

NUNAVUT HANSARD
UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020
IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript *in extenso*. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading Hansard will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit Hansard have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and the written word. *Debates*, September 20, 1983, p. 27299.

Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

Corrections:

**PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY
CLERK**

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister of
Human Resources*

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Health;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
Family Services; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasi
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

*Minister responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Cathy Towtongie
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	6
Oral Questions.....	10
Returns to Written Questions	28
Tabling of Documents	28
Second Reading of Bills.....	30
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	31
Report of the Committee of the Whole	115
Orders of the Day	115

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

413 – 5(2): Kivalliq Energy Forum (Savikataaq) 1
414 – 5(2): CT Coronary Angiography (Hickes) 2
415 – 5(2): Piqataugitsi – Inclusive Employer Handbook (Sheutiapik) 3
416 – 5(2): District Education Authority Members and Office Managers Training (Joanasie) 4
417 – 5(2): Recognizing a Key Support for Apprenticeship Training in Nunavut (Netser) 5

C.

Members' Statements

634 – 5(2): Hunger and Poverty (Kamingoak) 6
635 – 5(2): Suicide Awareness (Towtongie) 7
636 – 5(2): Seal Hunt in Grise Fiord (Akeeagok) 7
637 – 5(2): Tribute to Bob Leonard (Savikataaq) 8
638 – 5(2): Tribute to Bob Leonard (Main) 9

D.

Oral Questions

888 – 5(2): Independent Power Production (Lightstone) 10
889 – 5(2): Airline Merger (Qamaniq) 12
890 – 5(2): Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management (Rumbolt) 13
891 – 5(2): Family Counselling Programs (Akoak) 15
892 – 5(2): Status Update on Park Development (Keyootak) 17
893 – 5(2): Summer Employment Programs for Students (Qirngnuq) 19

894 – 5(2): Mental Health Issues Affecting Families (Kaernerker)	20
895 – 5(2): Culturally Relevant Mental Health Programs (Kamingoak)	22
896 – 5(2): Inuit Employed at Mines (Main)	24
897 – 5(2): Staff Housing (Nakashuk)	26

E.

Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 059 – 5(2): Iqaluit Public Housing Stock (Clerk)	28
---	----

F.

Tabling of Documents

273 – 5(2): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2018-2019 (Savikataaq)	29
274 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut’s Response to the Standing Committee Report on the Review of the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners (Joanasie)	29
275 – 5(2): Review of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy Report (Joanasie)	29
276 – 5(2): Examples of RCMP High-risk Offender Community Notifications (Lightstone)	29
277 – 5(2): Correspondence Regarding Continuing Care Centre in Igloolik (Kaernerker)	30
278 – 5(2): Correspondence Regarding Housing Renovations in Igloolik (Kaernerker)	30

G.

Bills

Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Cannabis Act Respecting Consultation Periods – Second Reading	30
Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Human Resources – Consideration in Committee	31

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee	55
Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee	91
Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee	97

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeegok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerk, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good morning. This morning can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Keyootak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. I say “good morning” to Nunavummiut and those who are following the proceedings, as well as all members.

Thank you, Mr. Keyootak, for opening the meeting. Let’s remember that our ancestors have brought us here. Let’s be proud of our ancestors.

Let’s proceed. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister’s Statement 413 – 5(2): Kivalliq Energy Forum

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you. I send you my condolences today as Bob Leonard will be laid to rest.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the first Kivalliq Energy Forum held in Rankin Inlet in December 2019. The Department of Environment’s Climate Change Secretariat co-organized the forum hosted by the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the event was to start a dialogue between key stakeholders in the development of clean energy projects in the Kivalliq region, and I am happy to say that it was a success.

The Kivalliq Energy Forum had 55 participants, with representatives from each of the seven Kivalliq communities. The attendees participated in a knowledge sharing forum

where they learned about renewable energy options and funding programs for clean energy projects. Case studies in Nunavut and across Canada were presented as a way of illustrating the possibilities for the territory.

Mr. Speaker, guest speakers included researchers and representatives from various Government of Nunavut departments and agencies, the federal government, clean energy technology companies, and from non-governmental organizations. The majority of participants expressed their satisfaction with the event and their interest in holding a second forum in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment is committed to helping Nunavut communities learn about clean energy projects and creating opportunities to discuss ways to reduce dependency on fossil fuel in the territory. We will work with our partners to explore the possibility of a second edition of the forum as well as the possibility of similar projects in the other regions of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 414 – 5(2): CT Coronary Angiography

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the priority areas outlined in *Turaaqtavut* is Inuusivut, a commitment to working towards the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities. A large component of this commitment is the provision of culturally appropriate care that is close to home. That is why I am thrilled to share the news that the Department of Health now has the capacity to complete CT coronary angiography at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Mr. Speaker, this new capacity was achieved in partnership with the Ottawa Hospital, who has been instrumental in providing training and assistance throughout its implementation.

A CT coronary angiogram is an imaging test that looks at the arteries that supply blood to your heart. Mr. Speaker and members, these tests are non-invasive, efficient, do not require recovery time, can be used to help diagnose the cause of chest pain and other symptoms, and can show if chest pain is being caused by a blockage. The test can also detect calcium in the heart, which in turn can help detect serious heart disease before the patient shows symptoms.

Mr. Speaker and members, this new capacity greatly enhances the abilities of our medical professionals to accurately detect and diagnose heart issues in Nunavummiut. The benefits of this is twofold: most importantly, these new capabilities will provide peace of mind to Nunavummiut interacting with the health care system, as they will be able to get results and answers without needing to wait extended periods of time or travel far away from home; second, this will allow our medical professionals to more efficiently evaluate

patients experiencing potential symptoms of a heart attack, giving them the information they need to determine what level of care the patient requires.

Mr. Speaker, the new diagnostic tool available at the Qikiqtani General Hospital represents a major step in cultivating effective and accessible care right here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 415 – 5(2): Piqataugitsi – Inclusive Employer Handbook

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) persons with disabilities are an underrepresented group in the workforce across Canada. They face many social and economic barriers that stand in the way of maintaining employment.

I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on the work my department is undertaking to support Nunavummiut with disabilities and promote inclusive employment across the territory.

The Department's Piqataugitsi program is a program under the Workforce Development Agreement that supports Nunavummiut with disabilities enter and remain in the labour market. Funding from this agreement is devoted to improving employment outcomes for persons with disabilities and filling labour market gaps by encouraging inclusive hiring.

>> *Applause*

Under the Piqataugitsi program my department developed an inclusive employer handbook. The handbook was created to provide a framework to help organizations embrace equity, access and inclusion in the territory. The handbook comes after previous engagements with employers, seeking their input on what they would need to feel equipped to employ people with disabilities. With funding from Family Services, Nunavummi Disabilities [Makinnasuaqtiit] Society undertook these engagements and heard from employers on how best to support them.

The handbook provides employers with information pertaining to:

- The duty to accommodate under the *Employment Equity Act*;
- The employment first approach;
- The economic benefits of being an inclusive employer;
- How to be an inclusive employer, for example, through recruitment and retention processes;

- How to talk to employees about workplace accommodations; and
- How career development staff can support employers to become more inclusive.

The handbook and other promotional materials such as posters and brochures aimed at inclusive hiring will be circulated in spring 2020.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Nunavummi Disabilities [Makinnasuaqtiit] Society for their role in the handbook and their ongoing work to support Nunavummiut with disabilities.

Our vision is for all Nunavummiut to have equitable access to employment and training opportunities, and this handbook reflects a positive step in achieving this vision. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 416 – 5(2): District Education Authority Members and Office Managers Training

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and members.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, the transition from private life to public service as an elected official can be a challenge. After an election, there is a lot to learn in a short amount of time. Many of us here may have felt overwhelmed by the transition into our elected positions. Having access to orientation and training can help with this transition.

Mr. Speaker, this is why after the elections for district education authorities this past fall, the Department of Education began to provide training and orientation for all newly elected district education authority members and office managers.

My department's district education authority development officers are travelling to every community to ensure Nunavut's newly elected district education authority members know and understand their roles and responsibilities. They also are providing specific training to DEA chairpersons and reviewing the duties and tasks for DEA office managers.

Mr. Speaker, district education authority members and office managers play a crucial role in the delivery of education. They are local education advocates and decision-makers for their community and are responsible for duties such as choosing language models for their schools, working with regional school operations, and developing attendance and Inuuqatigiitsiarniq policies. By being prepared from the start of their new role, I am confident this training will strengthen our education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 417 – 5(2): Recognizing a Key Support for Apprenticeship Training in Nunavut

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” my younger brother and my sister-in-law. You are in my thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the tremendous impact Mr. Alexander Napier. He was an instructor at our community learning centre in Rankin Inlet and he would assist young people with apprenticeship programs in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) On September 3, Mr. Napier, who we all know as Sandy, retired from a 40-year career in the trades, which included time worked at Nunavut Arctic College. Sandy moved to Rankin Inlet when Sanatuliqsarvik, our school of construction trades, opened in 2010. He ended his career as chair of construction trades for the college.

Throughout this long career, Sandy worked tirelessly to promote the trades as a viable and desirable career for Nunavummiut. He was a staunch supporter of women working in the trades sector. He has positively contributed to the college in various ways, too many to mention in a single statement. Mr. Speaker, retirement has not slowed Sandy down. He continues to volunteer hundreds of hours on weekends and late nights to work with young apprentices before their government certification exams. His devotion to the success of Nunavut students is admirable.

Mr. Speaker, Sandy's contribution will continue to the next decade. I'm proud to announce that on February 20, at the celebration of Sandy's career, Mr. Napier presented the college with a cheque for \$6,000 designated to scholarships to be awarded annually to trades students who demonstrate perseverance and academic excellence. Nunavut Arctic College is very grateful for this endowment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Sandy's commitment to the trades and to Nunavut's apprentices. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I again remind you that your cellphones should be on silent mode in the Chamber.

Ministers' Statements. Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 634 – 5(2): Hunger and Poverty

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on the Minister of Health's recent statement about Nutrition Month.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut continues to promote a diet of country food and healthy store-bought foods. As an ideal, I wholeheartedly agree with this concept. However, for far too many Nunavummiut this is just an ideal. Many cannot afford to hunt for country food or even to buy country food.

Nunavummiut living in poverty don't have the luxury of adequate hunting equipment, snow machines, gas, or bullets. They don't have the luxury of buying enough of Nunavut's high priced healthy foods to feed their families.

Mr. Speaker, the government advises people to be mindful of their eating habits. Mr. Speaker, those living in poverty have the thought of what they can eat on their minds every day that they struggle to feed their children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, the government may provide good advice on nutrition, but we can't eat words. People living in poverty need money for food or entities which can provide food to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, hunger has a negative impact on our bodies and on our minds. The simple fact that children do better at school when they have food in their stomachs has been addressed in this House many times.

Mr. Speaker, poverty has an impact on our well-being. The never-ending feelings of poverty lead to feelings of despair.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the government to put real action and substance behind their words. As I have mentioned before, we are in the year 2020 and our people are still suffering from a lack of services and adequate help. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Member's Statement 635 – 5(2): Suicide Awareness

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my sadness and frustration at the total futile loss of life and the loss of a future when an individual chooses suicide instead of the many options available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that sometimes we end up in situations where we cannot immediately see a solution. We may face relationship difficulties with a loved one or the loss of a good friend or a family member. We may despair at not being able to provide for ourselves or our family or the possible consequences of a seriously legal issue.

Our ancestors were a resilient people and conditions that would cause many to stop and give up, they continued on. Our ancestors developed the mind-set that recognized that there is always a solution. Our ancestors did not give up and in today's society, where the pressures and conditions are different than they were in the past but no less difficult.

We need to find ways to let them know that there are always options. There always other paths or different solutions. There are so many alternatives to suicide. I rise this issue today as we hear from relatives, colleagues and community members and others who are suffering because of the decision of one person to give up.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues, my family, my fellow community members and our government to encourage all Nunavummiut to follow the example of our ancestors to not give up when situations are overwhelming. Let us be resilient. Let us reach out. Let us look out for our fellow Nunavummiut when we see they may be struggling and in my personal gratitude to you Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Member Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 636 – 5(2): Seal Hunt in Grise Fiord

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to share a story in this House, about an event that transpired in one of my constituency communities, specifically Grise Fiord.

They held a non-traditional excursion trip for the elders in the community, in which I take great pride in, as the elders were able to wait besides seal holes, and the reason for the non-traditional aspect was the fact they used an SUV to conduct this seal hunting excursion.

At this time, it is extremely cold up in Grise Fiord, however, they were able to proceed with the trip using the vehicle to take our elders on that excursion, and I am extremely

grateful to the Geela Qappik and Anne Akeegok, who constantly look for new funds using many proposals, using the Qikiqtani Inuit Association elders' program funding.

I thank both Geela and Anne, along with QIA for having provided a momentous and happy event, albeit it wasn't very traditional, nonetheless, the elders were successful in harvesting a seal, which they devoured along with the liver and I envy their eating seal liver while I was stuck at the session.

To our beloved elders in Grise Fiord, I smile lovingly at all of you, and I am glad you were provided a change of scenery from the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 637 – 5(2): Tribute to Bob Leonard

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Arviat will be holding a funeral today for their former mayor, and my friend Bob Leonard. I apologize as I am unable to attend the funeral; nonetheless, I empathize and send my sympathies.

He served as our mayor for many years, and he was re-elected five times where he continued to support and assist Arviarmiut and the door to this mayoral office was always open to all Arviat residents, whether they needed assistance or by visiting the mayor and hashing it out.

He as one of my friends, and we used to work together on several initiatives and I also worked for Bob, but it is when people seem to pass away without any hints, it is very shocking to one's ears to hear about their passing. Today, obviously when the funeral procession is held at the community hall, that it will be extremely full, and I empathize with my fellow residents of Arviat although I am unable to be physically present.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to also speak about Bob Leonard's partner, Sandy Ranahan. Sandy, I know you're going through a tough time. You are there to help the community all the time too. I know you and Bob were always helping the community. I know that this was thrust on you suddenly and you're going through hard times, I know, but I know you're a strong woman and that you will pull through.

I thank everyone who is partaking in the funeral today and the sessions that will go through town. Bob will be missed. (interpretation) Arviarmiut, I send you my condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Member's Statement 638 – 5(2): Tribute to Bob Leonard

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to commemorate the memory of Bob Leonard, who was our mayor in Arviat and for that reason I rise today.

Indeed, as our Premier eloquently stated it is all truthful. He wasn't just acting in the capacity of the mayor; Bob was also a dear friend to many residents, some of whom considered him their best friend along with his partner, Sandy.

I also need to voice the fact, that Bob was a true Arviarmiutaq. Bob was truly invested in Arviat, as our past mayor now. And even in times of despair such as we will see today, memories will remain. Unfortunately, I cannot attend to this funeral in Arviat, however, I retain many happy lessons I was taught by Bob, which I want to try to voice here.

First of all, as MLAs, we have to think of the constituents as you should be there representing them, as you are the elected representative. When your constituents are looking for you, if they don't see you, they will say where is our elected representative? You have to attend the events.

Whenever they held a community feast or a wedding, or a dancing contest, Bob always attended the events and this was very noticeable to see his support. Also, when Bob was invited to be the keynote speaker, especially for graduation ceremonies, Bob rarely had long boring speeches, as his words were concise and to the point, and he always made up what he would talk about beforehand. His words were sage and full of wisdom, and impacted the graduates' futures.

That is his legacy now; however, he rarely spoke more than five minutes and this is the lesson I ought to emulate, Mr. Speaker. Also, the way he portrayed himself as the leader, or his leadership style was very calm, cool and collected.

The hamlet was struggling at the time he first became a mayor and right now the hamlet has risen out from its hardships and financial struggles. I have personally learned from him and so I wanted to share that. Our hamlet seems to be operating at the best efficiency, so I have learned a lot. This is what I wanted to say.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, if you are able to say I would like for all of us to stand and say a moment of silence, if you are okay with that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Okay. Thank you. If members can all rise for the moment of silence.

>>*Moment of Silence*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. All members empathize with the loss of Arviarmiut. We all express our gratitude to the passed Mayor for his contributions. He was an extremely hard worker.

Members' Statements. I have no more names. Let us move on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, member Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 888 – 5(2): Independent Power Production

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, was passed November of 2018. It was one of the first pieces of legislation which was passed by the Fifth Assembly. The bill amended the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* by giving the corporation the ability to purchase power through the Independent Power Producer Program.

As Nunavut has some of the highest rates in Canada, of which the average Canadian pays a mere 17 cents per kilowatt hour, meanwhile in Nunavut the price of power per kilowatt hour ranges from \$1.16 in Kugaaruk to 58 cents here in Iqaluit, several times more than the average Canadian pays. Our high power rates make the Independent Power Producer Program a very attractive investment. There are many communities and organizations here in Nunavut that want to take part in this program and help reduce Nunavut's reliance on diesel power generation.

Last fall, the minister had table the Qulliq Energy Corporation's report on the review of 2016-17 annual report to the corporation. On page 12, the minister provided a status update on the Independent Power Producer Program and it indicated that the corporation is expecting to receive approval for the IPP program and hopes to launch the program by the end of 2019. Mr. Speaker, it is now 2020 and I would like to ask: what is happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation approved the independent power policy in June of 2019, you are correct.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is currently working with the Government of Nunavut and Tunngavik Incorporated to explore whether Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti, which is the NNI policy, exemption is to be required for this program.

For the member's information the Independent Power Program will not increase the cost of electricity for Qulliq Energy Corporation customers. We're currently working. On November 26, 2019 the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation sent a letter to community leaders seeking their feedback on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's proposed Independent Power Producer Program. This document outlined Inuit participation, process, transparency, and the cost the Qulliq Energy Corporation will pay for power as issues of concern and ask for leaders to submit their own concerns to the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. It's very interesting to hear.

