

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)
*Minister of Environment; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeegok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for Indigenous Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)
*Minister of Culture and
Heritage; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible
for Seniors*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education;
Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Family Services;
Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister of
Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the Status
of Women; Minister responsible
for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)
*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerck, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Good morning, Inuit. Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Malliki.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Malliki. If my wife is listening, I say “good morning” to you, as well as my relatives who are watching and the people of Gjoa Haven. To all Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Government House Leader, Mr. Joanasié.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister’s Statement 055 – 6(2): Ministers Absent from the House

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. Joanna Quassa will be absent from the House this morning and that the Hon. John Main will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Minister’s Statement 056 – 6(2): Twenty-ninth Annual Indspire Awards

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my colleagues. I also say “good morning” to Nunavummiut, especially to those in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu who are listening to the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 29th annual Indspire Awards.

On May 12 I was proud to be in attendance as Nunavut's Melissa Attagutsiak was presented with the 2022 Indspire Award for Youth. Her father accepted the award on her behalf.

Mr. Speaker, Melissa is a fashion designer, owner of Nuvuja9, and student at Nunavut Arctic College. Melissa showcased her first collection titled "Sinaa" during the International Indigenous Fashion Week in Paris, France. Her work features traditional materials such as seal fur. Through fashion, Melissa celebrates her Inuit culture and connection to our land.

I want to congratulate Melissa on her award and on pursuing her passion for fashion. She is truly a role model for young Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 057 – 6(2): Victim Services Work for Nunavummiut

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, and to the people of Baker Lake, good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, to ensure victims of crime have full access to justice means we must provide them with all the supports and protection they need to carry on with their lives.

Our Victim Services Unit in the Community Justice Division works hard to do just that. Staff based in each of our three regions offer financial, travel, court orientation, health and counselling support that victims and survivors of crime may need as they navigate the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, victim care coordinators based in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet offer support to Nunavummiut in all communities through victim services referrals, victim impact statements, and resources for families affected by missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Victim services staff recently organized activities in eight communities to commemorate National Victims and Survivors of Crime week from May 15 to 21 and helped raise awareness about the important services they offer.

We encourage victims, survivors of crime, and family members, to call Victim Services at 1-866-456-5216 or email at VictimServices@gov.nu.ca to access help and support as they work to heal and navigate the justice system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 058 – 6(2): Workplace Safety Program for Young Workers

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the work being undertaken by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission in occupational health and safety for young workers. Workers of all ages can be injured at work, but those under 25 are often more at risk of getting hurt due to a lack of experience, awareness, or proper training.

The commission has developed educational and awareness materials to help young workers learn about injury prevention and to recognize the importance of their own role in achieving safer workplaces. Resources like the Safety Orientation Guide and the Ready to Work Checklist offer the basic introductory knowledge everyone needs to help start their working lives safely. There is also useful material and free online training available to help parents, teachers, instructors, and anyone working with youth to prepare for their first job and to build their resumé.

In 2022 the commission is also launching a Youth Safety Leadership Program to connect northern youth with opportunities to become community leaders in health and safety. Enrolment for this [program] is now open for youth aged between 14 and 24 on the commission's website at wscc.nt.ca.

I encourage members to share these resources with their constituents so they can have the opportunity to participate in the first year of the Youth Safety Leadership Program. It is an excellent first step for anyone interested in exploring a career in safety or for those simply working to ensure a safer future for themselves in any industry. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 059 – 6(2): Caribou Composition Surveys

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update you on the status of two caribou herds.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that Department of Environment staff successfully and safely completed composition surveys for the Baffin Island herd this past winter.

In March and April, staff and hunters and trappers organization members conducted composition studies of South Baffin Island caribou to collect information on calf survival and the ratios of bulls, cows, and calves in the population. Communities will be consulted once the results are available. These studies are a continuation of the 2021 composition program for which our co-management partners received a final report in December 2021.

The department held consultations with North and South Baffin hunters and trappers organizations by teleconference in February, after in-person consultations were postponed three times in two years due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. My department continues to prioritize these consultations and additional meeting dates are currently being explored. A submission has also been prepared to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to discuss possible management options moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to report that an early spring composition study was successfully completed on Nunavut's largest caribou herd, the Kivalliq region's Qamanirjuaq herd. Mr. Speaker, my staff will conduct a full population survey of the Qamanirjuaq herd this spring. Previous results indicated a steady but slow decline in herd abundance.

Mr. Speaker, once the survey is completed and results of this survey are analyzed, communities will be consulted. My department will work with our co-management partners and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board to discuss the next steps in the effective management of this important interjurisdictional herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 060 – 6(2): Team Nunavut 2022 Skills Canada Medal Winners

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the happy announcement that 2022 Team Nunavut participated in the Skills Canada National Competition on May 26 and 27 and received a record three medals. Skills Canada Nunavut is funded by the Department of Family Services' Career Development Division using the Targeted Labour Market Program.

(interpretation ends) Willow Watson of Iqaluit won a silver medal, the RBC's Best in Region medal, and a \$1,500 scholarship for 2-D animation at the secondary level. Mac Pavia of Iqaluit won a silver medal for photography at the post-secondary level. David Aglukark of Iqaluit won a bronze medal for web technology at the post-secondary level. Mr. Aglukark will also compete with Team Canada in the 46th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China in mid-October 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate these medal winners and all the members of Team Nunavut who competed this year. I also recognize the efforts of the participants in the Territorial Skills Competition and their mentors at skills clubs throughout the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 061 – 6(2): Construction Projects Moving Forward

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members are well aware of the challenges related to moving capital projects forward in Nunavut.

