and private textual records, sound and audiovisual materials, photographs, documentary art, and electronic documents to preserve Nunavut's documentary heritage. However, the department's Archives Policy expired on March 31, 2010. The standing committee strongly encourages the department to update this policy at the earliest opportunity.

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

On November 19, 2015 the governments of Manitoba and Nunavut issued a joint

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

According to the November 19, 2015 news release, each government will provide up to \$500,000 to support the research, documentation, and exhibition of this artwork. The standing committee strongly encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly regarding department's efforts to train Nunavummiut in the creation, documentation, and preparing of exhibits at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

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

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services to support elders and youth in Nunavut. Members encourage the department to ensure that its programs and services related to elders and youth provide an opportunity for these two important sectors to collaborate and address pressing social issues such as suicide or elder abuse.

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

One of the department's goals for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Continue to assist departments and report on implementation activities identified in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Framework." The standing committee encourages the minister to table the government's current Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Framework at the earliest opportunity.

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

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are there any general comments? I don't have any names on my list. We will go to the page-by-page review. The first page is F-4. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page F-5. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk and your officials.

I have a question on that page. According to the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* on sections 15 and 27 respectively, they're requesting that annual reports be prepared on how the two Acts are being administered. However, we haven't seen any reports for a number of years.

On October 18 of last year you stated that you would be tabling the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 annual reports. However, they haven't been tabled to date. When will you be tabling the most recent annual reports? Will you be tabling the most recent annual reports on the government's administration of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* during this winter 2017 sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question, they are being translated into Inuktitut right now and once they have all been translated by the translation service, I will be able to table them in the spring session in June 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Which annual reports are you going to be tabling? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to table all the reports we haven't tabled at the same time in June. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,871,000. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have many questions, but I have a question on this line about the *Uqausivut Plan*. The first plan for 2012-16 had to do with all the government departments to test proficiency in Inuktitut in those departments and how much Inuktitut is being used in the offices right now. Will this be reviewed again in the 2017-2020 plan?

You would report on, for example, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. You would say that this many employees or staff work with Inuktitut and which services are available in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun or in the general Inuktitut language. Will there be like a record of which departments offer services in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in response to the question, we are planning to do all of that. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. In your opening comments you stated that this is continuing and that you are working on the implementation. Has your department started the implementation? We expect that regional Inuit organizations will be involved with this as well in the implementation of language programs and services. I'm trying to ask how you would monitor the implementation of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. Mr. Chairman, in regard to his question, it is under review right now. That's where we're at. It's under review. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Will you be using prepared testing and include them in the report of whichever department is enforcing the Inuit language provisions? Is that how it will be administered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, that's exactly what we want to do. We will work closely with the government departments on that. We will make reports on the progress with respect to the member's question. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,871,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page F-6. Culture and Heritage. Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,008,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page F-7. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,208,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-8. Culture and Heritage. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page F-3. Department Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,697,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk, you can now proceed with your closing comments.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) That's a record.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you very much. I was looking forward to more questions, but I know for sure that I will be asked questions during the session.

I would like to thank my officials who are here with me. I know that my officials who are not here are listening to and watching the proceedings. I thank them.

Thank you very much to my colleagues. I will expect to work closely with you again during the spring session. I'm sure you will be asking more questions about my department. I'll just thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

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

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Thank you very much. We will now proceed. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Speaker of this

House if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation) Speaker, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is our Clerk, John Quirke, and to my left is our Director of Corporate Services, Mike Rafter. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. You can now proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you today to present the 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) The proposed operations and maintenance budget of the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$26,868,000.

As members will recall, the first bill to have been passed by the current Assembly was legislation to provide for fixed election dates. The fifth general election will take place on October 30, 2017. Consequently a one-time increase

in funding to Elections Nunavut of approximately \$1.4 million is being provided to administer the upcoming general election. The Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly has been in close communication with Elections Nunavut regarding preparations for the upcoming general election. I am pleased to note, for example, that a number of returning officers have already been appointed. These appointments have already been published in the *Nunavut Gazette*.

With the exception of the additional funding required to administer the upcoming general election, our 2017-18 main estimates do not include any significant increases from the previous fiscal year's budget. For example, the additional resources required for salary adjustments for members and employees as a result of the recently signed collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union have been funded from within our present budget. The Management and Services Board is committed to the prudent use of our resources, and I wish to advise members that the board is presently giving close attention to possible areas where savings can be achieved.

The Legislative Assembly's 2017-18 main estimates also reflect the financial and human resources required for the operations of our other independent officers, including the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth and the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to update members on a recent initiative to further improve our legislature's accessibility and family-friendliness.

The three public washrooms on the first floor of our building, one of which has been designated as gender-neutral, are now wheelchair-accessible and have been equipped with change tables for infants and babies.

I am also looking forward to visiting the communities of Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay in May of this year as part of my office's Our House to Your Home Community Mace Tour. This parliamentary outreach initiative takes place every two years and provides an opportunity to visit schools and other facilities across our territory to speak about our legislature's traditions and practices.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and I welcome their comments, suggestions, and questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,898,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page A-5. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,347,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and

Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,623,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Back to page A-3. Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,868,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Office Legislative Assembly of Nunavut?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, you may now make your closing comments. Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much to all of you. We now expect to have a good O&M budget for the next fiscal year. I would also like to thank each and every one of you. Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) Members, go to Bill 34 in your legislation binder.

(interpretation) I believe you have the bill in front of you now. (interpretation ends) Bill 34, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$1,565,675,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 34 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 34 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and would like to report that Bill 34 is concluded and that Bill 34 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keith Peterson.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 34, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Applause*

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 13:

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 19
- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 28
- Bill 30
- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 35
- Bill 38
- Bill 41
- Bill 42
- Bill 43

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) In accordance with
the authority provided to me by Motion
41 – 4(3), this House stands adjourned
until Monday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:40*

Thank you.