Moving on to my next question, I recently became aware that Nunavut Arctic College's solar panels have yet to be connected and are sitting idle while today is a nice, sunny day and there's great potential to be producing solar power. I would like to ask the minister to confirm whether or not Nunavut Arctic College's solar panels remain idle while this IPP policy is figured out and whether or not there are other projects that are also sitting idle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I don't have that level of detail of information the member is looking for, but I can find it for him and get the information to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment to follow up on whether or not Nunavut Arctic College's solar panels are sitting idle. I would also ask if the minister would be willing to commit to provide further information as to how many organizations have applied to take part in this program and are still waiting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to the member's request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Member Qamaniq.

Question 889 – 5(2): Airline Merger

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, I have raised concerns in the Legislative Assembly about the current state of airline service to Pond Inlet since the merger of First Air and Canadian North was finalized last year.

As I have noted on a number of occasions, it is apparent that there is currently a capacity imbalance with respect to the airline’s service to the community. Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous occasions since the merger when confirmed passengers have been bumped from flights for days at a time in order to free up seats for medical travel passengers. It appears clear that the airline needs to upgauge the type of aircraft that it uses to serve the community.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the minister does not run the airline’s day-to-day operations, but it is my understanding that he and his department are in regular contact with its management.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the process for how concerns such as the one I have raised are communicated to the airline’s management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with them in two ways. Canadian North through a contract, we monitor their operations and we communicate with them. After the merger, the federal government, the federal minister appointed a committee on passenger airfare, their routing; places they didn’t want to change and we appointed a temporary member after the merger currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, when the federal government approved the merger of First Air and Canadian North last year, it imposed a number of terms and conditions. One of these was the requirement that the airline establish an independent advisory board that has a mandate to report to the federal Minister of Transport on the merged airline’s compliance with its commitments.

Can the minister clarify how the work of this advisory board will be communicated to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This advisory committee reports to the federal Minister of Transport Canada. It does not report to me as the minister nor to this government. So, I don't have the formal process in terms of what kind of information is going to come out of this advisory board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another condition that the federal government required of the merged airline was and I quote, "The commitment to increasing Inuit representation across the merged entity operations." Can the minister clarify the extent to which the merged airline was fulfilled this commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might be premature to gather this kind of information right now. The merger just took place, and its about three months or four months. I don't know what the timing of reporting to the federal minister is, and if there is, I could definitely look for the information. But it is at the federal level that advisory board will be reporting to, not to this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 890 – 5(2): Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and I hope you are enjoying your annual polar bear hunt and be safe out there.

I want to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment. I want to thank the minister for the update that he provided to the House last week concerning the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population. I would like to follow up today with some questions on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, in his statement of last week, the minister indicated that the Department of Environment as and I quote, "Recommended to the Southern Hudson Bay polar bear advisory group that collaboration on the future management of the population happened through a user-to-user meeting. This meeting was held on February 25 and 26 in Montreal."

Can the minister confirm when a final report from this meeting will be published and shared with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Eeyou is a land claims board from Quebec and we're a part of it. It's inter-jurisdictional. We do have our representatives on the boards there, but as for a final report from them, what I can commit to is that we will communicate with the hunters and trappers organization in Sanikiluaq as to the outcomes of that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in his statement of last week, the minister indicated that the Department of Environment sent representatives to consult with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization in early February, and that these consultations will "inform the recommendations to all of the wildlife management boards for the region." Can the minister clarify the timetable for submitting additional recommendations and will he commit to ensuring that these are shared with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The southern Hudson Bay polar bear population is a shared population and the community Sanikiluaq hunts and harvests its polar bear from that population.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization has cared about that population because for quite a few years, they have volunteered to reduce their quota so that we can look at options as to the TAH of that polar bear population. We have a disagreement with Quebec in terms of how they manage their portion of that.

Mr. Speaker, when research is done to any wildlife species that affects the HTO in that community, all results are shared with them and we will be sharing the results of that with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Also in his statement of last week, the minister indicated that the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population is shared between three jurisdictions and four land claim agreements, as you just mentioned. Mr. Speaker, I agree that it is important to recognize the complexity of this issue. Can the minister briefly summarize the current positions of the other parties in respect to the issue of developing new total allowable harvest recommendations for the population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government, through the Department of Environment, manages the polar bear populations in Nunavut and I believe we have the best polar bear management system in the world of managing our polar bears.

The southern Hudson Bay polar bear population we manage and we have a total allowable harvest and, as the member stated, it's a shared jurisdiction. The position of the Quebec harvesters or hunters is they feel that they should have no TAH. They feel that they should be able to harvest polar bears at any numbers they want and anytime they want, and we have a disagreement with that. It's a shared population and we manage it and we believe that it has to be managed properly so that everyone will have the benefit of hunting that polar bear population for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 891 – 5(2): Family Counselling Programs

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and my family watching me. Two more days left, can't wait.

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Speaker, there has been much discussion in this House about the need for mental health programs in our communities. I myself have been lobbying for a dedicated facility in my community as I feel it is very much needed. Mr. Speaker, I also recognize, however, that there is a role for specific programs targeted to specific needs.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on what specific programs are available to support relationships, provide good parenting advice, and help people break out of toxic situations that are doing themselves, their partners and their children, and yes, Mr. Speaker, it also affects elders, irreparable mental damage? Did my question go through? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. It's a very important issue when we talk about parenting and working different programs through the community wellness plans.

Just as an example of one of the programs that we use with regard to mothers' mental health resources. There's a resource and it's titled, "Sometimes being a mom is harder than you thought," which provides information, baby blues, which involves post-partum

depression and mothers' mental health. It also helps develop additional coping skills and information for the partners and other family members, Mr. Speaker.

I encourage all members of all communities across the territory to work with your community wellness coordinators on putting forward submissions through the Quality of Life Division or Embrace Life to look at programming that's specific to the needs of each community. I encourage people to take time that we do have resources available to assist in developing those proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that many of our social workers are overworked and burdened with addressing many difficult social situations. Mr. Speaker, they work very hard, but they are not necessarily trained in relationship counselling and may not always be in a position to give the best advice.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether social workers in our communities are able to work with the mental health workers to identify and refer individuals, couples, or families who may need counselling and support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we look at all the services and programs as a government that we provide to all of our communities, it has to work together. Mr. Speaker, if the health staff aren't talking to the social work staff or the social work staff aren't talking to the health staff, it creates gaps in the care.

I strongly encourage and I know it does happen where other health professionals or related fields do assist with the referrals; assist with information sharing, assist in making sure that the information that is available is communicated to people as they seek assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) There appears to be more and more young people requiring help. Even when they need help, sometimes they don't listen.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is very sad to see a couple or a family going through a difficult emotional period. Sometimes the individuals involved don't want to ask for help or they don't see that they should ask for help.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an overview of what steps could be taken by a concerned community member to refer an individual or a couple to receive counselling and guidance, especially when they have young children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very difficult challenge that we have. Again, as a government we try to provide as many services as possible in people's home communities. As the member from Rankin Inlet North brought up earlier, there are challenges out there that people need, the first thing is ask for help.

Mr. Speaker, with what the member is referring to is having other family members refer or to try to force that help, unfortunately it's not an easy solution to find that answer, Mr. Speaker. It's very difficult to force someone to seek help. That's where I think the communication from the family members, from the community, where you can work with people to help them at least identify that they need help.

Mr. Speaker, depending upon the level of the severity of that challenge that's going on within that family, first and foremost is safety for the spouse, for the children, for other members of the public, and if anyone has any serious concerns on safety, I strongly recommend that they contact the RCMP right away. We hear too often of people feeling that there's no hope, that it's a hopeless scenario, that they make decisions based on not being able to have that optimism to look forward to.

Mr. Speaker, there are many things to look forward to. Don't make an immediate decision to a long-term issue. Seek help. It's not a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength to admit that we all struggle at different aspects of our lives and if we don't ask for help, help is not going to come knocking at our door. We need to take that first step and we need to encourage all of our family members and all of our community members...

>>*Applause*

...to take that first step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Question 892 – 5(2): Status Update on Park Development

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as those who are following the proceedings, especially those people who have lost loved ones in my constituency. Since I came here for our sitting, I have lost two of my constituents. We have lost six all together in my constituency. We know this is very difficult and we love them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

Now, we all know that in our constituencies and communities there are hardly any jobs available and we want to try to create any kinds of jobs because there are so many people not working. Whenever a new job is being created, we're very happy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this question. Near Clyde River there is going to be a park created and it has been worked on for a long time now. I know that it's going to be the largest park in Nunavut. Can the minister give us an update on the work for the new park near Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that for the new proposed park, we requested from the Canadian government for some funding. I can tell the member that we have been approved with \$4.7 million for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When parks are being created in the communities, there usually needs to be a committee struck to work on that. There is one in Clyde River that is doing the planning. Is that committee still running well and working on this park? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I can tell the member that the committee is running well, to my knowledge, and they make decisions as to how this park will run and will look. The funding that has been approved, the majority of the money will be used to create a visitors centre after it has all been approved by the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for clearly explaining that.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier there are many people who do not have jobs and it is going to create jobs.

Can the minister explain to us today, in regards to the visitor's centre that the minister referred to, what year will it be constructed under your plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell my colleague that the visitor's centre will be built, as to the when...it will not be started this summer,

but we are planning to start it possibly next year, but we have not made the final decision yet. It will progress because the money has been approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Question 893 – 5(2): Summer Employment Programs for Students

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to fellow people from Netsilik and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Summer jobs for students are an excellent way to provide experience, teach skills, and fight poverty. Information provided by the Department of Human Resources indicates that three students in Kugaaruk and two students in Taloyoak took part in the 2019 Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which is administered by the Department of Human Resources. One student in each community took part in the Qulliq Energy Corporation's separate summer student program.

Can the minister provide when his department will start accepting applications for the 2020 program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut. I am very pleased that you asked that question.

Mr. Speaker, every summer when the students go home or have stayed in their communities, there are summer jobs available within the government. We do that on an annual basis, and we try to see more students apply for the summer jobs. We will be starting once again in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding adequately. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify if there is a limit to the number of students who can be employed under the Summer Student Employment Equity Program in any one community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have no limit as to how many students can be employed under the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. Usually we have dialogue with the government departments and other entities and ask them how many students they can hire for the summer. There's no limit, though,

and we would like to see even more students apply for summer jobs within the government. We try to hire as many students as we can, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. It's becoming very interesting.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will be aware, the Department of Family Services has administered a separate Summer Employment for Nunavut Students Program, which provides wage subsidies to municipalities and private employers to hire students. Can the minister indicate how the two departments and the Qulliq Energy Corporation coordinate their recruitment efforts at schools and Nunavut Arctic College? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to make it even more interesting, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we work with the departments and the Qulliq Energy Corporation and also with all departments. We try to find out how it would be best to coordinate the equity program. We use all mediums, radio, and make sure that the information is made available in all the schools. We work closely with those entities to make sure that all of them are available and advertised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 894 – 5(2): Mental Health Issues Affecting Families

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow residents of Amittuq and members.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health.

As the Member for Gjoa Haven was asking questions about mental health issues, my constituents are also affected by mental health issues, especially the fact that it's not advertised enough to the people of Nunavut. They don't do it intentionally. The parents don't know who to turn to, even though they're trying to seek help for their children.

(interpretation ends) When it comes to mental health issues, how is the department amending the policy when it comes to family and mental health issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to work on this issue, obviously, but I think one of the major things that we're looking at is how families can be more involved. It has been talked about often in this House that once somebody reaches the legal age of majority there are limitations of what type of information can be shared. When somebody is struggling especially with mental health issues and there's a potential to be a danger to themselves or others, we want to make sure that there are avenues to work on that communication model. It's one of the main impacts that we anticipate from that legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 1055 Yes, we have to make sure that the information is made available to the students with the parents. You also indicated that when a child turns 18 years old, they are the age of majority. What can I do to help the parents of that child who became of age? Who gives consent?

(interpretation ends) When it comes to trying to help these families, which does the person get consent from? Is it the parent that consents that "Yes, have my children helped" or once they reach the age of majority, do I make consent to the individual saying, "You need help, so can I assist you and support you in getting your help"? Who makes that decision when they're the age of majority? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That just goes to what I was speaking about earlier. The first step of any of these solutions is to ask for help and one of the challenges that we continue to face is we cannot force people to seek help. Anytime you have a discussion with any of your community members, whether it be a parent, an adult child, or a child themselves, help direct them to the mental health staff so that they can work through to find a solution or at least an avenue or a path to follow to seek the help that they need.

Mr. Speaker, I can't handcuff somebody and drag them to the mental health office and neither can any of us. As a parent, we're always concerned on the well-being of our children and I continue to stress that we need to work with each other, we need to work with our families and our loved ones and explain that asking for help isn't a weakness; it's a sign of really strong strength that you recognized that there's something that you're dealing with that you're struggling with.

It's not a matter of sitting down and going over the whole history and life of everything. It can start by just a conversation with a health care professional, a conversation with a counsellor or a family member just to acknowledge that "I'm struggling with something. Can you help me?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's not what I was trying to say. What I was trying to say is that there's a difference between wanting to help and needing help.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to building mental health facilities, it's quite hard because of the limited resources. Is it possible to include *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* to deal with mental health issues and also within the counsellors? Maybe if I redirect my question. Can you start the planning stages? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although there's an obvious need for mental health facilities themselves, the introduction into the healing process is just communicating with health care professionals, assisting with other community members, whether it be through elders, through the church, whatever your belief model is there are avenues to be able to access help.

There is this misconception I think, Mr. Speaker, similar to addictions and trauma treatment that is has to be in a facility. We recognize that we need these facilities in the territory and we are taking steps to move forward with planning, but that should not stop somebody from seeking help, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are resources in the territory and if need be, resources outside the territory that we can draw upon. We need to get our population asking for help and accessing the services and programs that we do have available, and continue to move forward as our infrastructure matures and develops to provide additional resources in-territory. We are going to continue to do that.

I thank the member for raising this issue. It is a very important one, but not all solutions are bricks and mortar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Question 895 – 5(2): Culturally Relevant Mental Health Programs

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I think many of my colleagues in this room will agree that we are going through an epidemic of suicide. Our communities are suffering and have been asking for culturally relevant support programs.

Can the minister clarify how communities can get more access to on-the-land mental health counselling programs? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the developments in this area, something that in the Kitikmeot region they should be very proud of, the Cambridge Bay Wellness Group there has successfully put on on-the-land programming, and we are looking at a lot of sharing of resources and best practices to bring those services to the other two regions.

Mr. Speaker, again, I'll commend them. They have chosen to be a leader in the development of this program. Any communities, through different funding options, whether it be the Quality of Life or through different programs that can be available for funding to access our resources to provide more on-the-land programming, whether it be with youth or addictions treatment or mental health, there are pathways forward and I would encourage any community to work with their community wellness coordinator to identify pots of money or programs that they can access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. It saddens me greatly when I hear my constituents talk about the ongoing cycle of grieving, mourning, and trauma.

Can the minister clearly describe what Inuit counselling and mental health services are made available on a consistent basis at the community level? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the member's question correctly; what had started in Clyde River with the Ilisaqsivik Society and the Inuit counselling program that they have developed there, it has been copied, if you want to call it that Mr. Speaker. Again, sharing some of the best practices and concerns with the other two regions.

These are the types of solutions that excite me, Mr. Speaker, when you have different areas of the territory that are not just waiting for somebody to develop something, they are working and working in conjunction and partnerships with ourselves, with Inuit organizations to develop this capacity and recognize the appropriateness of providing culturally relevant counselling.

When we look at clinical counsellors, and then we look at Inuit counsellors that have that traditional knowledge, combining those services together, Mr. Speaker, to me, is a perfect storm for success. That is one of the things that I have always been promoting and encouraging with our clinical mental health staff, to work with our Inuit counsellors so

that they can learn from each other and bring a more concentrated approach to the healthy well-being of their clientele. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I recently read an article about a recovery house for indigenous men in Edmonton. One of the keys to their success in achieving health and sobriety is having culturally relevant programs. Will the minister commit to providing more culturally relevant mental health programs delivered in the community of Kugluktuk at the earliest opportunity? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through our Quality of Life Division we have nearly \$4 million that is available for funding programs such as the one that the member is talking about. I strongly encourage her or members of her community to work with the community wellness coordinator to develop a proposal to access different program-specific funding.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I have said it in the past and I'll say it again: what works in one community may not necessarily work in another. We strive very diligently and very hard to make sure that communities have the control over what they want, of what services they want provided to them, and that's where the application, the proposal, that's where the ideas and the energy need to come from, from the community. If I cookie-cut a program into Kugluktuk that maybe worked in Kimmirut, it doesn't mean it will work in Kimmirut. These need to be driven by the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 896 – 5(2): Inuit Employed at Mines

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development, who is also the Minister responsible for Mines. I'll leave it up to him as to which hat he would like to respond under.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the department. At the Arviat hamlet there was a mine training program. Once it started, the department has been very helpful in providing funding. I want to say "thank you." I want it to continue.

Mr. Speaker, there are four mines in Nunavut and the chamber of mines had some discussions in Ottawa and they had this at last month's Northern Lights Conference. (interpretation ends) Minerals industry in Nunavut an untapped job creator for Nunavut. (interpretation) Also on page 6 in English, it's written down, (interpretation ends) "Huge

opportunity to capture more job benefits. (interpretation) We can certainly create opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, my question is that there are four mines in Nunavut and they're operational. I want to ask the minister: where are the numbers in terms of the number of Inuit employed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to have this in front of me, the document he's looking at.

As for the question, there are different types of employment for Inuit at each mine, so the numbers would be different. I believe I'm going to get a report in April because we have regular reporting and it's in April as to what the numbers look like for Inuit employed at the mines. I'll have a progress report. Agnico Eagle, I believe, is at about 37 percent right now. Compared to 2018, it's about 14 percent at Mary River. TMAC has about 14 percent employed there. I was given that at that time. I know that the numbers are increasing. For the 2018 report, I'll have more updates when it's available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. When I hear those numbers, it is clear that we are missing out on a great opportunity that could benefit Inuit.

When I look at the numbers in this this report, we definitely know that we're missing out quite a lot from 2018; four thousand jobs, and beyond that, within the mine in Nunavut as well, there are about 700 in Nunavut. There are four thousand jobs that are being accessed by others that could easily be accessed by Inuit. It could be used to buy skidoos, to buy homes, or to buy food for hungry children. Yes, it is sad. We miss out on a lot of opportunities for Inuit.