Like other sectors, the construction industry has faced unforeseen challenges related to supply chain, labour shortages, and more recently, inflationary pressures. Sealift schedules, a short building season, and a small contractor base also present an annual challenge. However, these challenges are now compounded by inflationary pressures and a highly competitive market for building supplies and skilled labour across the country.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with so many projects coming in beyond their approved project budget, it is reasonable that members have concerns about how project estimates are developed. I would like to assure members that estimates are developed using a robust industry standard process that has informed government capital project budgeting for many years. Government utilizes industry recognized firms and completes several estimates during the planning and design phases of projects. Pricing of labour and materials was previously stable and mostly predictable, so the current market conditions and inflationary pressures have caught industry by surprise.

Mr. Speaker, in situations where bids come in over the approved budget, our mechanism is to close the bid and work with client departments to decide to delay, cancel, or proceed by pursuing more funding here in the Assembly. In normal years, departments have flexibility to pursue capital funds from elsewhere within the capital plan. With tenders coming in so high, this is no longer feasible.

Mr. Speaker, while higher-than-expected tender bid prices have impacted several projects slated for the 2022 construction season, many projects are proceeding in different phases. Community and Government Services is still actively managing 46 projects in various phases of design and 70 projects in various stages of construction. These projects are comprised of a total budget value of nearly \$700 million.

Mr. Speaker, the tendering process will return to a more normal state only when the market stabilizes. Until then, government needs to evaluate the current market and prioritize our capital projects to ensure we are meeting the infrastructure needs of this territory. My department will continue to explore public procurement options that will

allow us to maintain progress on the infrastructure projects that are so important to Nunavut communities and achieving the priorities of the *Katujjiluta* mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 062 – 6(2): New Programs for September 2022

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and fellow colleagues. It's a pleasure to be with you this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and share with you the new programs that will be offered at Nunavut Arctic College starting in September 2022. These new programs will be offered in different communities across the territory.

Starting in the Kitikmeot, we have the pre-health program, Culinary Arts, and a second offering of the Bachelor of Social Work will be offered at the Kitikmeot Campus in Cambridge Bay, and the Nunavut Teacher Education Program will be offered in Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, and Taloyoak.

In the Kivalliq, the Practical Nurse Program will be offered at the Kivalliq Campus in Rankin Inlet, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program will be offered in Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove, and the Social Service Worker Diploma program will be offered in Arviat.

In the Qikiqtaaluk, the Computer Systems Technician Program will be offered at the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit, as well as the Social Service Worker Program. The Nunavut Teacher Education Program will be beginning new program deliveries in Arctic Bay, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Kinngait, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Members, these programs are in addition to the regular programs that the college offered each year, including Adult Basic Education, Bachelor of Science (Arctic Nursing), College Foundation, Environment Technology Program, Management Studies, and Office Administration, as well as the suite of trades training offered at Sanatuliqsarvik and the cultural programming offered at Piqqusilirivvik.

For those interested, there is still time to apply to these programs by connecting with the college through its Facebook page, through email at recruitment@arcticcollege.ca, or by contacting their local Nunavut Arctic College faculty. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 078 – 6(2): Lake Overflow in Qikiqtarjuaq

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I'm sorry. Good morning. I was busy writing something down, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone, especially to all my constituents. I wish you all a "good morning."

At this time, I wish to announce some news related to what transpired in our community of Qikiqtarjuaq which was news-worthy and to ensure everyone is aware of what happened, both the listening audience and affected residents and to inform others who may not have heard what occurred in our community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

As spring melt occurs, the meltwater accumulated and due to that a small flood crested the riverbank this morning, when water flooded down from our mountain towards the plateau where our community lies, and apparently the lake blew its ice dam today. It is not the first time it has happened, as it happens from time to time, although not an annual occurrence, but it can really impact the operation of some parts of the community.

The airport and airstrip usually have to be closed, as the floodwater inundates the runway and certain areas along with the fuel tanks that store the aircraft and heating fuels, and also the power plant is also up on that road. When it floods, it impacts that portion of our community, as occasionally the river mouth breaks open early due to meltwater above.

Due to that, when the airport is closed, it affects emergency measures as planes are diverted, people who come to work don't arrive and a community can be impacted in different ways that delay operations and other day-to-day matters.

I wanted to provide some background on what is happening, and to inform my fellow residents in Qikiqtarjuaq that you should adhere to the instructions and directions related to this occurrence as per usual, and to exercise some patience. They will be trying to deal with that issue and will not just ignore it, and I wanted to let our partner organizations know as well, as it relates to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to provide some details about that and to notify the minister I will be directing questions along these lines to the Department of Community and Government Services during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 079 – 6(2): Safe Travels in Spring

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, spring has sprung in our lands and in Naujaat, people are leaving at all hours and I encourage all Nunavummiut to be prepared for safety when they get ready to go hunting as we prefer that hunters not experience any dangerous conditions while hunting.

I want to state that during spring season, more people can get faced with difficult situations while out hunting compared to the winter conditions, so please ensure you inform all the appropriate contacts if you are going on the land, about the location planned for and whenever you can have a partner, you should always bring a partner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 080 – 6(2): Arctic College Graduates in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I stand up to congratulate the students that graduated at Nunavut Arctic College Kivalliq Campus in Rankin Inlet. The following are on management studies certification:

- Gail Gibbons
- Sylvia Kalluk
- Regilee Adams-Lachance
- Emanuel Netser

Management Studies Diploma:

- Tessa Angootealuk
- Jude Panika
- Renee Tanuyak
- Rachel Tartak

Social Services Worker Diploma:

- Kelsey-Marie Atangalaaq
- Geraldine Bruce
- Geela Saviarjuk
- Verna Arnatsiaq Strickland
- Nangmalik Wiseman

Pre-health certification:

- Barb Kadjuk

- Karen Igalaq Kanuula
- Ashley Tologanak

As the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College indicated, the next program, there will be a Licensed Practice Nursing Program in Rankin Inlet. These students from the pre-health certification will be going on to this program in the fall.