The mining chamber of commerce there's training opportunities within the educational system. There could be that opportunity opened up and so that more individuals could be retaining their jobs for a longer term So, our government today, the department, I'd like to know what their plan is to proceed into the future with regards to these types of opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're missing out. There's a big opportunity. Yeah, it doesn't matter if it's just in the mines, we have missed a lot. It's for sure, that's true, you can see that. It's very apparent.

There are a lot of statistics out there as to the number of Inuit who are unemployed, and that can get employment. There's a great number. As for the opportunities that are out there, the jobs, we cannot take a stick and force Inuit to go and work at these sites or to take advantage of these opportunities, although it's quite nice to see that these opportunities are available.

I want to say thank you that the House agreed to our budget this year, so that we could re-engage our strategy with the mines. So, we will work on this right away, immediately, and we'll pursue this on April 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister and the chamber of commerce. Its representatives have identified that not only the government but outside entities as well, will really need to work on these efforts. Such as Inuit organizations, private sector, the communities themselves, the hamlets and others through team building. I think we can really achieve a lot, that's my own thinking. How is this engagement going to spell out into the future? That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's why we want to have a letter that will advertise the promotion of jobs within the mines, to encourage anyone that might want to apply, let's say training opportunities as well in Mary River as well as the hamlet. We are very pleased that the Hamlet of Arviat and your constituents are very heavily involved, and I recognize them for their efforts and I take great pride in their passion.

There are many initiatives they pursue, so we should acknowledge that and how to partner with them to move further forward. This fall season, we used the Rankin Inlet school, where we as a government appointed representatives. They will study how to properly implement these priorities. We must proceed with our partner organizations, and schedule a meeting to develop these initiatives and to see them come to fruition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 897 – 5(2): Staff Housing

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Good morning to my constituents.

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I want to revisit the issue of staff housing. I did not get clear answers when asked last week, so I will try again.

(interpretation ends) Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that five new staff housing units will be constructed in the community of Pangnirtung during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Can the minister clearly explain how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determined this number, and can he clarify which department intends to use these for their employees? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Nunavut Housing Corporation has identified a communities where they want staff housing, from my understanding the deputy heads meet together and say to the corporation “By the way we have \$5 million annually to build staff housing, which is not very much and the need is great.”

They identify to us which community will be needing staff housing and then that is when the Nunavut Housing Corporation issues the tender call for such a staff housing program. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation recently transferred a number of offline staff housing units to the local Pangnirtung housing organization to use as public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain the process by which the local housing organization can request the local housing corporation to transfer additional vacant staff housing units to use as public housing units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation maintains and covers the O&M of these staff housing. Mr. Speaker, she would have to maybe ask the minister for HR as they are responsible for the allocation of these units now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind my fellow members to stay away acronyms. Your final supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, a longstanding frustration in the community of Pangnirtung has been

the issue of staff housing units that remain vacant for long periods of time despite the shortage of public housing.

The minister announced last week that the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to undertake an independent review of its programs and practices over the coming year, including its construction allocation methodology. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the Department of Human Resources is consulted in this in order to address the issue of longstanding vacant staff housing units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the review does not include the staff housing for the Government of Nunavut. That's all I can say today, but I would certainly like to encourage the member to encourage her constituents to go to the local housing authorities or organizations to go and apply. I know we have a shortage everywhere and the more people apply to the local housing organizations, then their numbers go up and then when their numbers go up, they become higher on the list, then that's how we decide which community is going to get the housing allocation.

With this new review we're doing now, hopefully we will change how we address housing methodologies throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please remember that the time for question period has not expired. We will proceed to Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 059 – 5(2): Iqaluit Public Housing Stock

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Return to Written Question No. 59 – 5(2). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Let's proceed. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. No. 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 273 – 5(2): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2018-2019

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Tabled Document 274 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee Report on the Review of the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners**Tabled Document 275 – 5(2): Review of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy Report**

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports this morning. The first one is the Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee Report on the Review of the 2019 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners*; and no. 2, the Review of the Adult Learning Strategy Report, March 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member Lightstone.

Tabled Document 276 – 5(2): Examples of RCMP High-risk Offender Community Notifications

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues that I have been raising during our current winter sitting concerns the high-risk offender community notifications that are issued from time to time by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that the police here in Nunavut should not hesitate to issue such notifications when a high-risk offender is about to be released into one of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling today for the information of the House some recent examples of such notifications from different regions of the country, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Amittuq, Mr. Joëlie. I'm sorry. Mr. Kaerner.

Tabled Document 277 – 5(2): Correspondence Regarding Continuing Care Centre in Igloolik**Tabled Document 278 – 5(2): Correspondence Regarding Housing Renovations in Igloolik**

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to table two documents in the House. The first document is also a concern for my constituents about the continuing care center, and also the other document it has been a concern on the housing issue. Please read the documents that I tabled in the House with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Item 14. Notices of Motions. 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. No. 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Cannabis Act Respecting Consultation Periods – Second Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Cannabis Act Respecting Consultation Periods*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Cannabis Act* to reduce community consultation periods by 30 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 43 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 39, 40, 41, and 42 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) It seems like this is off or maybe it's me.

(interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 62 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 10:44 and Committee resumed at 11:09

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues, or good morning. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 39, 40, 41, and 42 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 39 and the 2020-21 Main Estimates of the Department of Human Resources, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Legislative Assembly, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Human Resources – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Sheila Kolola, my Deputy Minister, and to my left is Grant McMichael, my Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to your officials. Yesterday we were just going to start on page D-5. Strategic Human Resource Management. First name on my list, Mr. Keyootak.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Inuit language and writing system was heavily discussed. We first heard many Inuit concerned about when they were trying to change the writing system.

When Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami had their fall meeting in 2019, they said the roman orthography writing system should be standardized. What has the Department of Culture and Heritage done about the writing system that was introduced and agreed to at the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Annual General Meeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. We're dealing with human resources, not culture and heritage. Mr. Keyootak. Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister and officials, Ms. Kolola and Mr. Grant. It's a pleasure to see you again.

First off, I would like to start off with the Public Service Training Division. I would like to start off by saying that the function that this division performs is integral and it's great to see the emphasis placed on providing additional training to our public servants. I'm glad to see that.

Looking at page 30 of the Public Service Annual Report, I'm also glad to see an increase in offerings as well as participation. One of the new programs or new courses offered in that fiscal year was, interestingly enough, managing information overload. That's something that I think everyone in this room could definitely benefit from taking. I'm glad to see it's there and I hope that we will one day get an opportunity to take part in such sort of training.

For my first question, I would like to return to a topic that I had brought up last year and it's the policy surrounding restricted competitions. Specifically the intention of this policy is to focus on hiring targeted groups. Last year I indicated that a significant portion, I think it might have been 40 percent, were restricted to GN employees only. The remainder were restricted to Inuit only.

At that time I requested that the minister review the policy on GN employee restrictions to ensure that it is only used when necessary and to encourage more use of Inuit only restrictions. I would like to ask: over the last 12 months, what has been accomplished? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Just a reminder that we have interpreters that want to keep up to you. I forgot to remind my colleagues that your name will only appear once per page and that you will not have a second round of questioning. Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the restricted competitions, as of December 31, 2019 there was a total of 111 restricted competitions that were advertised in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. 58 of those were restricted to Nunavut Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the minister for that information. It appears that about 50 percent of the restricted competitions to date are GN employees only, as opposed to Inuit only. But last year, I had requested the minister look into this. The minister had committed to doing so, looking at ways to ensure that restricted GN employees only is only utilized when necessary, and to encourage the departments to use Inuit-only restrictions. So I would like to follow up on that, has the minister done so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague said that these need to be reviewed, and that's what we are doing. We're reviewing it to see how it can proceed, and perhaps if you could allow my deputy minister to explain further. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The restricted competition policy was amended in the spring of 2019. Where previously there were requests for competitions to be restricted in various categories, including restricted to Inuit only. It was part of the process for the hiring department to request it from the Department of HR's DM. Since the amendment, it has been changed so that the deputy minister of the hiring department can restrict competitions, but a significant provision on section 10 is that all administrative positions in the Government of Nunavut have to automatically be restricted to Inuit, and if departments want that restriction lifted, then they ask from the Department of HR for approval. It has been less cumbersome and it's also good towards shortening the staffing process. When that part is eliminated, it can go straight into the competition process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: I'll move on to my next topic and it's the education leave policies. When we were upstairs with the minister during our committee meetings, the committee had requested and the minister had committed to providing historical information on the GN education leave policies as well as how many instances where employees had failed to return to their employment. My next question: why has the minister yet to provide that information to the committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just timing, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague could appreciate, we're a pretty busy department and when we commit to providing something, we will. It just has been timing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question regarding education leave. The Education Leave Policy states that each department must have an education leave committee and that each departmental education leave committee must submit annual reports to the Department of Human Resources. My next question is two parts. How many departments and which departments have education leave committees and further, which departments are submitting annual reports to the Department of HR? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the details to that particular question, I'll have Ms. Kolola respond.

In terms of the previous question, I was anticipating Mr. Lightstone to see if I did in fact have those numbers. Now I just have them, Mr. Chairman. As of January 2, 2020, there were 34 GN employees on approved education leave, 22, or 65 percent, are Inuit and 12, or 35 percent, are non-Inuit; 17, or 77 percent, Inuit employees are on education leave with financial assistance, five Inuit employees are on education leave without financial assistance, Mr. Chairman.

As for the other part of the question, if I could have my deputy respond through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Education Leave Policy has a section in there where a department can have an education leave committee and it's done on an annual basis. The numbers of those that are on education leave are tallied from the ePersonality and conversations from my staff with all departments.

The information that was requested for how many GN employees that have been on education leave did not succeed would have to be... . If we're going back to 1999, that's 20 years of looking at either historical records that are at the CGS records warehouse or have been destroyed and/or it going into personnel files, but that level of information besides the numbers is not readily available. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: what happens to employees who fail to return to work after completing their education leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your patience. (interpretation) The employees who didn't return to their employment after completing their education leave are dealt with, they're counted as to how much their education cost and what they did is investigated, and then they figure out how much money that person will have to pay back to his or her employer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that information. I'm glad that an investigation is ensued to determine the cost, which the employee must then recoup. My next question is: who is responsible for determining this amount? Is it the Department of HR or does the Department of Justice get involved? I'm looking for some high-level information because if...so I'm just looking for some high-level information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is dealt with by the department where that person was working before. It's the department that deals with it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic and it's the new staff housing policies which fall under the Department of Human Resources. In the Public Service Annual Report on page 12 it identifies that 97 employees had retired in that fiscal year. Further, last year the Nunavut Housing Corporation had identified that at that time there were over 120 employees in staff housing which are approaching retirement age. I would like to ask if the department has identified this as an issue to monitor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employees who are reaching retirement due to age or who want to move on are met with by human resources planners that help them towards their retirement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be able to provide us with an update of currently how many GN employees in staff housing are approaching retirement age? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Just a moment, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We don't have the number of employees approaching retirement age in front of us, so we would have to look for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to providing that information to the committee at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, if it can be found and if we can identify how many employees are approaching retirement age as you can't force employees to retire if they don't want to. If it is possible to find out how many employees are going to retire, yes, we can provide that information, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving to the new Staff Housing Policy, the objective under the policy statement states that the Staff Housing Program, including its eligibility criteria and rental rates, is intended to support Nunavut's housing market and stimulate the emergence of private, affordable home rental and homeownership in the territory. I would like to ask specifically: how does this current policy support Nunavut's housing market and homeownership in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want them to be able to get their own house and not need to use government staff housing anymore. We are working on that right now along with the Department of Finance and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, so three departments are working on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for repeating that, but I would like to ask again: how does this current policy encourage homeownership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we are working on that. We're trying to see how we can put the details together. We want to encourage people who are in staff housing to get into homeownership. We're looking at different ways of doing that, how they can eventually get out of government staff housing and be able to stand on

their own feet and own their own home. That is our objective using different means, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's clear that I'm not going to get a clear answer on that, so I'll just move on to my next question. Recently I did praise the government for this new Staff Housing Policy and specifically the amendment to the eligibility criteria or allocation methods to incorporate Inuit employment plans and goals to increase Inuit representation in staff housing. It specifically states that deputy ministers of each department may apply to the Staff Housing Allocation Committee to allow for Inuit-specific targeted housing allocation. My first question is: to date since this new policy came into force, how many departments have submitted requests under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time since that happened, we haven't had any yet, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the minister understood me because the minister of the Department of Health had indicated that he had used the eligibility criteria to advertise six housekeeping positions with staff housing. Would the minister like to further elaborate on his response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Please remember we have translators that want to keep up to you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular one that was put through just directly by the department, it wasn't put specifically under that section that my colleague is referring to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I'm about to run out of time, I'll move on to my next topic and it's regarding the Summer Student Employment Equity Program Policy. This morning my colleague, Mr. Qirngnuq, asked questions about when the GN would begin the program and didn't get an accurate response. I would like to ask: will departments be eligible to apply for this summer student program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did tell my colleague that it will be initiated in April or in spring, Mr. Chairman. We will get the ball rolling on that by April, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an issue that I have been bringing forward for the last two years, your two predecessors before you, the fact that allowing departments to submit requests under the summer student program in April is far too late. I believe that the department needs to amend this policy to allow departments to begin the application process much sooner.

I believe it's extremely important to take advantage of reading week and Christmas break to allow students to submit or apply for this and go through the interview process well in advance to their April start date. For example, over in the NWT they actually allow students to apply in December and they thought it was a good idea to allow departments to utilize Christmas break and reading week to go through the interview process and have everything set up for when the student arrives off the plane. They can start work the next day.

My last question is: will the minister commit to amending the Summer Student Employment Equity Program to allow departments to apply and begin the process so that students may begin the interview process when they're here for Christmas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we became a stand-alone department, we heard about where we can improve and strengthen our policies, plans, and so on. It's very interesting to hear the suggestion coming from the member. We look at the suggestions and ideas to improve the summer student program. It's very interesting to hear and it's something to be taken into consideration. I'm sure that we will very seriously consider it for the future and we will look into it over the year so that students can apply earlier. He has good suggestions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

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

Your department is responsible for coordinating government-wide Inuit employment initiatives and targets. The government's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates a target of having 1,879 Inuit employed in the government's primary departments by March 31, 2021. In order to achieve this target, the government will have to hire at least 280 new Inuit employees over the next fiscal year. How realistic is this target? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The target that my colleague is referring to is just a target, but it's achieving the target at least 90 percent. This is our target to achieve that date within the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, your department's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates on page 47 that the budget for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program during the 2020-21 fiscal year will be \$985,000, which is unchanged from the 2019-2020 fiscal year. No changes are expected to this program's budget for the next three fiscal years. Why is the budget remaining the same when the number of students participating in the program has been increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the budget is appropriate when we're going to be using it for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. I think that budget is on target, so we haven't made any changes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of your department's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates, the standing committee recommended that your department review the Summer Student Employment Equity Program's definition of the term "Nunavut Student" to ensure that only Nunavut Inuit and long-term residents of the territory are eligible to participate in the program. What specific actions has your department taken to address this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question regarding the Nunavut Inuit and long-term residents of the territory. That's our goal and we are currently doing a review of the specifics, for example, if they went to school in Nunavut or if they're a beneficiary, and we look at where we can strengthen the policy so that we focus mostly on Nunavut Inuit.

Sometimes we have southerners who have relatives here in Nunavut and then they arrive in the summer and are employed with the summer student program. We would like this program to be Nunavut-specific and we're just looking at tightening it up so that it becomes achievable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now break for lunch and start again at 1:30. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 11:43 and resumed at 13:30*

Chairman: Good afternoon, colleagues (interpretation) and people watching the proceedings. The people of Qikiqtarjuaq are in our thoughts.

(interpretation ends) This afternoon we're on Strategic Human Resource Management. Next name on the list is Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the questions I want to ask have already been asked, please let me know, or if they have been answered already.

The 2017-18 *Public Service Annual Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2018 and it indicates that 1,384 employees received a bilingual bonus, which includes Inuktitut and French. The report also indicates that 163 employees have been assessed for the Inuit Language Incentive. There are different levels like level 1 and level 2. For level 1, it indicates that there were 11 employees; for level 2, it indicates that there were 126 employees; for level 3, it indicates that there were 26 employees, for a total of 163 employees.

In the 2020-23 business plan it indicates that they want to work with (interpretation ends) the Official Languages Division (interpretation) of the Department of Culture and Heritage and "shared best practices and processes for the development and delivery of Inuit Language training programs, in support of the transition of language training programs to the Department of Culture & Heritage in 2020-21."

On October 31, 2019 the government announced that the employees who are enrolled in the Bilingual Bonus Program for Inuktitut will be, and I can't say what is stated here in Inuktitut, so I'll say it in English, (interpretation ends) "...grandfathered into the Inuit Language Initiative Allowance at level one (1) as a baseline. In order to keep the allowance, these employees must apply to be tested by December 1, 2019. Any grandfathered employee who does not apply to be assessed by December 1, 2019, will lose the \$1,500, Bilingual Bonus (Inuktitut) payment." How many employees met the deadline and how many employees did not meet the deadline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got lost in your words for a bit there. Thank you for being clear. The Inuit Language Authority had a list of 882 names and we extended the December deadline due to the ransomware attack. We waited until the end of the month and we collected another 400 names. There are currently 1,282 names to date through this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you and thank you for that clarification. Those employees and Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit with the assessments that they have with the employees, and since this is the administrative centre, how do you administer tests in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We aren't handling that per se with regard to the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. However with the information I have, I know that they are going into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, minister for your answer. My last question for now is; your department's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates on page 45 that one of its priorities have been to quote "Work with departments to enable the Inuit language as the working language in the public service." The 2017-18 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that although 1,384 Government of Nunavut employees were receiving a bilingual bonus for the use of the Inuit language and/or French, only 163 employees had received an assessment under Inuit Language Initiative Policy.

My question to the minister is: what is the government's estimate for how long will it take to achieve a workforce that is fluent in the Inuit language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. If I understand the question, when are we going to achieve a 100 percent Inuit language workforce. There's no answer for that right now. I know that it's probably under the parameters of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I did say it was my last one, but this will be my last one. Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, who do I contact? How do I go about taking this test as an employee when you don't live in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like you to meet with the minister who is right across from me, he's quite young and he's the Minister of Culture and Heritage. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister.

I would like to start off first with your 2017-2023 report about Inuit employment targets. When you look at page 8, there are not a lot of Inuit employed within the Department of Health. As a human resources department, and when we look at the health department, let's say at the hospital, what are your efforts to increase and work with the Department of Health? How do you engage with the Department of Health to encourage more Inuit to work in the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Mr. Chairman, in regards to the different departments and the Inuit who want to apply for jobs, we work together and try to encourage and promote.

Recently, we encouraged Inuit employment plans, and that is one of our initiatives as a government so that we could have more Inuit even within the Department of Health so that they can also be promoted into higher positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that I brought it up is because of the low numbers in the Department of Health. They do not often have completed degrees, for example, to reach university to attain a certificate or diploma or bachelor's degree in that level. When we look at Inuit who become employed within the government, and I know you want to encourage more Inuit, if I could use an example like midwives and hunters. Are you able to reach those target groups to promote them to try to encourage them to work in workforce? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some jobs that require certain criteria, for example the eye team, eye doctor, nurses, doctors that require certification within Canada and accreditation within certain fields of work. Those that do not require too strict criteria, there could be more. We know that according to their life experience, sometimes that is helpful as well as their work experience.

Let's say for example an assistant mechanic, even if an Inuk does not have proper accreditation, they can also work towards a higher positions according to their work experience and the number of years that they have worked. When we are able to look into that, we are able to do that, when it is possible. We try to encourage Inuit and even though you do not have that proper education, according to the number of years that they have worked, we encourage them to apply into these different types of positions.

If you have any thoughts about how to encourage others as well, we would be happy to hear that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that. For example, someone could become a mechanic or small engine repair person, but they have a criminal record, and so they are set aside and they are not eligible, even though they are able to work as a mechanic. Let's say their education is low but they have work experience in handling engines, I know of a number of people in my communities that I represent for whom this is a challenge.

What ways can you encourage and how do we get around the individual who would like to eventually, let's say, become a mechanic? I'm sure you have seen some of the barriers and let's say the criminal history, what have you planned for these types of individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're asking a straightforward question. Anyone applying for the jobs need to have criminal record checks and that's part of the criteria within that. If there are barriers and those that want to apply, when they have barriers, they can go to see the human resources workers in the departments and to review their applications. I know some people are easily trainable and accordingly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We understand it now. Also, what's very evident is that the officers in the communities and it would be nice if they learned more of the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and when you roll out the IQ training, any regular Inuit that are in the communities, have you given them any consideration to be used as expertise to work in casual employment within that office? Let's say, once they get the work experience, they might want to consider a career in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different things that happen here and we can work together with the organizations as to what they're looking for and different organizations. Also, through training possibilities and when there's training available, and I know these are good ideas and they're excellent ideas as to how to encourage more employees.

Of course there are policies in place and we need to follow those, but it would be nice... . There is training on the job and there is Sivuliqtiksats training and the other one in future

years. We're going to review more possibilities of other types of on-the-job training to encourage employees to come into the different sectors. We're looking into that into the future years to roll that out and to find different ways to achieve that success and encourage people to get into these jobs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for elaborating on that. Young people are our future and I'm happy to see the report that you tabled in the Assembly. I encourage you further that there has to be collaboration and cooperation and the departments should work together, Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* be strengthened. They have capabilities.

You talked about administrative staff. You advertised positions. When you are looking for employees, there is a long wait period and when they get tired of waiting, they think that they aren't even thought about.

Can you do something? Don't fast track it, but do something so that positions can be filled faster? Is there something you're looking at as Human Resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're presently reviewing to see if we can fill positions at a faster pace from the opening of the position, and before it is filled how we can shorten that.

We are presently working on that and considered many things, perhaps advertising for shorter periods and those who don't get selected and make it shorter for reapplying. We're looking at different ways on how we can speed things up, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy that you are looking at it. When people wait for too long for those with administrative skills and they start thinking that I won't be selected.

Also, those with speech and hearing difficulties Minister of Family Services talked about that they'll be trying to employ those types of people more, when they are in school because they cannot hear or speak they are sent to a different community. Can you work together on how they can be employed within the government?

Also, there are people with speech impediments that can only communicate in sign language. They have feelings like us, they are human beings here. Have you planned anything on how they can be employed by the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According within the policies of the people working within Nunavut that their abilities are already recognized as and they have the same rights for those who have speech impediments or who have hearing problems. They're going have any lesser rights than people who can speak. Yes, what my colleague just said was to go work more together with them.

For those who have with hearing or speech impediments, we'll not think of them any less for than other applicants we're working on that and we'll do more work on that, Mr. Chairman. And thank you and I'm happy too that you brought it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you for looking at that. I thought that was my last question, but I just thought of a question. In 2015 there was an agreement signed, a settlement agreement, the funding that was given by the federal government how much have made use of the money that was going to come from the federal government, how much have you used and what is your status to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, it's a good question. If you can allow my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. I think he just pointed out the funding that was in 2010 between the federal government and the Government of Nunavut. We were given \$50 million. We did not get it in one lump sum. We were given funding annually. Within that, the federal government and the Government of Nunavut in training more Inuit for employment and we used that. I think you have heard of some of them. The Amaaqaarniq training will be paid for, trainees will be paid, and career broadening programs. These are just some of the programs that I'm talking about.

The funding to date from the federal government, they have identified \$7 million and the Government of Nunavut is \$16 million and this will be on until 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll elaborate on my colleague's question. The funding for possibly Inuit, the funding held by Nunavut Tunngavik, Makigiaqta, and from that, how much has the Government of Nunavut received from that funding to date? If I understand correctly, the \$50 million that was just mentioned is separate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my deputy minister can respond to that question as well, if you will allow her, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is over and above your question. The \$50 million from both the federal government and the Government of Nunavut is for those two, but on top of that, there's \$175 million available through Makigiaqta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my question. From the \$175 million, to date, how many Inuit have started working for the government when they finished their training? I would like to understand if the Government of Nunavut has been given any part of the \$175 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. We want Inuit to be trained because, well, we have funding available. Perhaps within that on exactly what the details are, Mr. Chairman, if you can allow my deputy minister to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kolola.

Ms. Kolola (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$175 million in Makigiaqta that I talked about, that's held by them. The training will be used and the funding is given to Makigiaqta and during their meetings, it has been over two years or three years that they have been given that funding. To date almost \$40 million has been approved for three- to five-year training programs or will be for there are 38 positions for training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the funding we're referring to isn't held by the government. This \$39 million that was just mentioned,

within that, some of that funding will be slated for the GN. I'm not sure what amount. Maybe I didn't quite understand. Within that \$39 million, are the different departments within the Government of Nunavut given funding? I want to know if they have been given funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$39.6 million, even though it will be for three to five years for 38 trainees, we haven't gotten any money from that pot of money. We haven't used any of it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. Now I understand. There are different training positions within that \$39 million from Makigiaqta. The government has two seats on the board. When a person finishes training from that fund, once they finish the training, the people who took the training, do they give their resumés or are there applications to HR, "We finished our training and we're ready to work for the government"? Is there something set in place like that? Mr. Chairman, I would like to understand that. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague's statement, yes, I would like to see it. We haven't seen any yet so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, the \$175 million so the Inuit can be trained or Inuit can work for the government, maybe I just misunderstood it. When they finish whatever training, I'm not sure exactly what training is available. Human resources should...how can you work with people who are training them once they finish their training? We want to see them work after Inuit finish that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope you can understand me.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be happy to see Inuit who complete their training. Once they finish their training, what my colleague is talking about, we want to see those resumés, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reiterate that it has been given funding, but to date the Government of Nunavut hasn't gotten any funding from that program. For that reason, Makigiaqta has stated that the Government of Nunavut should apply for that funding if they want funding from that. We won't be able to get any funding, but it's only after we have identified a partnership model. This has not come forward yet.

(interpretation ends) We have not accessed any funds from Makigiaqta. The Makigiaqta corporation has claimed that proposals from the Government of Nunavut cannot be funded until a partnership model can be determined. We are willing to look at a partnership model when the Makigiaqta corporation is ready to share it with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for explaining how it is. I have been waiting to hear about this decentralization, and in the business plan, it says that the human resources strategy is probably going to be tabled or finished. Is this mentioned in the plan, the issue of providing jobs for other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not in the way the question is being asked. We are not talking about it yet. It will have to be discussed by the different groups first within the different departments, if there is an interest to look into that, but we are not pushing for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister. There is an opportunity for the departments, for example if the Department of Environment said to you, Human Resources, that they would like certain positions to be moved, if they said “We would like to move five positions to this community so that we could increase the number of Inuit working.” That is just an example. So, does each department have a way to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what my colleague is saying. My department makes it a priority to support other departments when they are looking for workers. If there is a request from one of the departments for workers, we do our best to support them when they are trying to create positions.

For example in the Department of Heritage, HR has moved two positions to Rankin Inlet, following decentralization. I hope that is understood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your report from 2018-19, some communities have proper Inuit workers. As an example, the rates of Inuit employment in Arviat is 66 percent, Coral Harbour 66 percent, Qikiqtarjuaq 74 percent, Pangnirtung 72

percent, Gjoa Haven 68 percent, and Taloyoak 68 percent. The lowest one in all of Nunavut is the capital city. It is understandable why it is like.

Looking at the numbers up until now...how will the transfer of positions from one community to another be discussed and approached in the government? Is the government going to be talking about the transfer of PYs from one community to another? Has there been any discussion on this matter since 1999, when the Government of Nunavut was created? At the time, it was a big job, and there was a lot to consider. However, at this time, it appears that talk about this matter has basically stopped.

We need to find a way to bring this up again. Has the Department of Human Resources thought of any way to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up until quite recently, the number of Inuit who were working for the government was very few. Secretaries, receptionists, and labourers for construction were basically the only jobs Inuit had. There were even people that were there to help build houses, but never hammered one nail, they would just be carrying stuff.

It has changed a lot now if you look at all of Nunavut. Inuit are even contractors: erecting buildings and doing all the electrical and plumbing. Within offices, the number of Inuit are increasing and we know it should be higher, and we would like to see all employees to be Inuit. Even in the Legislative Assembly here, we are almost all Inuit here. That is very good to see. We would like to see more.

Turaaqtavut, I believe, will not be finishing anytime soon, we will keep getting more Inuit working. When Nunavut was being decentralized right after Nunavut got created.

We have many avenues now; roads, airways, and internet and computer usage, that all contribute to vastly improved means communication now. If an Inuk says something overseas, we can hear them from Iqaluit right away, but in the past, we would have to wait for a long time to be able to hear what they had said.

As time goes by, the way of doing things in the office of communication and transportation has been progressing, and now we are able to communicate in real-time. The MLAs like Mr. Main for example, they are urging us to spread jobs around even more, the people are agreeing, and we have no choice but to listen.

It is always talked about within the government, how we can spread positions and jobs around the communities even more, across all of Nunavut. Just like in Iqaluit. Not everybody wants to move to Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay or Rankin Inlet, well I am sure everybody wants to move to Rankin Inlet, but we do not have room. Just kidding.

>>*Laughter*

It is possible to move PYs, and more and more talk is happening about this issue all the time and it will continue. It is happening, and it is great to hear that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be expecting that the government will be acting on decentralizing, or implanting jobs into other communities, moving jobs into more communities. I will be expecting to see that happening. I am not the boss of how it is going to be done, but the Department of Human Resources should be the lead, I am not sure.

The other important matter of note is one that my colleague had previously asked questions about; disabled people that want to work within the Nunavut government. We know that the Inuit are subject to preferential hiring, when there are no Inuit available, who is the next candidate on the list? Is there a second choice? Let's say there are no Inuit available, can that position then be accessed by people with disabilities?

(interpretation end) Would the... does the preferential hiring policy have any additional layers between Inuit and non-Inuit? Like, are there Inuit...is there preferences for disabled folks? Are there preferences for people who are visible minorities who have to deal with discrimination? Are there any further layers on the preferential hiring?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to people with disabilities; if they applied for the job, they are not looked at as having a disability, they are looked at as the same as other people. They are looked at just like people without disabilities, and if there is a job available, and if there's a job available, they're not told that they can't have the job because they have a disability. There's nothing that says that a person with disabilities has to go before that Inuk. There's nothing like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) When it comes to disabled people, there's no preferential treatment for people with a disability. How about people who are of a visible minority? I mean this is in place across many places in the country. Is there any preferential treatment for people who in a visible minority other than Inuit?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there's no preferential treatment and no one is higher or lower, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the department be able to look at this a possible area for improvement? I understand and I support the preferential hiring policy for Inuit. You put Inuit at the top of the pile, but it's important to remember that visible minorities also face discrimination. I believe that's why other jurisdictions have policies to try to combat the built-in disadvantage that many of them face. Would the department be able to look into this and get back to the committee in terms of whether additional policies are needed or improvements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see why we wouldn't be able to take a look at other jurisdictions and see what kind of policies they have in place regarding this matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my last question will be: will the minister commit to getting back to the committee? He said that he doesn't see why not. Will the minister commit to getting back to the committee on that policy area and looking at options? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had to find a way for him to use up his last eight seconds.

>> *Laughter*

Most definitely, we will look at different options on that matter and get back to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): That's great, Mr. Chairman. This was partially asked already. I would like to ask about the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, or Inuit Language Authority. My colleague from Pond Inlet was asking about it. Is the work that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit does given to the schools to use? I would like to know, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: I think that's a question you could ask towards the culture and heritage minister. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll go to a different question. When it comes to language, the traditional languages that are used, is there a way to make the Inuktitut language a priority over the English language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the departments, when it comes to the Inuktitut language, they use the community dialect. However, individuals can speak dialect that they want. But

In regard to the testing, the proficiency testing if you're asking about the proficiency testing, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit when they are doing this, they look to see how strong the language knowledge is, they do the testing using the dialect of that person that is being tested. If you were from the Keewatin, your test will be done using the Keewatin dialect, in the Baffin; it will be the Baffin dialect being tested. So, they use the dialect that the person being tested has chosen to be tested in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister. We have very different dialects. But, he understood my question very well. What about when was it started? When did the testing start? How many communities have been tested using their dialect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): We started it in October 1, 2017 and there have been no change from that date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are approximately 5,000 employees within the Nunavut government. Who within that number, how many of those employees are proficient in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Just a minute Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the number was right in front of me and I lost it. I'll give a response when I find the document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move onto another subject. It's not in your proposed plan on page 49 and, regarding the staff and their

competencies, and when they apply for jobs in our communities: what's your criteria for their abilities or competency? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, when they're applying for jobs what is your criteria for the abilities or competency? I found the numbers; to date there are 552 individuals that have been tested for Inuktitut competency.

I believe you also asked a question about people applying for jobs. Usually, they send in their resumes and we go through the same thing, Inuit fill out the forms and then we take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In 2017-18 the department had moved Inuit in longer term casual position into indeterminate positions from 8 to 46, and that was quite impressive when the department did that.

I am wondering has the department done any tracking system to ensure that at a specific time that people get into indeterminate positions, if they have been on long-term CSA afterwards? Has the department made a timetable? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes... We look at the number of casual positions and then move to full time. There were 138 in 2017-18, in 2018-19 there were 135; 2019-2020, 159 had moved from casual to full time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. That is good to hear and we hope that the trend stays that way.

Moving on to another subject in the business plan, (interpretation ends) On page 51, under employee wellness, the department is requesting the additional funds for 2020-2021 from this past fiscal year. In the priorities, it states "Work with experts and key stakeholders to develop a long-term employee wellness strategy that addresses the changing complexities of a diverse and growing workforce."

I am curious to know what new things the department coming up with for in this area to support employees? With more support? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased to see this placed as a priority and having a wellness strategy. Because of course, some of the employees require a lot of support. We have also set up a toll-free number so that when they call, that they will speak to an Inuktitut-speaking receptionist who is also available when required. We are also setting up an Inuktitut support line. We are also training the stakeholders to develop a strategy on what will be required should there be a problem encountered, whether it is harassment or a threatening manner. We have set up a strategy that could be used in the office should they encounter a problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you also to the minister. Again, it states here, (interpretation ends) “Staff the Employee Wellness Division to ensure both strategic and operational goals are met.” (interpretation) With it, there is a toll-free number made available. You also indicated that you are getting Inuit employed. I know that the toll-free number is outside of Nunavut. You indicated that there are Inuktitut-speaking people available. This is not placed as priority, to have Inuktitut-speaking people available. For example, if the phone is and I want to speak Inuktitut, are they available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is our goal as a department. We would like an Inuktitut-speaking person to be able to call and access the resources that we offer, without the need to hire a translator, interpreters. Yes, that toll-free number is outside of Nunavut. If you call them directly, they would have an interpreter readily available should you want to speak in Inuktitut. That is where it stands today, but we do have a goal of hiring Inuktitut-speaking counsellors to answer that phone line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all wait for Inuktitut-speaking counsellors; I think it is a need of all the communities in Nunavut. It would also be nice to have the counsellor speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We advertised for that position. We have not identified what year, or when we will have Inuktitut-speaking counsellors answering that toll-free number, but it is our goal to get an Inuktitut-speaking person. I do apologize that we do not have a definite date set. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Strategic Human Resource Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,658,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page D-3. Human Resources. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$28,168,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Human Resources?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Comments, Minister Kusugak, closing comments. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions and interest in our department. We will move forward with this. I take your comments seriously and I look forward with my staff to start tackling some of those that are on the radar. Mr. Chairman, we have a very exciting department. It has been a very quick year and we have learned a lot. Thanks for your input and we look forward to the next year.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank all the human resources staff out there that work tirelessly, least of which are my two colleagues to my left and right, and I also wanted to recognize Regilee Adla, who is in the stand. She does terrific work with us and to all the Nunavut employees out there, you are doing terrific work. Without the Nunavut employees we wouldn't making our medical appointments, we wouldn't making a lot of these meetings, and there would be a lot of people out there in much more need than they currently have. Hats off to all the Nunavut employees out there. Thank you for taking the time to go over our departmental. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak, for also answering the committee's questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I ask members to stay seated while we get ready for the next department.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. I would now like to ask Minister Joanasi: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasi.