I would like to congratulate all and every student that was at Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to your students. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Member's Statement 081 – 6(2): Recognizing Ike Angutautok for Successful Search

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker and the people of Amittuq.

This morning I rise to present a matter from Igloolik, as someone went to my office, Mr. Theo Kango, who some of you may know this person I am referring to.

He wanted to have a person recognized for an activity that occurred over five years ago, but at that time, a search and rescue party was dispatched, and he wanted to acknowledge the resident from Sanirajak, Isaac Angutautok. They went all out searching for several days when Eugene Ipkarnak along with Kenneth Imaruittuq, along with another youth, Andrew Alurut didn't return.

They disappeared in the dead of winter, and just when reality was about to hit, the party found the lost team, so this person came to our office to express his appreciation, and I also thank Theo Kango who wanted a resident of Sanirajak recognized, Mr. Isaac Angutautok. He made a point to state that he was personally indebted to this individual, as Mr. Ipkarnak brings it up from time to time, and he is now one of our local elders.

Gratitude can reach long distances, Mr. Speaker, and when you receive assistance in any way, it really impacts you. Now, I too would like Ike Angutautok of Sanirajak to be recognized, as he is always involved in searches, even though they can be very difficult, but one of my constituents came to our offices to ask for public acknowledgement, and thereby my reason for rising today.

Thank you. Let's work even harder whenever someone gets lost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Search and rescue in Nunavut is very important. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Member's Statement 082 – 6(2): Pangnirtung Fishing Derby

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to also express my gratitude with you to the organizers of our local fishing derby this past spring in Pangnirtung.

On April 9, a fishing derby was held at a local lake where over 400-450 people participated in this event, and the first person to catch a prize with their only catch, so the largest fish caught was rewarded an ice walker by Rosemary Kanayuk, and the second-place winner of \$7000 was Jonah Akulukjuk Jr. The third place, because their catch was the same size, was \$5000 to both Josiah Evic and Simeonie Kakkik.

As well, there was a program since not everyone can freely participate in outdoor activities such as residents without mobile equipment or with mobility issues, were also provided an outlet where they hold a local sculpin derby and this also was well attended on April 23, with about 400-450 participants also partaking in the sculpin fishing derby.

In the last two years the fishing derbies were restrained due to the pandemic measures for crowd control, but this year, fishing derby volunteers Jonas Alivaktuk, Lynn Kilabuk, Rosemary Leah Akulukjuk, and other Pangnirtung residents who volunteered their time to raise money are the people I would like to recognize involved in these activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 083 – 6(2): Cambridge Bay Arctic College Graduates

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Iqaluktutiarmit and fellow Nunavummiut.

I, too, would like to recognize the Nunavut Arctic College graduation and celebrate the students from Cambridge Bay that recently graduated from the Social Services Worker Program. The two individuals that completed the program from Cambridge Bay are Jana Angulalik and Clarissa Hatka Vandenbrink.

I would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours and I'm very proud of both of them and excited to see where they take their next journey through life and wish them all the best. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to the graduates. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to recognize visitors in the gallery, my husband, Andrew Nakashuk, and my dear in-laws, Salia Nakashuk and Mosesee Nakashuk. I want to recognize my big supporters and my advisors. Please welcome them to the House. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions.

Before we proceed, members, please be advised that the Member for Kugluktuk will not be participating in our proceedings as he is returning home for personal reasons.

Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 132 – 6(2): Power Plant Replacements

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is likely aware, Arviat’s power plant was constructed in the year 1971, over a half a century ago. I’m a little older than the power plant, but not by much.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s current corporate plan indicates that it is working on the design and construction of new power plants in Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Kugaaruk.

Can the minister confirm when the Qulliq Energy Corporation will begin planning for the design and construction of Arviat’s new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. His power plant must not be that old; I don’t think he’s that old, so I don’t know what he’s concerned about.

>> *Laughter*

The power plant for replacement for Arviat is going to be worked on. As he has just mentioned, there are a few communities ahead of Arviat, so it's unfortunate for his community, but I believe the planning for the Arviat power plant is coming up and should be within the next couple of years at least for the preplanning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the minister can get back to me a bit more specifically later on, not the next year's, whether it's next year or the year after, it's still pretty broad, but I'll be happy if the minister can provide me with the information.

I recognize that age alone does not determine whether or not a power plant needs to be immediately replaced.

Some of us in this House still have energy, even if we're getting on in years; another example of me.

Can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation determines its power plant replacement schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, I can commit to getting back to him with a more detailed planning of when the power plant will be replaced and when the preplanning will be begun.

As for determining when a power plant is replaced, there are a couple of different factors that come into play; one of them is the age of the facility and if the community is undergoing a massive expansion, the corporation would have to take a serious look at if the community will need a power plant replacement sooner or if the generator set can be upgraded instead with a bigger unit to accommodate the community's needs of demand power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister that he gave the reasons to replace the Arviat power plant. It is old. The population of the community has maybe tripled since it was made. I'm aware that there have been upgrades to it since it was made, but I believe it is time to get a new one that's more fuel efficient, better for the environment, and quieter.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years the Qulliq Energy Corporation has indicated that it has planned to apply for federal funding under the Arctic Energy Fund to help with the cost of design and construction of new power plants in Nunavut.

A number of my colleagues have also been raising this issue during our current spring sitting, so I expect that the minister does have that level of detail with him now.

For the record, can the minister confirm which applications have been submitted, which applications have been approved, and which applications have not been approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can answer partially and for the rest, I'm going to have to get back to the member on that.