Hon. David Joanasi: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me here to my left is my Deputy Minister, Teresa Hughes, and to my right is our Director of Corporate Services, Wendy Bens.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2020-21 main estimates and the 2020-23 business plan.

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

Mr. Chairman, in keeping with Inuunivut, which is strengthening Nunavut as a distinct territory in Canada and the world, the department aims to work with our partners, including the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit, to improve Nunavummiut's language skills and enjoyment of Inuktitut literature.

Culture and Heritage collaborates with regional Inuit associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as other partners to host regular language conferences to share regional activities, successes, challenges, best practices, and ideas for language revitalization and showcasing Inuit art and media.

Within our Official Languages Branch we are continuing to coordinate the implementation of language programs and services across the government. In 2020-21 we will continue to advocate for more adequate and sustained federal resources towards the protection and promotion of Inuktitut in the territory and better reflect our unique linguistic needs. We will continue to seek enhanced federal resources to help us achieve our goal to increase the number of Nunavummiut who are learning and speaking Inuktitut in all areas a focus under our *Uqausivut 2.0* plan, particularly language of learning, language of work, language of services, and language revitalization.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, since the creation of Nunavut, Culture and Heritage has worked on strengthening our extensive heritage collections, which include archives, ethnography, palaeontology, archaeology, natural history, and the fine arts. Culture and Heritage has hosted three collection management training workshops for heritage facility workers. The last of the workshops was held in Winnipeg, where Culture and Heritage has had our fine arts collection on loan at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. We are working with the Winnipeg Art Gallery to renew the five-year agreement.

Mr. Chairman, with the approval of Iviqtippalliajut, Culture and Heritage is ensuring that government programs and services are more effective and relevant through *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values within Government of Nunavut legislation, policies, programs and services. Culture and Heritage will assist departments to create holistic and innovative ways to engage Inuit in addressing the needs of all Nunavummiut and their communities.

Mr. Chairman, we are committed to support the collection of Inuit oral history to preserve and to promote our language, culture, and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. Within our Elders and Youth Branch we will be collecting oral history on child rearing of children aged zero to five.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2020-21 Main Estimates and 2020-23 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2020-21 operations and maintenance budget is \$26.86 million, which represents a very small increase from the department's approved 2019-2020 main estimates.

One of the Department of Culture and Heritage primary responsibilities is to coordinate government initiatives to meet obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. This includes programs and policies related to language of work, territorial and federal language promotion funds, and the provision of language services within the public sector.

The government's most recent *Uqausivut 2.0* strategy, which was tabled on June 14, 2018, outlines a number of objectives with respect to Inuit language use in the fields of learning, work, the delivery of services, as well as the revitalization of Inuktitut. Members look forward to the Minister of Languages tabling up-to-date annual reports describing the government's progress in this strategy and its other language-related initiatives.

The standing committee realizes that the government's progress towards reaching its bilingual education objectives will require significant investment and resources in the area of curriculum development. Members encourage the Department of Culture and Heritage to continue working in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit towards the development of terminology and subject-specific vocabulary to meet education requirements. While members recognize

that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is a separate entity at arm's length from departmental administration, the minister is encouraged to work with the Taiguusiliuqtiit to ensure that consultation is ongoing in the development of standardized terminologies for use in government programs and publications.

Mr. Chairman, the Inuit Language Incentive program is a promising initiative to increase the use of Inuktitut as the government's working language. Members were pleased to note that over 550 Government of Nunavut employees have had their Inuit language proficiency assessed to date. However, the standing committee members expressed some concern with the program's current status. While members note that the government has extended the deadline for employees to submit their application to have their Inuktitut language proficiency assessed, it was unclear how many applications have been received to date, how many assessments are pending, which specific entity will be conducting the assessments, and how the Department of Culture and Heritage will be coordinating its efforts with the Department of Human Resources to ensure that the program is administered efficiently and effectively in all regions and all dialects.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Culture and Heritage works with Nunavut's private sector to increase the provision of Inuktitut language services to the public. The department also provides funding support to businesses for such initiatives as signage or language training. Members expressed some concern that there is no process in place to ensure that private sector signage uses appropriate terminology. While members recognize that the Office of the Languages Commissioner has some responsibility for ensuring that language rights in Nunavut are protected, it is not clear which entity is responsible for ensuring standard writing conventions are being followed when language rights obligations are being met.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's proposed 2020-21 budget, members were given to understand that the minister would shortly be seeking to meet with his federal counterpart to address the renewal of funding under the Canada-Nunavut General Agreement on the Promotion of French and Inuit Language. Members encourage the minister in his efforts to access federal funding support to adequately support the territory's language-related objectives.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the development and delivery of the government's archaeology, museums and archives policies, programs, and services. The standing committee continues to support the department's ongoing efforts to work with partners and stakeholders to catalogue, protect and showcase our territory's art and heritage artefacts.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services, in addition to dedicated grants and contributions packages, to support cultural activities as well as elders and youth groups across Nunavut. The standing committee urges the minister and his staff to increase their efforts to facilitate the application process for communities which have not yet fully accessed

these programs as well as simplifying the process for groups which receive funding on a recurring basis from year to year.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for coordinating the development of the government's *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* initiatives. The standing committee looks forward to receiving updates on the government's progress in implementing its *Iviqtipalliajut* framework to increase and strengthen the use of Inuit societal values.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Main Estimates and 2020-23 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. We will now take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:53 and resumed at 15:11

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. Before we left briefly, we went through the comments. General comments? Seeing none. We're on Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to sneak in a couple of questions under Directorate. My first question is on page F-9. Under the Summary of Grants and Contributions, I noticed that the community radio grant has been discontinued. Now would be my first question is: why is the department no longer funding community radio programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not discontinuing; we're just transferring it within the Official Languages Branch, realigning that budget and it's still in there with the same amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

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

One of the department's priorities for 2019-2020 was to review, evaluate and update the grants and contributions funding programs to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. In 2018-19 the department issued over \$6 million in grants and contributions. The 2020-23 business plan indicates that changes to the grants and contributions policies will be implemented in 2020-21. What specific changes will be made and how will this affect the amount of funding allocated for projects or eligibility to those applying for funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't completed this review yet of our grants and contributions, but we're looking at stuff, perhaps the possibility of having multi-year funding, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was the last name on this page. Page F-4. Directorate. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 92 of the business plan, Inuktitut Affairs, what exactly does that mean? Can the minister elaborate on that, even if it's short? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have an Inuktitut language specialist. That is budgeted annually. For example, last month in February, Qilaut music is developed through Inuktitut Affairs. Mr. Chairman, we have Inuktitut language employees. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we go back to Mr. Qirngnuq, I ask the members to have their phones on silent mode. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Qilaut was done. Also, in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq, I don't know if it's in the Baffin too; I'm not aware of it. Music and searching is done on an annual basis. Can those who are responsible for that use the funding too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are application based for music, drumming, throat singing, the Inuktitut culture and language, they put that out there. We accept applications for funding under our language division. As the Government of Nunavut, we put money aside and in addition to that, we're trying to renew our agreement with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Keeping that in mind, through singing or drumming and using the language more can be a reason. Even though it's not through that and other language services in the department, it's to retain the language. Is it under there, what has been set aside? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have different plans. In *Uqausivut 2.0*, our plan, government departments or government organizations, language services have to be available. They have been asked to use plans in addition to

using the federal government agreement that we divide between the Government of Nunavut employees if they want to take language courses.

It is in part dealt with by Nunavut Arctic College, but also human resources department sets aside money for that. GN employees are assessed, they can then be assessed on their Inuktitut abilities, and that's also a part of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a government, we cannot encourage any Inuk to do things that we want them to do. How about to promote the retention of language, or to advertise it more? What has the department done in that area? Do they advertise it, or are they planning to do so on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Our application, we are promote on an annual basis and some communities who don't apply for the funding we try to visit their community and we try to go ahead especially for the communities with less applications. In our present year 2020, there were somebody in Kugaaruk beginning of 2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To go back and touch on drumming, Inuit culture, and Inuit games in any manner: is it moving forward? Is it getting less, is it staying the same? I would like to understand that, and that's why I am asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those, our department's divisions, one of the divisions for elders and youth on drum dancing and we want to make hunting available to promote those kinds of things.

Looking at Nunavut, the other regions are stronger I think if we are thinking about singing. It's now increased that and we know that we are extremely proud at they come here to perform music sometimes. We want to support them financially and we can be given applications and want to see more of that happening in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am moving on. Also here, interpreter training or translation of documents, anything under the translation bureau,

how many communities utilize that? Maybe in all of Nunavut, or which region is bigger and which region is less in that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the translation bureau we have an office in Kugluktuk, Igloodik and here in Iqaluit. That is the three regions. We have wanted to increase the number of positions in the translations that are being done in the GN, and to have editor-reviewers. They would edit them and review them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the promotion, do you see that happening in the communities? Translation services in the old languages of the communities, what is the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand his question. Whenever we are short of interpreters, or if the translators have too much to do, we look to the communities who are capable for translations and interpreters. We want to know more about people who can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have interpreters here in the House. What about the interpreters who are in the communities? Are they progressing or are they just becoming fewer and fewer? That is my question about the interpreters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interpreter/translator program at the Nunavut Arctic College, we want to support that, but I cannot give you any numbers. I think that question should be posed to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions. The Inuit Language Authority, they are provided over \$2 million in funding. How does the department work with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit to check the Inuktit language proficiency of individuals that stand to receive a higher under that initiative? What other funding was given to the language authority for the purpose of doing the assessments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they were planning to do the assessing of employees, government employees, we provided them with an extra \$500,000, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was the \$500,000 enough or was it not enough? I know how difficult it is to assess government employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$500,000 was made available to the Inuit language authority, however we had to amend it to \$200,000 and that \$200,000 has not completely been used it. The reason is they did not have enough researchers and that is why not all the money has been used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What Ms. Nakashuk was talking about earlier, as to how many government employees or government staff are waiting to be assessed that have filled out the application form. You do not have the information or the numbers as to how many are waiting to be assessed?

To use Whale Cove as an example, if three government staff fill out three application forms and there would be three waiting to be assessed, within one year how many times would the language authority go do an assessment in that community? Would they go twice or once, or is it up to the language authority as to how many times they want to go to one particular community to do assessments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have compiled numbers with the number of staff that have requested assessments. From February 2020 there were 917 that requested to be assessed. These are government staff. Up to now, there are 595 that have been assessed. However, the language authority staff will be doing the assessments in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that policy under Human Resources right now and following it, after every five years they have to go through a reassessment. These are government staff, only if they use Inuktitut. However, the French

language staff are not treated the same. The languages are not treated the same. Can the minister make some considerations with his ministerial colleagues? Languages have to be treated the same, whether it's Inuktitut or French. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can work with the other minister. For the people who have already been assessed, there is a three-tiered scale. They're looking at that more and they're looking to see if they can get into a higher tier. After two or three years, I think that's the thought behind it. We will keep that in mind and I'll work with my fellow minister, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at how difficult assessment is, it doesn't seem right in my opinion where after every five years, "I believe you forgot Inuktitut. We're going to have to assess you again. In the last five years we believe you have forgotten Inuktitut, so we need to assess you again."

(interpretation ends) If an employee, let's say, is at level 2 and they don't want to go to level 3 or they don't want to do another assessment, they say, "I finished my assessment, I'm at level 2, I still speak the language at my job and I don't want to do another assessment," I think they should have the right to opt out. What's the point of doing another assessment? Anyway that's just a comment and I thank the minister for looking into it with his colleague. (interpretation) I'm done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome...

>>*No audio*

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but the list is not broken down into regions. I would be able to explain it if they had been broken down into regions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister commit to having the list regionalized and present it back to the committee whenever they can? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. If it's possible, we can look into that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 90 of your business plan you want to "Review, evaluate and update the Grants and Contributions funding programs to meet the needs of Nunavummiut." Also, "Culture and Heritage has evaluated the department's Grants and Contributions policies and will implement changes in 2020-21." Do I understand after your review in 2020, you're going to be trying to implement them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review is ongoing. We want to improve it for the people who are doing the requesting or making the proposals and if there is room for improvement or if there are problems or if it's too comprehensive, we're going to be looking to make plans for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says that the grants and contributions policy and will be implemented changes 2020-21, (interpretation) and 2022 and 2023 and continues onto 2022-23? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. We're planning these improvements to be implemented in 2020-21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list is Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question about the ITK who set up a unified writing system and possibly I use one language. Does your department have any comments on that? Have you discussed this as a department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit language authority used to be a part of ITK when they were talking about having one writing system. They would also have to give direction whether there's going to be a change in the syllabics and roman orthography. They're the ones who would make that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for further clarity or maybe I just didn't understand the response, but I would like to move on to another subject. On June 14, 2018 you announced *Uqausivut 2.0* and it also gave direction on what was going placed as a priority so that Inuktitut would be used more.

My question, because we have different dialects there is the Arviat dialect, the Netsilik dialect, Inuinnaqtun and so on. With that direction you want to go in 2020, am I making a mistake? My last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Uqausivut 2.0* and we have also set up our strategic priorities to promote and revitalize with the Uqausivut Plan. We have divided it up into four divisions, one for the use of the language in the schools, and other programs to revitalize the language.

Even if we speak different dialects, whether you are from Arviat or Sanikiluaq or Kinngait we urge everyone to use their language and focus on strengthening the usage and also showcase their dialect. We are looking at how we can promote and revitalize the use of the Inuktitut language. We will be identifying a number of outcomes and strategic priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We are on page F-4. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance to be Voted. \$5,275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-5. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance to be Voted. \$12,021,000. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to apologize first of all, I was supposed to have directed my question to this department and as I indicated earlier I represent two communities and we have lost six so far since I came here. We have again lost another one. This is one of my immediate family members and I do apologize, first of all. The two are from Clyde River and they are brothers. Their father used to tell me that even if you lose a family member please stay active and I try to follow that advice today. Thank you.

I would like to ask a question to the Department of Culture of Heritage. When they organized the meeting and called it Inuugatta Inuktituuqta. That was in 2019 and in the business plan for 2020-21 it says inside that over 150 people attended and shared experience with Inuktitut revitalization and maintenance. Were the results of this conference collected and published and if so when will they published and shared to promote revitalization and activities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Just a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I do apologize. With that Inuugatta Inuktituuqta Conference, we have to find out if there's a report that will be done, whether it's a requirement to write up a report. I can't answer that question at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): To supplement it further, there were different organizations that attended that meeting and they were from all of Nunavut, with the Languages Commissioner, the Inuit organizations, and government officials in attendance. We decided at that language conference to have other conferences in later years and ask other organizations to attend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know some Nunavut communities are struggling with language loss and maintenance. We try to promote the use of the language in order to preserve it. How does the Department of Culture and Heritage work towards promoting language revitalization in those communities that need it the most? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for Uqummiut. He speaks Inuktitut at all times in the House.

We have set up different projects, especially in the month of February. Just last month we had Inuktitut Language Week, which we do every year. In the year 2020 we focused on kinship terms, naming a baby, and those traditional usages and what it means to name a child after a particular person. The communities can take their own initiative and request funding for the use of language promotion and preservation. Our Inuktitut language is very important and at times it just goes hand in hand with language and culture.

There's language funding available from our department under grants and contributions to use for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Some are geared for youth and elders and languages also have their own monies. Also, Qilaut is an annual event and it's becoming very popular and it focuses on the use of Inuktitut by the youth. It's a very popular event. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past the Department of Culture and Heritage worked in collaboration with the Inuit [Uqausinginnik] Taiguusiliuqtiit in the

Department of Education to develop science and math terminology for school curriculum materials as well as an Inuktitut spelling standard guide. What is the department's current position on developing and formalizing a standard Inuktitut dialect for use across all of Nunavut's education system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our Department of Culture and Heritage, we work closely with language experts and educators in Taiguusiliuqtiit on development of common terms and words that are used most across interregional and this is trying to be inclusive of all the different dialects but also at the same time having a standard, same word for the same thing. This is just recognizing that one word is not to say another word is less than, but it's to promote and to have better communication within our public, within the government or in the education system to have a dialogue and being able to communicate effectively about the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We touched upon this a little earlier, but as you know, my community is struggling with language loss, Inuinnaqtun. How is your department working towards promoting Inuinnaqtun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work closely with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. We had a pilot project and this was to support five projects that build on language revitalization in the Kitikmeot region. We had an annual drum dance festival. There's language promoter orientation and training programs, sewing programs, TV networking programs, and there's also Kitikmeot Inuit Association language advisory working group that helps us to identify what are the needs of the region in terms of how to make the population use and regain their local dialects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Arctic College in Cambridge Bay offers language revitalization programs. I have asked a few times now that the department, like maybe I want to say, take turns offering it in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. I'm wondering if you have spoken to Arctic College about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that some of our in-house translators have taken or are taking the language revitalization program through the college. It's something that we want to have an opportunity for our staff to have training

and development to learn and revitalize dialects that might be at risk, but in terms of her question, I haven't spoken directly with the Minister responsible for Arctic College on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to encourage you to speak with Arctic College to see if this program can be offered in Kugluktuk too because it will benefit a lot of my constituents because a lot of them, I want to say, don't like to leave home to take college courses because of their families or whatever it might be. I encourage you to speak with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: It's just a comment. Do you want to speak to the comment? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take her comment and consider it. Thank you.