Currently Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, and Igloolik, I believe, have been approved. Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, and Chesterfield Inlet are on the radar. I do know that Chesterfield Inlet is being reviewed right now by the Utility Rates Review Council. As for Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk, I don't have that level of detail on that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 133 – 6(2): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Action Plan

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody and especially to the people of Iqaluit-Sinaa and Iqaluit in general.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier, who is the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

I want to follow up on the subject of the Government of Nunavut implementation of the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan.

During yesterday's question period, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women talked about the role of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in this process.

In reviewing the department's business plan, I note just one short reference to this issue, where it simply indicates that it will "work with relevant Government of Nunavut departments on initiatives pertaining to indigenous issues, such as the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls."

Mr. Speaker, protecting Inuit women and girls in Nunavut must be a top priority.

For the record, which member of cabinet has the lead and primary responsibility for this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising a very important question. I couldn't agree more that it is a priority and I am pleased to say that we have really taken a whole-of-government approach. EIA supports Family Services as well as the Status of Women, along with my colleague in Justice, so we play a supporting role as a central agency.

Right now I could comment by saying that we are assisting the department in terms of providing the necessary human resources to be able to ensure we do the implementation that has been laid out in the action plan and as such, we will continue to prioritize putting the staff there to implement the National Action Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear an answer to my question about who the lead minister is, who the lead member of cabinet is, so I look forward to hearing that clearly.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, one of my questions yesterday concerned the Government of Nunavut's work to develop an Inuit-specific action plan in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik and the Qullit Status of Women Council.

During our current sitting, the Premier has spoken on a number of occasions about the government's partnership protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik, and I expect that he has had some discussions on this issue with the president of that organization.

Can the Premier clarify what specific resources have been committed to this process by Nunavut Tunngavik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my member colleague for asking a question again. Just to be clear, I did state that the Department of Family Services is the lead department that oversees the implementation of the National Action Plan with the support of Justice and EIA plays that supporting role to ensure that they are provided the resources. I just wanted to clarify that statement from that point on.

I was very proud in terms of the partnership agreement we did sign with Nunavut Tunngavik. There is no partnership that is more important than that with our partners there. I am excited to be able to continue to collaborate with our partner and I very much look forward to seeing the implementation plan signed off in terms of the work plans that we have identified as priority areas, and I am hoping to conclude that in the next few weeks.

Once that work plan is signed off with our partner, I very much look forward to sharing it with my colleague here across. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for clarifying that for me. Sometimes it's hard to listen, to hear in this setting.

Mr. Speaker, it appears clear to me that the Premier has a good working relationship with the Prime Minister, which is good for the territory. From the Premier's perspective, can he describe what specific federal resources and supports are required to help enable Nunavut to fulfill its responsibilities in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, value that partnership I do have with the Prime Minister. I think it's really important to ensure that we collaborate and have (interpretation) a meeting of minds together, (interpretation ends) not as an individual, so I have always carried that and I am thankful for the relationship that we do have with the Prime Minister.

Our role at EIA is intergovernmental affairs, and is to support the lead department and I very much support the working with my colleagues here in terms of what specific actions they would like to see. I will continue to listen to the lead department and ensure that if there is anything that warrants the discussions to have with our counterparts in Ottawa that I commit to having those very important conversations with them as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 134 – 6(2): Out-of-Territory Care

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on some questions to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the minister was able to inform me of the number of people and the different demographics of the people that are receiving out-of-territory care through the Department of Family Services. Obviously, I don't need to know individual case details, but in general terms, what types of facilities or residential units are contracted to provide these services out of territory? Are there group homes, medical facilities, or residences; what other types of models? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. There is a variety of facilities by agreement

that we use and there is a variety. There are some mental institutions, facilities for people with disabilities, and continuing care. Also, there are elders' homes that we utilize. There are also children who are taken care of outside the territory and we make sure, I apologize. There is a variety of care provided to these children. I can't cover them all but I did touch on a few of the ones that we utilize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(interpretation ends)

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, there have also been some recent questions on southern contractors on the oversight that is provided by the appropriate department. My next question is: "what kind of oversight is provided by the Department of Family Services on these contractors meeting their conditions?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for asking that question. For people who are going to be sent out of the territory through family services, there is a variety of care provided and looking at the agreements between those facilities and the government, we follow the *Family Services Act*. If an individual is going to be provided care outside of the territory, an agreement is signed between the two parties.

Also, for the people who have been recently sent out, we have employees in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Winnipeg and their roles are to physically go to the facilities to ensure that the patients are well taken care of and they provide progress reports on the clients that we provide the services to. They are called client liaison officers and they are the ones that keep us informed through the progress reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(interpretation ends)

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As recent as yesterday, there were questions, again on the southern-contracted facilities, on the availability of cultural activities and country foods. We all know many people from Nunavut, that's a link to our culture and heritage, especially with the food. Especially when I was with 78 children and youth, growing up around country food, it was an important part of the diet and when they come home, that is what we eat, so it's a very important measure.

With those contractors, with the staff that are in the cities that the minister mentioned, do they also follow up and work with these contractors to make sure that country food is provided? I believe that it was mentioned yesterday that the facility in Ottawa provides country food every day. I'd like to get some information from the minister on how often and how prevalent country food is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms., Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for that question, I very much like and appreciate that question, and I can commit to looking into this issue and determining how often the elders are provided country food. But for the children and the youth, usually, and I know that the Inuit organizations make sure that there are events so that they keep in contact with Inuit, and are given access to country food. I will make sure that I look into this with respect to the elders in the aforementioned cities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 135 – 6(2): Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The reason I rise today is in regard to emergency services. I would like not only ask the minister questions, but also encourage him to act on the matter at hand. However, please understand that I had initially prepared to discuss another matter, but at last minute, I decided to address this one, so I am not fully prepared Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to emergency services, such as search and rescue, it is incredibly important that we provide training to more people and as many people as possible. Looking to the future, there will always be a requirement for emergency services. I feel that the resources in our communities are lacking and outdated, and that they need to be refreshed.