Chairman: The next name on my list, Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regards to on page 94 I was reading that Culture and Heritage with regards to interpreters and three communities. There's the offices in Igloolik, Iqaluit and Kugluktuk positions there. I don't know, have you thought about putting an office in the Kivalliq region for the interpreters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of to date, no we haven't thought about it to have in the Kivallirmiut to have an office there. The offices currently do their responsibilities for all of Nunavut and also terminologists and whenever there is an interpreter required, we acquire it from anywhere where it's available. We haven't thought about that at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the minister for his response. Also on page 15 with regard to the language in French and Inuktitut policies and on page 15 and also on page, well the protection of Inuit languages and the Minister of Languages have an annual report and there's going to be a policy and he also presented one in 2014-15 in that summer and in June 2018. So when will be the latest one that would be the annual report tabled with regards to the official languages French, Inuktitut and also *Inuit Language Protection Act*. When will more recent annual reports be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The annual reports that are tabled, the problem we've run into the recent past has been the lack of staff and so we're a little bit behind. We are planning though to be prepared to complete that and I cannot tell you at this time when those latest annual reports could be tabled. But when they are ready I will table them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. The 2020-23 business plan indicates that the Inuktitut Affairs Division of the official languages French, Inuktitut and English will receive a slight increase in funding for the year 2020-21. There will be a slight increase. Can the minister provide further detail on the activities of this division and also clarify for us what the additional funding will be used for in 2020-21? That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to find out more information on the French on page 93. Are you asking about that? It was \$288,000 and increased to \$290,000. Are you referring to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the 2020-23 business plan, it indicates that the Inuktitut Affairs Division of the Official Languages Branch will receive a slight increase in funding for this year, '20-21. Can the minister provide further detail on the activities of this division and clarify what the additional funding will be used for this year, 2020-21? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I could have Ms. Bens provide a response through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: For the Francophone Affairs, the decrease from 2019-2020 to 2020-21, the decrease between those two years is we took \$2,000 from contract services and moved it to the Official Languages Administration program, and then for the Inuktitut Affairs, the increase is related to...we moved grants and contributions money from Community Inuit Language Initiatives to Inuktitut Affairs of \$100,000 for grants and \$13,000 for grants. That's what the increase is. We just moved the money around between the different programs. We realigned our G's and C's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions under the official languages which relate to last year.

Looking at last year's business plan, one of the priorities was to revise existing contribution programs to enable multi-year funding that improves stability and continuity of language implementation initiatives for eligible organizations. In last year's status, "The department has reviewed its grants and contributions policy and it now includes the possibility for multi-year funding projects." I think that's a great initiative and I'm glad to see that Culture and Heritage has adopted multi-year funding projects.

My first question is: since this amendment was incorporated into the grants and contributions policy, to date, have any funding applicants been able to utilize multi-year funding agreements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a minor clarification, we haven't made that decision yet, but we are looking at that as a viable option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In last year's business plan the Department of Culture and Heritage stated that it reviewed its grants and contributions policy and it now includes the possibility for multi-year funding projects. What exactly does that sentence mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can allow my deputy to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was looked at last year and it was a review and so now we're still evaluating and we're getting assistance regarding that. With the project proposals, we're looking at if it can be improved where they can do multi-year, but it's under review at this time. It might be approved, it might not be approved. That's how it is at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Last year I was very excited to see this priority because I know how difficult it can be to go through a grant application process. As far as I know, I don't believe any other departments offer this multi-year funding.

Ms. Hughes stated that the review was completed but still under evaluation and you're getting assistance. Who is providing this assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think she stated the DPRA is the consultant assisting in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the benefit of anybody listening that might have to go through the hoops every year to secure funding from Culture and Heritage, when does the minister suspect that when the multi-year funding projects will come to fruition? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say for certain because his question is still up for decision, so I can't say for certain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. We're on the topic of language and jobs are going to be created in the communities and you mentioned Igloodik. How many jobs are you going to create with regard to the Inuit language in Igloodik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two editors and reviewers on the work of translators. I think it is one position for Igloodik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, one position. I'll move on to something else. The applications, grants and contributions for those of us in the smaller communities, when it comes to elders and youth and the use of the Inuktitut language, you had responded on February 19, 2019 on page 5, your policy for applications and grants. Have you ever considered the smaller communities they go through the hamlets for funding. In your review of the policy the applications that were written are you considering in the review of the policy, here's self-funding, you'll have to do a report on how you used the funding. Is that part of the consideration of Culture and Heritage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like clarification on this question. Is he asking about not using an application? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yes, minister he nodded to your question. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't reviewed that, it's still through the application process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They probably do proper reports on the money they used which in the year. So I urge the minister to take a look at that more closely when it comes to our language with that I'll move on to something else. The application-based processes as for funding been used by the communities in the regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can add on to it. We need applications because it has to be based on what the funding will be used for. We need to have an idea what grants will have to use that's the process for application-based programs.

To date, it's usually \$7.5 million that our application-based in our department \$6.5 million, 85 percent so far for 2019-20 and include vote 1, vote 2 and vote 4, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the last page of your opening remarks when you went on to say that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within our Elders and Youth Branch we will be collecting oral history on child rearing of children age 0 to 5. I guess my question would be once your collecting of oral histories over are you going to be working with Family Services to change the policies that they have within their department in regards to child rearing of children ages 0 to 5? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The priority for the Elders and Youth Division on collecting oral history, it is intended to be used by anyone including our own government if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will ask him in Inuktitut as we are Inuit.

Family Services has policies towards social issues, perhaps for child rearing also. The things that you are going to be collecting, is one of your goals to change policies of Family Services so that childrearing... they can use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in childrearing for people of Nunavut using our traditional childrearing practices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is going to be legislative changes, it is that departments responsibility to initiate that change. For instance, Family Services, if the minister wishes to make changes, she would be the one initiating it, for the clarify that. We want traditional childrearing to be more understood and that is what the collecting is for, and anybody can make use of that. It will be there for anyone to use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody can make use of it, Family Services does not necessarily have to use them. Even though the legislation, social services would still stay the same. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to understand more about childrearing and we want them to understand out there, and that is why we want to deal with it, for instance, not necessarily make legislation that is not what I am really saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might be liable if I use traditional childrearing, if I need to discipline, if I slap him on the buttocks I might get charged. That is why I am asking this question on what you are trying to achieve. What exactly it means. I will make it just a comment there.

Maybe if I move on to something else. I had tried to ask earlier when the human resources minister was in front of us on Inuit language initiative policy. (interpretation ends) What is the government's estimate on how long it will take to achieve a workforce that if fluent in the Inuit language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot estimate or I cannot state on this day that all departments to be speaking language or all employers, but we have promotions out there, the assessment of the Inuktitut proficiency by the employees so it will be ongoing.

The plan on language that we developed, on day we will be deciding the implementation in the future and the funding that we use from the federal government the work is ongoing so that we can reach our goal, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 93 of your business plan, the second last bullet priorities 2020-21 it goes onto say that “In collaboration with regional Inuit associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other partners will undertake a communication campaign to prevent language shaming.” Who are the other partners you are referring to here and when is this campaign going to be starting? I think there are two questions in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That other partners can include anybody or even individuals that have an interest who would like to help us tackle this issue in the territory and in terms of when the campaign would be starting, I don’t have details around that. But I think we could start any day, we can do it today now and continue on forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank the minister for that. The last bullet it goes onto say that whole regular language conferences to share regional activities, successes, challenges, best practices and ideas for language revitalization and showcase Inuit arts and media by supporting Inuit singers, artists, filmmakers, producers, conferences, online campaigns, advertisement and festivals.

When we talk about filmmaking, will people be able to apply for grants for this particular project or conferencing thing? Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our grants and contributions, they’re wide and far reaching as long as it fits within our eligibility criteria if its filmmaking and it promotes protects and revitalizes Inuit language and culture, it most likely will be eligible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second last question is on the same page 93 right at the top, Community Inuit Language Initiatives I think they set aside \$713,000 2019-2020, but 2020-21 up to 2023 there doesn't seem to be any money set aside. You may have already spoken about this earlier but if I can get clarification as to why there's no money set aside for Community Inuit Language Initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$713,000 under Community Inuit Language Initiatives, it's transferred to Inuktitut Affairs and Language Implementation Fund. The \$100,000 for Inuit Language Promotion and Protection Grant; Inuktitut song writing contest grant \$13,000; Inuit Language Promotion and Protection contribution of \$450,000; and community radio stations grant \$150,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that, for his answer. My last question is the 2020-23 business plan (interpretation) explains that official languages in Inuktitut in English. There was a question earlier I believe that the funding will increase a little bit. Can the minister explain for 2020-21 what the funding will be used for? If the minister already answered this question, if you could repeat that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, I would like clarification as to what the question is about? Where is the question from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2020-23 business plan indicates that Inuktitut Affairs Division of Official Languages Branch will receive a slight increase in funding for 2020-21. Can you provide further details on the activities of this division and clarify what the additional funding will be used for 2020-21? (interpretation) If it had already been asked, I apologize (interpretation ends) I wasn't paying attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think Cathy had asked that question. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) And my apologies too. (interpretation ends) if I am not on the same page as he.

(interpretation ends) The Inuktitut Affairs, there is a \$100,000 for Inuit Language Protection Grant. There are different activities, initiatives that that can be used for under Inuktitut Affairs. The \$13,000 is for the Qilaut song writing competition, that is an annual event and it has become quite popular. I believe the CDs were shared with all of my colleagues. I have seen some of them at the concerts here recently. It was a great turnout by the way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff.

My first question I would like to ask, (interpretation ends) page 92 of the business plan, Language Implementation Fund. (interpretation) The funding program has been increased. What is going to be added to this? What are you planning to add to the activities, I guess? The reason why you are adding more money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The... (interpretation) Sorry. (interpretation ends) Language Implementation, there is a \$600,000 increase which was a transfer realigning the contribution for Inuktitut language promotion and protection, \$450,000, and community radio stations, \$150,000. In terms of the remaining \$5 million, in that, we have broken it down by department initiatives throughout our government. For the Love of Reading Books Programs for Education, the Language Revitalization through Arctic College. There's a bunch of things that \$5 million is spent on in addition to federal contributions that we get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I don't have many questions. My next question, on page 93, the priority from last year 2019-2020. Culture and Heritage held a conference and brought together 150 people. After that conference have you put together any reading material or reports coming out of that conference? How the results of the conference have been used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. Even though it was asked earlier. We have been informed by phone we do have a report about that and there are some other Inuktitut terms that need to be worked on. A report will be compiled about the conference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I don't have any more questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question under Languages. This winter the Department of Education, we've been talking about the *Education Act* for a while now and the Inuktitut language, and there's the English language and the French language and the Inuktitut language. There's been talk about the other language that needs to be learned if you're going to progress to another grade. But this is the new language, English, that I'm talking about. Our traditional languages, Inuktitut, and the new language. Has the Department of Education made any considerations about students' graduations. I hope that makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Education was here, I'm sure the member should have asked questions to the Minister of Education.

We've made a plan up to grade 12 to 2039. We want to progress the curriculum up to grade 12. All the school curriculum that needs to be created and all the teachers that need to be added on to and that's why we've changed it to 2039. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a question. I know that you are planning something and we would like to hear more, we are interested in hearing more. If it can be utilized in our communities by our people, and our young people, so that they can use it to remember things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. We are on page F-5, Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,021,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-6. Heritage. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister made a statement in the House in the minister's statement that some people came to be trained in Winnipeg on how to manage artefacts. We have a visitors centre in Arviat and nobody from Arviat went to that course. Was the Hamlet of Arviat given an opportunity to send someone to Winnipeg to be trained too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities who hold, who have museums or have artefacts were given an opportunity to go the Winnipeg training. They were all given an opportunity to request to take part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this was a useful training program in Winnipeg and the minister's statement said that this was the third training or workshop. Are you planning to hold further training in Winnipeg, or in Nunavut on management of artefacts, heritage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to start to put together something that can happen in Nunavut. Work on artefacts. For basic storage purposes, like they don't have... they are not supposed to be in a very dry environment and we are trying to create displays and museums where we can.

We want to send out artefacts to different place and work with the Winnipeg Art Gallery for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move on to another subject on page 95. Toponymy Program \$151,000. Through the program they are working with communities to feed them information about traditional place names for geographic features and usually they have English names, but this was probably a focus on the traditional geographical names. Where can we get that information or where can we get the maps like for Arviat or places around Nunavut communities? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can order maps from the Inuit Heritage Trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the Toponymy program includes Iqaluit, where you indicated that it has been delayed, on page 95, and it has been moved to 2020-21. Is \$150,000 adequate? It looks quite small. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Toponymy program, our department reviews the information and Inuit Heritage Trust. The amount is adequate with what we're doing right now. It's adequate for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On public libraries, in your letter to the committee, you give a breakdown of the \$494,000 under Public Library Services. I note that the amounts are different for each library and they're all pretty low, I mean the highest one is \$78,000. How do you determine how much money is going to each library and is this enough money to actually run the facilities in the communities? I mean these amounts seem quite low in terms of the contribution. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may ask you to have Ms. Bens respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: Yes, the amount seems low and I know that there are different amounts based on the size of the library, but basically what happens is they put in an application and then based on the size of that library is how we determine how much money they get. That funding hasn't changed for the public libraries in a long time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Bens. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, it's my understanding that this money has been frozen and then it hasn't changed in a number of years. Is there a process for communities to identify the need for a library? I'll use Whale Cove for example. There is no library. There is no public library. I'm trying not to get into capital, Mr. Chairman, but on the operations side, is there a program or a process where a community can say, "We would like to have a library because it would be good for teaching people how to learn Inuktitut, it would be good for children"? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community libraries are run as non-profit societies and that's where when a community initiates sees a need for that service to be provided it can request make a proposal and I suppose have a stab at taking a slice of this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the minister... like when I look at the Public Libraries Services Administration that is based out of Baker Lake and there's two that are based here at the library here in Iqaluit.

Would the minister be able to provide some sort of written summary in terms of looking at all the nine libraries in Nunavut how many of them have public internet access, how many of them have reading programs say in Inuktitut, how many of them are running after school programs just to give the community a snapshot of what's happening at the libraries across Nunavut and I'm not just focussed on Arviat. I'm talking about the whole, all of them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to check into the requests in terms of what capacity each library can provide such services and or they have compiled the information around the data. So I could look into it and see what I can find around that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'm going to continue along Mr. Main's topic of public libraries. I'd thank the minister for providing the details in his written response. I'm glad to see that some increases to community libraries.

Also further, I'd like to thank the minister for providing a breakdown of the Nunavut Public Libraries Services Administration and when I look at response number two, there's no page on it.

In the breakdown of the Nunavut Public Libraries Services Administration it goes into all the details but it doesn't include \$500,000 grants and contributions.

So if the \$500,000 grants and contributions isn't included in the Nunavut Public Library Services Administration where is that funding coming from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't seem to figure out what \$500,000 he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you elaborate?

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry I didn't properly phrase my question. So on page 3 of the written correspondence of the minister provided. That provides a breakdown of the Nunavut public libraries services budget, from salaries down to

computer hardware and software. But, it doesn't account for the \$500,000 grants that are contributed to community public libraries. So just curious where that grants and contributions funding is coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Can you give us a minute?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand it correct, this is actually \$494,000 that is under Heritage grants and contributions, so it's reflected on F-9. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification, minister. I would like to return to an issue that I brought up last year and I'm quite concerned. Public libraries are often considered an essential part in having an educated and literate population, and the benefits of libraries to communities are essential in providing preschool and early childhood education activities and quiet spaces and also providing Internet access to the general public. I'm very concerned about this issue and I would like to ask the minister if he would consider addressing this issue and look at increasing the budget that is available to public libraries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There's no doubt library services in the community provide a great service and offer initiatives that are beneficial. In terms of his request, we can consider that and we will go with that. We can consider his request and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I'll be sure to follow up on that another date.

Last year I expressed my shock with the low number of public libraries we have in Nunavut. I think 9 for 25 communities is a shame. Last year I put forward a request to the minister to commit to sending out an open letter to all hamlets that do not currently have public libraries to see if they might know of any interested individuals or groups who would be willing to create a society that could then work with the minister to create additional public libraries, and the minister did commit to doing so.

I would like to ask: what has the minister done in the last 12 months to reach out to the remaining communities, the majority of communities that don't have public libraries and what has he done to seek interested individuals or groups who wish to create these societies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't had any new requests for opening community libraries. As part of our grants and contributions outreach when we go to any community, that's always on the table and I believe one of the stumbling blocks is space requirements and many of our communities are of course infrastructure deficit. I think this is an issue that any community might come across. In terms of outreach, we want to have that open as an option for any community or group to start a society or a library within their community and will continue on that messaging. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the status quo of providing library services in the territory is unacceptable. I think that every young child, every adult, every elder deserves an opportunity to enter a public library and enjoy the benefits it offers to the community.

I do consider this a very concerning issue. Last year, the minister had committed to writing out to those 16 communities that don't have public libraries and seeking their assistance in finding interested individuals or groups who would be willing to create societies to expand the libraries in the territory.

I want to repeat the question: Has the minister followed through with writing to those 16 communities, and if not will the minister commit again to doing so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to check into the hundreds of correspondence that our office coordinates. If one was particularly on this topic for municipalities to consider opening or supporting opening a public library, I'll commit on or recommit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have a couple of questions, maybe because my mind is too Inuk. (interpretation) I am too Inuk. (interpretation ends) Page 96 (interpretation) I didn't really understand this budget plan from 2020-21 right at the top and you're going to do repatriation of archaeological human remains to select communities and you're going to be collaborating with Inuit Heritage Trust. Also, the status is that you've completed guidelines that have been developed in conjunction with Inuit Heritage Trust. Repatriation planning has started in Cambridge Bay. Are you talking about human remains? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does state human remains. It would be repatriating, those are outside of Nunavut. We want to repatriate them back to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister. Also on the second bullet there is... you're going to complete travelling exhibit program involving select archives, museum objects and Inuit art. Is that carvings? The heritage collection select locations in Nunavut. Your status is completed, the department is partnered with an organization to deliver an exhibit program in 2020-21 and it states that you were partnering with different groups. Can you clarify that in your work plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe she's referring to the second bullet on page 96 in our business plan. Earlier she mentioned repatriation of human remains, but it's separate from that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the question I'm going to ask, the minister can tell me if I should ask it to the Minister of Education, and Mr. Chairman, so that you don't get confused with what I will be saying, we're asking about heritage and artefacts. I believe that there are some training opportunities within Nunavut. I think in my community too there is someone who is involved in training because I have never seen that where there is some training involved under heritage. Is there any consideration anytime in the future to have more training in this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. Sometimes when he was talking about language and if I misunderstood, I think he's talking about specialists. If he's referring to that, the elders are also specialists within Nunavut, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as it is the case, it's something that had been looked into that elders and those that are not elders, there have been interviews, people come down and talk to our elders and interview them, those that are not from Nunavut, so that they can have it as part of their thesis. When that's the case, my question is that in our communities, if you could consider where Inuit could become

the interviewers instead of those specialists that come into Nunavut. I don't know. It's a question, if you can understand what I'm trying to get at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand clearly what he's asking about, those that come out to Nunavut to ask questions with regard to elder knowledge or *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and our language, perhaps the college within Nunavut, I think there's something already going on with regard to research, whether it's through requests. If I recall, for example, Qaujigiartiit deals with health issues and research matters related to Nunavut.