My first question, and to elaborate further, the community of Clyde River was hit by an abundance of snow and bad weather this winter. It had a devastating effect on the community. It's not every year that we come across these circumstances but when the rivers start breaking up, in my community of Qikiqtarjuaq, it has a serious effect.

I know that you have a lot of work to do, as does your deputy minister and staff. It is because of your responsibilities for all the communities and hamlet councils. My question is, what kind of emergency preparedness plans do you have in place, beginning this year, to deal with natural disasters and such at the community level?

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the member. In regards to the search and rescue and emergency measures undertaken at the community level, we work with the hamlet councils to make sure that they are prepared and ready to deal with disasters and emergencies as they come. We review plans on an annual basis to make sure they are updated regularly. We also provide training to the hamlet councillors and employees so they are prepared. We do this training in all thirteen communities,

including Qikiqtarjuaq. In Clyde River, they also have emergency plans and should they require support from our department, we are always available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. If I can ask Ms. Killiktee, if you can shorten your questions, you have other members that do need to ask their own questions and time is very short sometimes. Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you and I do apologize once again. When you are speaking Inuktitut, it's that the thinking concept is different from the English, and it's important that you know this. However, I would like to thank you for responding to my question.

Briefly, I am very pleased to raise this question. This is not the first time and this is not the last time that emergency situations come about at the community level. I would like to ask the minister, and maybe you touched upon it, but I would like to ask you: when will emergency preparedness training be provided at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague who correctly stated earlier that we cannot control the weather. In regards to the river overflowing in Qikiqtarjuaq, we were not aware of that incident and it shows that we need to have proper planning. We expect that community and government services in the coming year, 2022-23 to visit thirteen communities and talk about training for emergency measures. There will be practices as well.

In 2021-22, there were seven communities that we were able to visit and we want to visit 13 this year to make sure communities know and have what they need to know if an emergency occurs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I have finished asking questions.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 136 – 6(2): Baffinland Emergency Request

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Pond Inlet.

I will be asking questions to the Minister responsible for Mines. My questions again concern the minister's recent statement about Baffinland's emergency request to the federal government. (interpretation ends) I recognize that this is a rapidly changing situation.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue with the minister last week, he indicated that he has been meeting with a number of different individuals and organizations, including Baffinland and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Can the minister provide an update on the outcome of his recent meetings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague for asking the question. Yes, the situation is always changing and that's the way it is. We can't really get out of the House here even though we need to have meetings with those other people right now.

Yesterday I had a short meeting with Baffinland executives, the Nunavut Iron Ore Chairman and the Baffinland President. It was an opportunity to learn that they have received a letter from the federal government to get things completed. It's a four-part letter they received and we discussed that.

As to which option they will get through the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, I would direct them to work closely together. If any situation occurs, I told them my officials would be making it a priority and would be working on it right away. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association recently had a meeting in Kinngait but I haven't had an opportunity to meet with their president yet. It's been too busy here, so I haven't been able to meet with that person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the minister. Mr. Speaker, in his statement the minister indicated that and I quote, "the Government of Nunavut is aware of the potential for job losses and other socio-economic impacts should the mine close, even temporarily."

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the company has started the process to layoff notices. Can the minister indicate if he has been provided with information concerning the number of residents living in Pond Inlet, Sanirajak, Arctic Bay, Clyde River and other Nunavut communities who may be impacted by layoffs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people from Baffinland, the workers of Baffinland from those five communities; there are 209 of them according to the statistics. This does not include contractors like QL. We are starting to get the numbers, they employ over 100 people in addition to contractors and subcontractors.

However, I don't have the numbers for those yet. Taking all this into consideration, we have been making plans in the event that there are lay-offs and we are continuing to

monitor the situation to see which communities they are coming from. I also believe that they are being notified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during last Friday's sitting of the House of Commons, our Member of Parliament for Nunavut called on the government federal Minister of Northern Affairs to meet with residents of impacted communities to hear their views on the phase 2 proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that I represent constituents who support the proposal and I fully recognize that... I'm sorry. Who support the proposal and fully recognize that I represent constituents who oppose the proposal.

Mr. Speaker, my position is that all of their voices should be heard, and my position is that they have the right to make their voices heard on this issue without fear of intimidation.

Does the minister share my position on this issue?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes that is the way it is. If the mining company suddenly gives us a decision, if we receive a notification or if the Nunavut Impact Review Board does something, then we will try to inform all the communities and make sure that they are included in the process.

I fully support the communities, and if any news comes forward we will start to work on it right away. I know the Hunters Associations and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have both been greatly affected. The moment that we hear something, we will immediately address the issue. We will start working on it right away, and if those jobs are suddenly lost, we will have to take certain actions. It is imperative that we give this issue careful consideration.

Additionally, I would like to state that I fully support my colleague on this matter, and agree that everybody's voice needs and deserves to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik

Question 137 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a late good morning to my constituents.

(interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of water infrastructure.

I again thank the Department for its work in recent years to ensure that my constituents have had safe drinking water through the use of reverse osmosis filters. Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier this week, achieving long term sustainable solutions to Sanikiluaq's drinking water infrastructure is a top priority for the community.

When I last raised this issue during the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I noted that the minister's department had issued a request for proposals in June 2021 to develop a business case for a new water treatment plant and associated infrastructure. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to work on an ongoing basis with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq as well as the local housing association to ensure that every household is equipped with the small reverse osmosis units and that they're working properly until the new water treatment plant is built and commissioned.

As for his question around where this sits at; in terms of the business case, that was slated to be completed in March 2022, and we're pursuing funding through until April of next year. We anticipate that if the project proceeds as scheduled, the design would occur in the fiscal year 2023-24, with construction to happen in fiscal year 2024-25 and onwards to 2025-26. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister and I appreciate the minister's response. Mr. Speaker, in August 2021 the federal government announced that it was providing \$1.8 million towards planning projects for new water treatment plants in a number of Nunavut communities, including: Sanikiluaq, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Grise Fiord.

Can the minister confirm how much his department has spent to date in the planning phase for Sanikiluaq's new water treatment plant and associated infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question, but I don't have that level of detail with me. I could agree to follow up and update the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our current spring sitting, a number of my colleagues have noted that the Government of Canada recently announced over \$200 million in federal funding for new water infrastructure for Iqaluit.

In light of the tendering issues that the territorial government has been facing in respect to housing construction on other capital projects, can the minister clarify if additional federal funding will be required to construct Sanikiluaq's water treatment plant and associated infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we do need more funding for our capital projects, we will try to proceed and look at different options and we will look at federal funding as well, the different streams might be available. We will keep tabs on what's available and try to put our best foot forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 138 – 6(2): Human Trafficking

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the very serious issue of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, the 2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan was released in June of last year. As the minister will recall, the 2022 progress report on the implementation of the national action plan was released two weeks ago. This progress report includes information on actions taken to date by the Government of Nunavut in a variety of areas including measures to combat human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, the report indicates that the territorial Department of Justice has “established a Victims of Crime Emergency Fund for travel costs to return to their home Nunavut community and the purchase of emergency supplies and prescription medication.” Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and grateful to read about this new initiative undertaken by the Department of Justice, although I was a bit surprised because I had not heard of this new initiative. I would like to ask if the minister can indicate when this fund was established, and approximately how many victims his department has assisted to date under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. It is a very serious situation. It is a shame that it happens. It was a shame that it was needed. Sorry.

The Victim of Crime Emergency Fund was created in October 2021, so it is basically brand new. I believe there have been seven families that have accessed this emergency fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response and I would also like to extend my gratitude to the departmental officials who work within Victim Services at the Department of Justice.

As the minister will be aware, Tungasuvvingat Inuit is based in Ottawa and does wonderful work to support the Inuit community in our nation's capital city. In July 2021, the organization received funding from the Ontario provincial government under its anti-human trafficking strategy.

Information published by the organization indicates that it assists Inuit who are currently or have in the past engaged in sex work or are looking to exit the sex trade who are victims/survivors of human trafficking.

It is my understanding that the initiative now serves Inuit as young as 13 years of age. I would like to ask the minister if he can indicate how his department, specifically victim services, or Victims of Crime Emergency Fund works with Tungasuvvingat Inuit on anti-human trafficking initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. If I understand correctly, we have not worked with Tungasuvvingat Inuit yet on any of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the minister for his response. As the program is very new, just several months old, that response is understandable.

As the minister will appreciate, it is vital that the government undertake effective interdepartmental and interagency cooperation to combat human trafficking and child sexual abuse. This is an issue that I have and will continue to push throughout our Assembly's term of office.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Department of Family Services also has an important role to play in this area, given its statutory responsibilities for child protection. I would like to ask: can the minister describe how the Department of Justice works with the Department of Family Services to combat human trafficking of youth and children in the government's care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Department of Justice, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, do work regularly with the Department of Family Services on files and supporting vulnerable Nunavummiut that have suffered abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 139 – 6(2): Municipal Infrastructure

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement earlier this week, I recently had the opportunity to meet with municipal leaders in Coral Harbour and I thank the mayor, council and hamlet employees for their hard work on behalf of the community.

As the minister is aware, one of the priorities identified in Coral Harbour's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is the need for an expansion of the municipalities' existing maintenance garage for its fleet or mobile equipment's.

As the minister will recall, his departments 2022-2023 Capital Estimates included 2 million dollars in funding for its new municipal parking garage. Can the minister clarify how the Municipality of Coral Harbour can access funding for this expanding of the garage? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague for his question. I like to congratulate the municipal council and employees who we work closely with.

Mr. Speaker, the municipal garages or application for the garage can be made annually, and this \$2 million was the starting fund towards that. We will hopefully continue this each year and these funds will be made available to all the Hamlets that may want to access the funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you minister for the very good news, and for ensuring that all communities are included.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, another one of the priorities identified in Community Integrated Sustainability abilities to plan is the need of appropriate, and more facilities.

The present community facility is unsuitable. Mr. Speaker, the needs for proper community more is an issue that you raised on many occasions during the previous Legislative Assembly and I thank you for raising awareness on this important issue.

Can the minister clarify how his department works with Municipalities to address the needs of the communities in Nunavut furthermore? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, on Community Integrated Sustainability Plans, we try to work with Municipalities on prioritizing which projects are most in need for each community.

Our department also does recognize the importance of providing spaces and services around the handling of deceased bodies and managing them in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner for morgues, and, we do support the acquisition renewal and upgrading of municipal infrastructure such as a morgue through the Municipal Capital Block Funding Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends): As the minister is aware another one of the priorities identified in the Coral Harbour Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is the need for renovation or replacement of the existing hamlet office. Can the minister indicate what criteria his department has to determine if the Hamlet office is eligible for replacement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, in terms of hamlet office spaces in the municipalities, we look at the different number of factors; the size of the community, the number of employees. Municipal operations is becoming more and more complex, but we do also have a many variety of other capital needs, so we can only make very little progress in building new hamlet offices in our communities.