If I didn't get to what he wanted to ask, he could ask me again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I will ask, maybe I will ask the question to another minister. When we are dealing with that, maybe I will ask it another time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just a comment. We are on page F-6 Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance to be voted, \$6,025,000, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page F-7. Elders and Youth. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to your department's 2020-23 business plan a number of priorities planned for 2019-2020 fiscal year had been initiated, but not yet has taken place.

Can you provide an update on the current status of the Kitikmeot on-the-land program? The Kivalliq Tool Making Workshop, and the Baffin Drum Dancing and Throat Singing Workshop? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sorry I was not keeping track of all the different programs she was asking about, but I will just start with the on-the-land programs for Kitikmeot. It is still yet to be determined whether these elders' committees to be determining that through teleconferencing it, I presume and it will happening be happening this winter, or spring 2020. And the other one, the tool making, the next one is to take place in Kivalliq, and again to be determined by the elders' committee. They are planning to take place this early winter 2020. I did not catch the last one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the on-the-land program will be determined by the elders' committee of the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page F-7. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: I just have one question. I have been really involved with dog races, and the department's priorities for 2018-19 was to document and publish traditional knowledge, customs and terminology about dog teams. I would like to know when will this project be completed, and the results made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman, final question.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, I do not have the details on her questions. I cannot answer them right now, but once I do have details I can report back to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To go back to the February 19 your response, (interpretation ends) "Culture and Heritage development Inuit employment plan checklist to assist supervisors in hiring process ensuring that compliance to obligations to Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement and our own Inuit employment plan."

(interpretation) What is the status as a Culture and Heritage when it comes to elders, what is the status on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That checklist we have is an internal checklist we use to promote and try to get more Inuit in our department. Can you give me a minute?

Right now we have four Culture and Heritage employees that have taken and completed financial accounting course through Algonquin College and another one employee completed intermediate accounting one course, two Culture and Heritage employees completed Government of Nunavut Policy Training Program and one just finished Sivuliqtiksat Training Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Good to hear. Can you do that with other departments soon? I'm sure with the government departments can you urge them to do the same thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: We've shared this checklist with other departments from as far as I know and we've also tried to apply and request for more interns to work in our department and to take opportunities to Sivuliqtiksát, for example. Those opportunities are there and we would like more of our employees to take advantage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the good response. Moving on to something else, Member for Kugluktuk has surviving on the land as he just said because of our youth and hunting is one of the major important things in the arctic and those who are not elders but people under age 55 the intermediate, they're not elders but they're not young anymore. Can you develop more trainers to make that grow on survival on the land and the youth are happy about harvesting activities. Can you plan something like that? That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The on-the-land program or survival training if we're going to be going to a community it doesn't necessarily have to be elders. We try to involve capable people. That is slated more towards elders and youth, but we involve intermediate people he's talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next name on my list. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question on page 97 of the business plan, the bottom bullet goes onto say that develop and deliver drum dancing, chanting and throat singing workshop for Baffin region. The status initiated the department has engaged elders, communities, committees in the Baffin region to conduct a drum dancing, chanting and throat singing workshop. There was an ongoing discussions as to location and number of participants in 2020-21 nothing is being said about this particular question I'm asking. Has this initiative been dropped by the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Elders and Youth Division plans on conducting this drum dancing, chanting, and throat singing workshop for this fiscal year, March 2020, and it would be held in Igloodik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,208,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page F-8. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Division, 2019-2020 and 2020-21, how many people are working in the division, even if they're not Inuit? I would like to understand and that's why I'm asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be more appropriate if Ms. Bens could reply to the question, if you will allow, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

Chairman: Ms. Bens.

Ms. Bens: Just hold on.

There are four positions. We've got the director; we've got the research analyst, the ISV implementation coordinator, and the policy advisor, ISV. The vacant position, which is the research analyst, was re-profiled to the Iviqtippalliajut coordinator, which is currently being advertised until filled. The director of IQ is an Inuk, the implementation advisor is an Inuk, and the policy advisor is a qallunaaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do they have offices in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of these are in Iqaluit. However, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee is comprised of nine members and their appointments will be expiring at the end of March 2020 and they are Kigutikaarjuk Shappa, Arctic Bay; Zeke Ejetsiak, Kinngait; Annie Tookalook, Sanikiluaq; Mary Kanayok Voisey, Whale Cove; Annie Napayok, Whale Cove; Jean Simailak, Baker Lake; Marie Anguti, Kugaaruk; Makabe Nartok, Kugaaruk; Simon Qingnaqtuq, Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): At the end of March their terms will be ending. When will their positions be filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be putting out call letters for people interested in becoming members and we will be asking for names in Nunavut. You will be receiving letters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee members on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit they probably meet in different communities, I'm thinking about when they meet so that people can listen to their meetings. People from outside can listen to their language and that would be a good learning experience. Or do they meet only in one community, the committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, they make recommendations to the government to a department on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or culture and traditions to be put into government policies.

They make recommendations and also the committee is available over the phone, anybody can call them. So you can talk to them, however I expect that after the winter sitting I think they will be meeting in Rankin Inlet. I will try to attend their last meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. The members are not young people anymore and they have wisdom. They will probably do a report sometime in the... or has not been thought of presently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the new members could consider that when we have a sitting for them to be able to report. These seats behind us are identified for elders and they are slated for elders who are always available to our elders. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee members if they wanted to attend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question that I was really listening to one of the questions and the fact that Inuit-Inuit but the policy advisor is non-Inuk? If I heard that correctly, and I think that very odd because we are dealing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Can he explain to me are there any Inuit that are capable of continuing on with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? I just wanted that clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am not familiar whether or not yet specifically job was open for competition or not or it was filled that way.

In terms of the role that position I believe they also help support the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit in their work and document their recommendations for it being made for government programs and services. If that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go back to Inuit employment plan.

I was talking about policies, but the question I have is under Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. There should be... is there a plan to have Inuit policy makers in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now that position... there is an end date for this position and we expect that once that job is reopened, it can be re-manned by an Inuk. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page F-8. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance to be voted, \$1,335,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page F-3. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance to be voted, \$26,864,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing Comments, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, I will make this short, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you to the Committee of the Whole for the questions. I would like to thank my officials here, and the Department of Culture and Heritage, all of our staff. Especially the interpreters, Mr. Chairman. They have a big job and it seems to be growing all the time. Our interpreters, I would like to give them a big thank you.

All the things that I read, I like to read them. I am happy to read them. When we want to come across correctly so I thank all of the interpreter-translators a great deal. Have a good night. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you also for answering the committee's questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will be taking a five-minute break while we set up. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:34 and resumed at 17:38*

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Next on our list to do today is the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I'll start by asking: Mr. Speaker, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the official to go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witness in, please.

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Speaker, if you could please introduce your witness and then continue on into your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I'll just proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proceed to appear before you today to present the 2020-21 Main Estimates and 2020-23 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

I wish to begin by noting that the amount of our requested appropriation for the 2020-21 fiscal year is increasing by less than 1 percent from our 2019-2020 budget. This increase is accounted for by the transfer of base funding from the Department of Community and Government Services in relation to facility management and maintenance costs for the Legislative Assembly. I am also pleased to note that there is no increase in the number of full-time positions funded by our budget.

(interpretation ends) The Legislative Assembly's proposed 2020-21 main estimates reflect the financial and human resources required for the operation of our institution, as well as the offices of our independent officers.

As members will recall, a motion to recommend the appointment of our new Languages Commissioner was adopted by the House at the beginning of the winter sitting. The Management and Services Board is currently in the process of inviting applications for the position of Information and Privacy Commissioner, and I wish to note that the present incumbent, whose appointment expires in early March, has agreed to remain in office during this interim period.

(interpretation) As members are aware, the next general election will be held in October of next year. Consequently, our 2021-22 main estimates will reflect an increase to the budget for Elections Nunavut to administer the election.

(interpretation ends) As members will recall, the report of the Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits was tabled in the House last year and legislation to implement its recommendations was subsequently passed by the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) As members are aware, two of our core parliamentary outreach programs are the Speaker's Youth Parliament and the Speaker's Mace Tour, both of which occur on a biennial basis. Last fall the Speaker visited the beautiful communities of Sanikiluaq, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove. Our Eighth Youth Parliament will be held at the end of November and I am looking forward to another successful event.

That concludes my opening comments. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their support. I am now open for any questions members may have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you on behalf of the people of Whale Cove for the Mace Tour. The previous Speaker and the officials were able to come to Whale Cove in the summertime, and we are thankful for that. Even though some communities are smaller, they are included and I'm grateful for that and I'm still thankful for it. It was very good for the whole community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Speaker and the Mace went to Chesterfield Inlet and our Commissioner was also able to go to Chesterfield Inlet and the people of Chesterfield Inlet are very thankful because they rarely get visitors like that and they were visited. The hamlet conveyed their gratitude. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. On behalf of the people of Sanikiluaq, I also thank the staff for having the Mace Tour in my community. It was much appreciated and well received by both of my schools.

We are on page A-4. Assembly Operations with a total operations and maintenance budget, to be voted. \$9,615,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Clerk.

I would not want to mess up the opportunity to be the first one to ask a question as the new Speaker, and I would like to return to a question that I have asked two of your previous predecessors. Mr. Speaker, not everyone has the luxury to view our proceedings live, which is currently the only option and this is the reason I have been raising this issue every year and trying to push our Assembly to provide additional options, such as on-demand viewing, as a number of other assemblies have already moved towards broadcasting their proceedings through such media as YouTube or Facebook or Twitter.

Can you provide us with an update today? Can you provide us and the public with a status update on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you very much for asking that question because we would like to see all the people of Nunavut watch the proceedings live. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Clerk to elaborate. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most I will say right now is it's on the radar screen. We're looking at a business plan that may incorporate all of that. One of the things I have always been cautious of is the requirement for us, in any mode, when it

comes to transmission through television, through Facebook or Twitter, is that we're required to do it in four languages. For us to do that, we would have to develop a proper business plan to allow us to do that.

In the interim what we have done is and slowly, step by step, we have opened the proceedings for people to view this on the webstream. That's a recent development. Anybody on the Internet can watch us across the country, across the world, whatever the case may be, and we have developed it in such a way that you can get it in the four languages. It's also developed in such a way that depending on the person watching, you can get it in low or high bandwidth, and you can even get it just on audio depending on your situation in terms of your ability to pay because once you're on that type of service, you pay for that service.

The other step we have taken, one of the first steps we actually took was the ability for people in this building on the first and third floors and two of our independent officers watch us live through our own network, etcetera. We're doing everything small step by small step, but to jump into the Facebook, the YouTube, whatever you want to call it, we're going to do that very carefully and we will do a business plan and I'll take it to the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question, all of our provincial counterparts and even our own Member of Parliament have the ability to share video clips of their oral questions with their constituents. My next question is: when will we also have that same ability to share video clips of our oral questions with constituents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, our Clerk will respond to that as it's a good question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question was posed to me not too long ago and the answer I gave at that time was a cautious no. However, since that time I did undertake to review the situation in terms of our capability and yes, we will be able to do that. The way we're going to set it up is obviously...I'll do it very quickly. Take today's sitting, we record the whole sitting completely, so at the end of the day once we're finished recording, a member will have the capability to communicate with us and tell us what clip they would like to have. They will have to be very specific, for example, it's something I said during question period, during members' statements, or during Committee of the Whole. That ability will be available as of the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not really a question, but we have very good staff and I would like to thank you personally because all the arrangements are made when we have to travel back and forth from our communities. They take very good care of the members, whether we have weather issues or not. They give full support to the members and I would like to say “thank you” to all. We have very good staff and I am very pleased. That’s all. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. We are on page A-4. Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,615,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page A-5. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance budget, to be Voted. \$12,377,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page A-6. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,278,000. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at the independent officers and how much staff they have allocated to each office, Child and Youth Representative, eight person years; Languages Commissioner, six person years; Elections Nunavut, five person years; what’s the process for reviewing whether there are enough people to do the job? I want to understand the process. Do the independent officers have an ability to come forward and request more staff or how does that work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much for that question. I’ll just answer a part of it because I have been the speaker for a very short time. We’ll make reference to the youth and children representative who make requests if they would like a position and they give the reason why they would like to make an addition and usually they refer those to make an addition and usually they refer those to the members services board.

If it’s okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Clerk to elaborate further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Speaker is correct. Members will recall that at the beginning of the sitting once the Minister of Finance tabled his budget, the Speaker tabled his three business plans of the Chief Electoral Officer, Languages Commissioner

and the Representative for Children and Youth. All those best business plans go through an approval process through the Management and Services Board and any requests for additional funds have to be justified to the board. Interesting enough, the board is meeting tomorrow to discuss a request from one of the independent officers for additional resources. They're going through that process like a government department except they go through the Management and Services Board and from that process either the board will approve or disallow the request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to the Speaker's opening comment and it mentions an increase to the budget for Elections Nunavut to administer the election that's in the next fiscal year. Just on a ball park figure, what is the cost to administer a general election? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Main. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in 2020-21, 2021-22 there will be an increase because of the general election that will be in 2020-21. I don't have the exact figures. But if you do want to hear the exact number through you Mr. Chairperson, I would like refer this question to the Clerk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just based on the business plan projections and experience most likely \$1.5 million as a starter. That's in the business plan for the Chief Electoral Officer. So, it's about \$1.5 million, it could be more. But that is based on the figures in front of me. You're looking at least at \$1.5 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. I do need a clarification. We do have a deputy commissioner just recently appointed and as I understand it, if I'm correct the current Commissioner will be resigning. So, how does that happen? Does the current deputy commissioner become a Commissioner? I'd like to understand the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. And thank you for your question. The Commissioner is appointed by the Prime Minister not us. The Deputy Commissioner is appointed by us. But then again both are appointed by recommendation are appointed by the federal government and we just make recommendations to the Prime Minister and the federal government and both are appointed by recommendation by the federal government and we just make recommendations to the Prime Minister and the federal government. Both positions are appointed... it might not be her or the present Deputy

Commissioner but the Commissioner will be appointed by the federal government at the end of the Commissioner's term. They have a set term where they start and the end of their term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on page A-6, Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance to be Voted. \$5, 278,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance to be Voted. \$27, 270,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do member agree we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, thank you very much to my colleagues. This is the first time that I am at a witness table and have a good proceeding because we are almost at the end. Thank you very much for your support and likewise I will give you my support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms if you could please escort the witnesses out. I will ask members to remain in their seats while we set up for the next department. Thank you.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Welcome back, committee. I would now like to ask Minister Netser: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I most certainly would. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Netser, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Terry Audla, President of the Housing Corporation, and to my left is (interpretation ends) Vice-president, CFO, Ji Liu, (interpretation) and he is our director of corporate services.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly. This evening I am here to discuss the 2020-21 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The main estimates for the corporation reflect the spending increase which are:

- Public housing expenditures will rise by \$1,939,000. The budget increase of \$1,939,000 will cover the increased cost of maintenance and administration, utilities, property taxes and leases of 170 new units that will be added to the public housing stock.
- There is also an increase of \$887,000 in funding to cover the net reduction in Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation funding. Thank you.
- Staff housing expenditures will rise by \$3,627,000. The budget increase will cover the increased cost of maintenance and administration, utilities, property taxes and leases of 52 units added to the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff housing stock.

Therefore the Government of Nunavut funding for the corporation for the fiscal year 2020-21 will increase by \$6,453,000 as compared to the 2019-2020 main estimates.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue its work on improving staff housing and homeownership programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will also renew its focus on developing transitional housing options in collaboration with the Department of Family Services and stakeholders across Nunavut.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to implement its Inuit Employment Plan by working with local housing organizations to establish a continuum of Inuit employment from the communities into the Nunavut Housing Corporation's district offices, headquarters, and directorate, as we support the local housing authorities to improve operational efficiencies and services.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I am encouraged that the Government of Nunavut has made housing a priority. I look forward to tabling the Status of Housing Report in the upcoming legislative session and sharing ideas on how we can work together to tackle the housing crisis.

My officials and I are ready to answer any questions you may have regarding the corporation's 2020-21 main estimates and business plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2020-21 Main Estimates and 2020-23 Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-21 main estimates of \$217,718,000 represents a 3.0 percent increase from the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The number of positions in the corporation remains unchanged at 123.0.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

On October 20, 2016 the *Blueprint for Action on Housing - Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This document contains 60 specific action items that are intended to address an extremely broad range of housing issues. The standing committee recognizes that it is not practicable for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to simultaneously implement all of the blueprint's action items, and continues to encourage the corporation to prioritize its work in a clear and focused manner. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that the corporation "...launched the renewal of the Blueprint in November 2019 to improve the processes, communication and collaboration, including the Accountability Framework. The first Status of Housing Report was developed and is anticipated to be tabled [in the Legislative Assembly] during the winter 2020 session."

On January 24, 2013 the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. These changes came into effect on February 1. A key goal of reforming the public housing rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment. However, the extent to which the new rent scale has achieved this goal remains unclear. Action No. 12 in the *Blueprint for Action on Housing - Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will "review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent- geared to income."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2018-19 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 7, 2019, indicates that "only 3% of [public housing tenants] earn over \$100,000 per year." The standing committee notes that the Blueprint for Action on Housing indicates that one of its specific action items is to "...review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants, particularly those currently paying maximum rent in public housing."

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of November 4, 2019, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be undertaking an "independent review" of the public housing construction allocation system and the public housing rent scale. The standing committee will be closely monitoring progress in these areas.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that the corporation signed a "...nine-year bilateral agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation" on April 1, 2019. The business plan also indicates that "...as a component of the National Housing Strategy, the federal government committed to introducing a Canada Housing Benefit. The Canada Housing Benefit, which represents \$9.0 million over nine years for Nunavut, has been targeted by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for rent affordability. The Canada Housing Benefit will be used to provide temporary relief in crisis situations that result from the gaps in the Nunavut housing continuum, in particular the lack of transitional housing. The Canada Housing Benefit is co-designed with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and is expected to start to be rolled out in 2020-2021." During the minister's appearance, the standing committee was informed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working with the Department of Family Services in the development of the new Canada Housing Benefit.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to "...continue to engage with the mining industry on housing solutions." It also indicates that the corporation signed terms of reference for a "Government of Nunavut-Agnico Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding subcommittee on housing" in June 2019. The business plan indicates that the subcommittee has agreed to "...explore ways to assist employees in homeownership and identify opportunities to encourage new housing construction, such as public-private partnerships." The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of the subcommittee's terms of reference and annual activity reports.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation "...has a new [Master] Management Agreement in place with its community partners, the Local Housing Organizations, to deliver housing and provide maintenance and administration services on housing units. New management agreements were signed in 2019-2020 and help clarify and define the relationship between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Local Housing Organizations ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's programs are delivered consistently across the territory. As there has been a delay in the signing of all Local Housing Organization Management agreements, the implementation phase has not been started yet. The Nunavut Housing Corporation expects that all Local Housing Organization Management Agreements will be signed before the end of the fiscal year 2019-2020. Evaluation of the implementation of the Local Housing Organization Management Agreements is expected in 2020-2021." The standing committee looks forward to the updated Master Management Agreement being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to "...continue engagement with Regional Inuit Associations on potential collaborations to provide affordable housing for Inuit on Inuit-Owned Lands." It also indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has "...met with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on several occasions to discuss affordable housing for Inuit on Inuit-Owned Land." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

In 2004 a Member of the Legislative Assembly asked a detailed written question concerning public housing rental arrears and tenant damages. The government's response indicated that as of November 2004, approximately \$6.6 million was owed in public housing rental arrears to local housing organizations across the territory. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-15 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2015, indicated that "...the over \$27.0 million in rental arrears currently owed to the Nunavut Housing Corporation could pay for the construction of almost 60 new public housing units." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-23 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to "...continue to monitor and review the impact of collections policy and procedures to reduce Local Housing Organization arrears and continue to develop and implement Local Housing Organization deficit recovery plans."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2018-19 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 7, 2019, indicates that there was a total of \$35.38 million in public housing rent receivables as of March 31, 2019. It also indicates that the "...collection rate increased to 84% this year from 83% in 2017-2018." The standing committee is encouraged by this progress. As little as 1 percent is, it's better than going backwards, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Main Estimates and 2020-23 Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Any comments on the opening comments? None? You will be allowed to ask questions on the information item starting on page 0-IV-2. Headquarters. Any questions on that page? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, are we going page by page or...yeah, we are. I'll need a moment while I gather my thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. You could be asking questions on the information item pages. Headquarters. Debt Repayment. District Offices. Affordable Housing Program. Public Housing and Affordable Housing Program. Once we have done all that, we're going to page M-3. Starting on page 0-IV-2 under Headquarters. Information item. Any questions? Mr. Main.

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

(interpretation ends) Corporate headquarters in Arviat, and I'm looking at the Inuit Employment Plan and there are executive positions and senior management positions, so there are two executive positions and nine senior management positions. How many of these executive or senior management positions are located at corporate headquarters in Arviat? (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) There are two. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Does that include the district office? I was asking specifically about your corporate headquarters office in Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's one district manager and one executive director. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll try not to go too far into detail, but the corporate headquarters office is quite important to my community. What are the current staffing levels there in terms of total number of positions and vacancies, if you have that information available? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) It's at 100 percent at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many? So it is one hundred percent staffed, and how many positions are located there at that corporate headquarters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We have thirty-one employees in Arviat. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So thirty-one employees at the corporate headquarters office? I am just trying to understand. That is great if it is a hundred percent staffed at thirty-one employees at corporate headquarters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I understand it is including the district offices. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is the thing, it is hard to look at the housing corporation without looking at also the LHO's, right?

So we are looking at the Inuit Employment Plan, I am on page 27. And it looks like overall Inuit employment is quite low, thirty-eight percent, but then I note on page 28, if you look at your write-up here, it mentions that if we were to include the local housing associations in the picture, they, the local housing organizations have about eighty-five percent Inuit employment.

So, my question is, why are the local housing organizations so much better at hiring Inuit than housing corporation? Just trying to compare the Inuit employment rates there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations do not have a higher Inuit employment, and Inuit are always being trained, Mr. Chairman. That is why it is a higher number.

(interpretation ends) The jobs at regional offices have more technical positions that are in the offices. That is why we have more Inuit employment within our local LHOs, or local housing organizations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And then on page 29 it mentions under your Inuit Employment Plan status update, what you started doing was seconding employees from housing associations and bringing them into the

housing corp. Example provided is two employees from Arviat Housing Association to the headquarters office in Arviat.

It is an interesting approach and is this something that you are planning to continue with in the current fiscal year, this type of secondment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can do that, yes. We plan to do that more for internships. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Still on the Inuit employment plan, I noted that, in your design side that you have done some work to contract out some of the design work, or assist with your designs of your, I think it was the five-plex.

When we look at the housing corporation, how do you decide when you are going to contract something like that out; or whether you are going to create a new position or apply and put a business case forward for more workers? More person years? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're chatting with each other and we're kind of lost in between discussions, so please can the member ask that question again? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's my understanding that there was some sort of a direction given from the Department of Finance that departments were not to apply for new person years or new positions. At the same time the housing corporation, you're managing more and more units every year and the need continues to go up.

I noted that on the design side, this is page 8 of the business plan, that you needed help on your technical capacity and you hired a private firm to help you with architectural engineering. How do you decide whether to contract something like that out or whether to apply for new positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the LHO managers in the Baffin region were meeting in the fall, the fact that we hire contractors to do work was discussed. My deputy can respond to that better, if you will allow him to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's true where over the past couple of years we have increased capital builds when it comes to the warehouses, as an example, multiplexes that were just tendered out recently for Iqaluit. We need to look at all those aspects, including the newly signed National Housing Strategy agreement where it does provide for some funds towards paying for administration or administrative aspects of it. Based on that, the number of builds that we're doing that is increasing. We need to either improve the builds based on mould remediation as well as the warehouses and the multiplexes that I mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wanted to ask for clarification at this point and it's regarding the public housing and staff housing allocation and the backgrounder. In your letter to Mr. Rumbolt on February 18, it's mentioned that the housing corporation is not planning to table the backgrounder. Am I allowed to make reference to it in my questions here if it's something that has not been tabled? I just want to be clear on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's public information. It's on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website and anyone can log onto that and read that document. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for clarifying that. In terms of your headquarters function, I know that a number of years ago Finance was moved from Arviat and it was moved here to Iqaluit. In terms of the management or the direction for the corporation, how much of that is actually coming out of your corporate headquarters in Arviat? That's the reason why I asked how many senior staff and/or executive are based there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): This was set up before we were elected. My deputy knows more about it, so if you can allow him to respond, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main. Oh, sorry. Mr. Audla. Sorry.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since then, we have been including the executive director of the headquarters office in Arviat in all the corporate executive committee decisions. When it comes to the senior management committee, we include all of the district managers in those discussions as well, but as it stands when it comes to the corporate executive committee the executive director of Arviat within that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Going to the business plan here; on page 9 of the business plan it mentions that this MOU with Agnico Eagle Mines and the work on the housing. On the status update it says “the subcommittee has agreed to explore ways to assist employees in homeownership and identify opportunities to encourage new housing construction, such as public-private partnerships.” Is this public-private partnership referring to a partnership with Agnico Eagle Mines themselves? Like an actual partnership between the housing corporation and a mining company to build houses or does it mean something else? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we want this for opportunities together that is what the MOU is about. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, exploring opportunities; what has actually happened under this action item, that priority? It was a priority in the previous year’s business plan and so in terms of an update, what opportunities have been examined by the parties? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is quite a convoluted question for me to try and answer, so can my president answer that through you? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since that MOU has been signed between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines, which involved other departments as well, such as economic development and tourism, we were included in some discussions on ways forward as to how we could work together for potential increased homeownership or other opportunities for construction of new housing in communities that are close to the project such as Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet, maybe even Arviat.

As you well know and based on the fact that Agnico Eagle is a for-profit company, for them to ante up potentially millions of dollars is something that they would really need to think about. Whether it would be worth their while and whether or not they want to look opportunities like that; as well as to determine amongst their stockholders whether this would be the best approach. So, we have been going back and forth trying to explore ways.

Homeownership is one area where if we could work with Agnico Eagle to see about some of their top income earners from their project that happen to be residing in either Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, or Arviat, and what the possibility would be to see what we can do to advance opportunities to try and increase homeownership for those that have the financial wherewithal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the additional information. Does this subcommittee in any way involve, in this case, the Kivalliq Inuit Association? The reason I ask that is that they are receiving royalties from Meadowbank and Meliadine. I know that that's also one other avenue for partnership that is in your business plan, but specifically on that MOU, has there been any involvement or interest indicated from the Kivalliq Inuit Association to participate or to help you examine these opportunities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they haven't. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Does the Kivalliq Inuit Association know about this MOU that you have with Agnico Eagle Mines? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes, they do. They were there when the communiqué was signed between the GN and Agnico Eagle Mines. (interpretation) They know about it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Moving on, on page 10 it mentions looking at the co-operative approach and this was in the previous year's plan and it says in here, "In order to enable the development of more co-operative housing, it is recommended that the existing *Co-operative Associations Act* be

modernized.” What’s wrong with the *Co-operative Associations Act* as it is written now? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate it if you would allow my deputy to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The existing *Co-operative Associations Act* is more than likely one that was pretty much copied over from the NWT. It hasn’t been updated since. We will be looking at it and reviewing it to see if there are any requirements to actually bring it to the current reality that we face right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Whose job is it to modernize that Act? Does it fall to the housing corporation? Is it under the Department of Justice? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It’s a collaboration of the two departments. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What’s the timeline for modernizing this Co-operations Act? I’m looking for it in the business plan; I don’t see it as a priority. Is this something that’s going to happen? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, but I didn’t hear his question; I was chatting with my DM. Could you repeat it again? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If the *Co-operative Associations Act* going to be modernized, what’s the timeline for that? I don’t see it in the business plan for the upcoming fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no timeline right now, but we will be collaborating with the Department of ED&T and the Department of Justice in the coming months or so. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 11, the first bullet at the top mentions effectively complying with new building permit requirements and you have to enhance your technical capacity. I wonder if I could get a little explanation about the new building permit requirements and how they've impacted the housing corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Yes, thank you. (interpretation ends) It's obviously going to impact our operations but we are talking with the Department of Community and Government Services on how we can streamline the impact. *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So how have these new building permit requirements affected the housing corporation to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a new regulation that is upon us and Mr. Audla has all the necessary information on the negative impacts it may have upon us. If through you he can answer the question. *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it stands, the building permit requirements have not been too onerous for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to comply with. It's more just about scheduling in getting building inspectors to communities in a timely manner and that's one area that we're working with CGS on to try and streamline it so that none of our projects be delayed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's my understanding that there's a backlog for these building permits and that it's created sort of a bottleneck at the permitting stage within CGS.

Mr. Audla just mentioned streamlining things so that delays do not happen. Have there been any delays to the housing corporation builds or work to date as a result of these building permit requirements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have a working relationship with the Department of Community and Government Services. So far there have been no real delays in terms of getting permits for the construction season that will be coming upon us. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on this page. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me a few moments to collect my thoughts. I've got a few different questions on this page but I guess I'll first start by returning to some of my questions and comments from the last year.

Last year, it was identified through my written questions on Inuit participation in staff housing, that within the Nunavut Housing Corporation at that time only 9 out of 51 employees were Inuit in staff housing, 17 percent.

So, I'd like to ask the minister if he's made an objective to increase that ratio, provide more Inuit employees staff housing within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and also provide us an update with what the figures are today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We haven't got to that page yet. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, my questions are relating to the Inuit employment plan. So, with relation to the Inuit employment plan it was identified that a very low ratio of Inuit employees participate in the NHC Staff Housing Program.

So I had brought that to the minister's attention last year and asked him if he would take that into consideration with the Inuit employment plan. So I'd like to ask the minister if he's done so and if NHC has seen an increase in Inuit participation in the staff housing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, staff housing is under the responsibility of human resources, and they also have a committee of deputy ministers who deal with the staff housing allocation.

We can fill the staff housing, but it is under the responsibility of the committee of deputy ministers under human resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for reiterating that bit of information, but I recall that the staff housing policy was not incorporated until the fall just a few months ago. So, half way through the year the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation was still responsible for staff housing allocations.

Would the minister be able to, I will ask him again, would be able to provide us an update how many NHC Inuit employees within NHC reside in staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that level of detail as to how many Inuit are in staff housing. We would have to get back to the member on that while collaborating with other departments within the Government of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question in relation to Inuit employees in staff housing since the department of Human Resources assumed the responsibility of staff allocation. Has the department or, has the Nunavut Housing Corporation applied under that specific allocation to allow Inuit employees to take advantage of staff housing?

Sorry, let me rephrase that. Part of the new policy states that ministers, or deputy heads may put forward a request to the staff housing allocation committee to allow for staff housing to be allocated to Inuit employees. Has the Nunavut housing corporation utilised that special exemption? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not hold that file any more so I cannot answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new staff housing allocation eligibility criteria is very much the same, three different categories, but there is also an amendment allowing for deputy heads to submit a request to the allocation committee to allow for the allocation committee to defer from those three different categories to allow for a unit to be allocated to a Inuit employee.

I will ask again, has the Nunavut Housing Corporation submitted a request to the staff housing allocation committee requesting new units for Inuit employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date we have not received anything. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move onto my next question.

Last year it was identified that zero of the three NHC employees are on education leave were Inuit. So, as part of the Inuit employment plan, has the Nunavut Housing Corporation identified an employee or has Nunavut Housing Corporation sent out an employee to further their education and qualifications through education leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We certainly encourage our employees to take education leave, but to date none of our Inuit employees have come forward to further their education. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. Last year the Nunavut Housing Corporation was in the midst of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Finance, who at the time had the recruitment and staffing function for the GN, and it was my understanding that the NHC was trying to take over the control and authority of hiring of the recruitment process for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Would the minister be able to provide us with an update today on whether or not that has gone through and does the NHC now conduct their own competitive process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for that question. We're in the process of talking with the Department of HR on how we can take this file to the next phase. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to my next question, looking at the annual report of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, there is a significant amount of cash and investments. Most recently the Nunavut Housing Corporation was sitting on \$142 million and these are funds that should be utilized as efficiently and promptly as possible to alleviate the housing shortage. My next question is: why does the Nunavut

Housing Corporation continue to sit on a substantial amount of cash and investments while we still face a housing shortage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy wants to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have provided detailed written responses on this very issue on why it is that the housing corporation has these hundreds of millions of dollars. I'll try to sum it up.

The \$240 million agreement that we entered into with the CMHC over a nine-year period, which translates to about \$24 million per annum and those \$24 million per annum are paid in one lump sum on an annual basis, and the projects of building public housing, that \$24 million is earmarked towards new builds, but those new builds can be two to three years in duration of completion. They are paid over a two- to three-year period whereas we get these lump sums all at once at one time. Our rate of expenditure compared to our rate of receiving these \$24 million per annum is slower than the actual receipt of the millions of dollars per annum we get. Those monies are still earmarked for those public housing builds.

As an example, to use an analogy, someone who gives me 30 cents in one minute, but I take three minutes on a dime per minute basis, 10 cents per minute in spending that 30 cents, so it will take me three minutes longer than when I actually receive the 30 cents in that one-minute period. As you can imagine, the cumulative of that does go up to the hundreds of millions, but those hundreds of millions are still towards the public housing builds that have been allocated for the communities that we provide in the construction allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that's clear.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on this page. We will go the next page, information item. Debt Repayment. Mr. Kaerner on headquarters.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends). Under your blueprint for action on housing it indicates that for 2020-23, and I quote: it says here, "launch the renewal of the blue print for action on housing." In November 2019, to include in the process, communication and collaboration including the accountability framework. The first status of housing reported was developed in was anticipated to be tabled during the winter session. So, in what specific ways is the blueprint being renewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The blueprint for action on housing is 60 action items and it takes more than the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address those issues. It takes the whole government approach to address those issues and for further detail. I'll ask Mr. Audla to respond to that through you. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the member for that question. Over the two or three years of implementation of the blueprint for action with the 60 items, initially there was a lot of effort to work with the departments to ensure that they specific action items out of the blueprint were being built into their business plan. As you well know sometimes priorities shift and sometimes, they start including some of the specific actions within their overall programming. So what we have done is we met with all of the deputy ministers of all of the departments in the renewal exercise to look at what the best way is to keep track of the 60 action items and to also determine how best to report on the status of each of those items through the annual status of housing report. The most recent meeting between the deputy ministers was about a month and a half ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, what is the status of the housing report? Is it ready to be tabled at any time in the legislative Assembly, at the winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We were hoping to table the document this winter but we pushed it off till the spring session. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends). In March of last year, the housing corporation joined with the Nunavut Regional Tuberculosis Committee. As we are aware, we have family members that are staying with other relatives and it becomes overcrowded. So, is there cooperation with other Inuit organizations to develop some kind of strategic plan as to how we can decrease the overcrowding in the one apartment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends). We are working together with Health, NTI and ITK on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on this page. I'll go to the next page. Debt Repayment. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move a motion to report progress, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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 progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 39 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Ehaloak.

>>*Laughter*

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

21. (interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for tomorrow, the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom, followed by a meeting of the MSB at 9:30 in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 11:

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 39
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 41
 - Bill 42
 - Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 11, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:10*