As we noted in the winter sitting, we approve funds to go towards Sanikiluaq's immediate and dire need for a new hamlet in Sanikiluaq, but we will consider all other communities as well when we move forward in capital projects, even though we're facing several challenges in this construction environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Ranking Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 140 – 6(2): Financial Supports for Those in Need

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, over the last two years our government provided financial assistance to such large entities as airlines to help support them during the pandemic.

Can the minister provide an update on what additional financial supports have been provided to Nunavut residents who have been struggling to pay their bills since the COVID-19 pandemic? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I'm not really clear, are you asking about students or community food distribution vouchers? Can you clarify? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Asking for clarification to your question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update on what additional financial supports have been provided to Nunavut residents who have been struggling to pay their bills since the COVID-19 pandemic? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question on this issue and for clarifying it. In particular, with the pandemic measures we all had to undergo, many people had to stay at home and many people struggled financially. However, assistance was given, and a lot of interdepartmental collaboration occurred. My department was able to provide funding for hamlets to purchase food and these continued throughout the pandemic, albeit the process was slow at times, especially in the affected communities. But, they were able to go about their ways through Income Assistance and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Private home owners have been very hard hit with the rising costs of utilities and fuel, as well as the increasing prices of food. It is very difficult for single parents, families, or elders to survive on their limited incomes. During the coldest months of the winter, it is frightening to think that they may not be able to afford fuel. Can the minister tell us what programs are in place to assist struggling homeowners with fuel costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The Senior Fuel Subsidy is a program that is available for seniors that do own homes and that need support with fuel. That's one of the programs that is offered on an annual basis, and of course that really depends on the income threshold as well.

For homeowners, the Department of Family Services Income Support division does look at all Income Support recipients, and through their assessments it's determined what supports can be provided.

Unfortunately, like you mentioned, we've had to face a lot of challenges especially during the pandemic. As I mentioned, there have been some supports that have continued from the Department of Family Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Seniors Fuel Subsidy is available to assist with some fuel costs based on the elders' level of income. However, there are others who are also struggling.

Will the minister consider the establishment of a program to provide grants up to \$1,500 to help such private homeowners as elders and single parent families when they are struggling to pay their fuel bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) We will certainly look at what more supports could be reviewed, especially in all communities we do consider what more supports could be put in place. As I had mentioned with the senior fuel subsidy, that program has been changing a bit to better meet the seniors with how much fuel they can get in a year. I know that has been looked at and that is continually reviewed in terms of how we can better improve the program.

In terms of what other supports for single parents, we will certainly continue to provide assessments if needed for the clients that need it. I do recommend that the clients go to income support offices to get their applications reviewed. Don't hesitate to contact our office for more supports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 141 – 6(2): Public Housing Tenders

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some more questions for the minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, concerning the issue of the cancelled public housing tenders for Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly; the minister provided a return to question that I had previously asked of him. I appreciate the minister's comprehensive response. In his return to my earlier questions, the minister indicated that "ministers do not get involved in the day to day aspects of contract management" and that the decision to cancel the 2022 Taloyoak tender was made at the "corporate level."

Mr. Speaker, looking to the future, the minister has previously indicated that he is working on different options and is in discussions with different parties including private sector companies.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify who will make the final decisions about new contracting approaches and agreements? Will it be the minister, the board of directors, or the employees of the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently talking about the housing operations in Nunavut and we are currently talking about the private companies and that is the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and his staff.

If we arrive at an agreement, the president of the housing corporation will decide if that would be the best way to go and his decision will be given to me for consideration. It would originate with the president of the housing corporation and the board of directors. Then the final decision will be mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to keeping the municipal council of Taloyoak and my office informed on a regular basis over the coming months about decisions taken by the Nunavut Housing Corporation concerning the tendering and contracting process for the new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for asking that question. It's not only Taloyoak, but we will make sure that all Nunavut communities are kept informed about the process. I have told all communities that we will keep them up to date in regard to building houses in Nunavut; and also, the hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There is still a lack of clarity concerning the circumstances and events that led to the cancellation of the 2021 tender for the new units

in Taloyoak. I believe that it would be good for everyone to get a clear and comprehensive explanation. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to providing this to the municipal council of Taloyoak and my office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how I can make it any clearer. The price was way over budget at that time and we decided to cancel. If you would like that in writing, I will write a letter to you. If we are going to proceed with building new houses, we will have to look at the price. The main reason is that it was way over budget. Now, we are starting to look at other means of building new housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Question 142 – 6(2): Emergency Preparedness Plans

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Amittuq.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Government and Community Services.

The minister indicated that there are 13 communities that have emergency measures plans in place. Does that include Igloolik and Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking that question. I do have a list, but I will have to get back to the member once I have the information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister knows that Igloolik is on an island and the sea level at Sanirajak is higher than the land. When we were talking about training, emergency measures and sustainability plans. Do you look at the conditions or demographics of communities when emergency measures plans are being drafted and are all emergency measures up to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the original question, the communities for 2022-23; Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Taloyoak, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq. I also indicated

that we have also already gone to seven communities, but I'm not sure if Igloolik and Sanirajak were included in there.

With the integrated sustainability plans, we look at the infrastructure of the communities, and that is not really related to the emergency plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a terrible shame that once again, the people of Amittuq are not being considered. When we are looking at capital infrastructure, it seems like the communities that are further away than the other communities are going to stay poor and not have the essential infrastructure in their communities, and we that are always behind the closer, bigger communities when it comes to that side of things.

I am very disappointed that our communities are not considered. The minister indicated that they went to seven communities already. Can the minister commit to including my two communities of Sanirajak and Igloolik and if not, why not? Where do the people of Igloolik go when there is an emergency? If there were an evacuation requirement, where would the people go?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to commit to including my two communities when it comes to emergency plans. Can you commit to including my two communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are proceeding with the emergency measures planning and training, and we will try to visit 13 communities this fiscal year. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic was happening, we were still able to visit seven communities. I believe that his communities were visited already. We look to make sure that the communities have proper plans in place for emergencies, and we make sure they are adequately trained to be ready for emergencies.

They get help from the municipal training organization to do that. They get funding to do that. They visit the communities and go and help with their plans, emergency plans, and make sure they have plans in place before an emergency occurs and if an emergency does occur, and then the community would know what to do. That is why we train the communities. We review the training every year and we make sure that the communities are involved. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure that my colleague is aware that Sanirajak and Igloolik are included for these things. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 143 – 6(2): Caribou Population Survey

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, and it's going to be about caribou.

Last year there was a survey, have the results of that been published yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many caribou herds. I would like to know which caribou herd the member is referring to? Can the member tell me which herd he's talking about? The results I mentioned earlier were about Qikiqtaaluk and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the Ukkusiksalik herd and the herd nearby that are around Naujaat, the herds are hunted by five communities. I just wanted to know if they've been counted.

Speaker: My apologies to the member, he was just asking for a clarification. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for explaining which herds you meant.

The North East Mainland Barren Ground caribou subpopulation, Ahiak, Wager Bay, Lorillard herds abundance survey was completed and the report is being compiled. The survey was completed on June 15, 2021, and the report is being reviewed. This year, 2022, we will be visiting the communities to explain the results to community members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for explaining that. In the other community that I represent, the HTO is really working hard and is very concerned about the Southampton caribou herd, and they are requesting that the herd be counted. I would like the minister to encourage his department to do a survey in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a recent count in 2019 and 2020 and a report was compiled about that. And, now we expect that if

everything works out in 2023, there will be another caribou count done of the Southampton caribou herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for explaining that. Can the minister also explain if his workers can come to Coral Harbour and meet with the local HTO to address their concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can direct my workers to do that, as they work closely with the Coral Harbour hunters and trappers organization and it was the HTO that initiated the notification of concern. We would like to make sure people listen when other people are concerned about regarding caribou herds and I know local HTOs are working hard in caribou management.

We will have to work closely with the local HTO's and when that that happens, everything will work better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members be aware that time allotted for Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself else.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:53 and Committee resumed at 13:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 main estimates for the Department of (interpretation ends) Family Services, Department of Justice, Finance, Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Nakashuk, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Yvonne Niego, and Lindsay Turner, (interpretation ends) Director of Poverty Reduction, (interpretation) and sitting over there is Sandy Kownak, (interpretation ends) ADM. (interpretation) I apologize.

Before I begin, if it is okay with the committee, I would like to recognize some visitors in the House. I would like to recognize these young people who have come here to visit the Assembly. I mentioned the Skills Canada Competition in my minister's statement. These individuals have participated in the skills competition that I spoke about earlier. I ask them to stand up when I say their name.

- David Aglukark Jr.
- Annie Buscemi
- Mac Pavia
- Willow Watson
- Benjamin Hemming
- Natalie Pinksen.

I apologize if I mispronounced your name.

The coaches are also in attendance. Please welcome them to the House.

>>*Applause*

I'm sorry. I wasn't expecting them to be in the House and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to recognize them.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the department provides a range of programs and services that promote the well-being and self-reliance of Nunavummiut and prepares individuals for meaningful work through employment readiness programming and supports through a variety of services provided across four client-focused divisions.

1. The Family Wellness Division provides a broad range of support services for children, families, and vulnerable adults who may require protection or other specialized support. The division also provides emergency intervention as well as prevention programs.
2. The Income Assistance Division includes a variety of benefit programs that provide financial assistance to people 18 years of age and over and their dependants.
3. The Career Development Division promotes employment training programs, administers funding to clients for these programs, and offers career counselling services.
4. The Poverty Reduction Division coordinates collaboration across government departments and with Inuit organizations on strategic approaches to poverty reduction, food insecurity, and homelessness.

Mr. Chairman, for 2022-23, to support the ongoing programs and services provided, the Department of Family Services is proposing an operating budget of \$169.6 million, which represents an increase of 5 percent, or \$8.49 million, over last year's main estimates. These increases include:

- \$2 million under Poverty Reduction to support the ongoing Homelessness and Food Security Initiative.
- \$3.7 million under Family Wellness for increases in residential care costs for providing placements and supports for adults and children with special and complex needs in residential care facilities.
- \$1.5 million for family violence services which will expand emergency supports by augmenting current funding for existing family violence shelters and facilitate the planning and opening of shelters in Gjoa Haven, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, and Mittimatalik.
- \$630,000 in new PY including three additional client liaison officers who assist with our residential care clients.

- \$660,000 under Income Assistance for the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit program to increase supports to seniors through the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit.

These budget increases reflect the changes the department has undertaken to enhance and strengthen service delivery to children and families, while improving our ability to provide prevention services, awareness, care, and support to Nunavummiut as they work towards personal well-being.

Mr. Chairman, this proposed operating budget will also allow the department to support the government's efforts to address the *Katujjiluta* mandate's commitments.

I would be happy to respond to questions from Committee of the Whole on the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Family Services. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2022-23 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services is almost \$170 million for 2022-23, which represents a 5 percent increase over its 2020-21 budget. While the majority of the increase in funding is related to the delivery of residential care for adults and children with complex care needs, new funding is also allocated for additional family violence services, poverty reduction initiatives, and increased supports for seniors.

The Department of Family Services provides a wide range of critical services to Nunavummiut who may be vulnerable and who may require additional protections or supports to live safely and comfortably. The standing committee appreciates the important role played by social workers in addressing a number of pressing needs at the community level. While it is important that service standards are met, members appreciate that these are challenging occupations and staff often face significant pressures while working on the frontlines. The standing committee encourages the department to continue working with Nunavut Arctic College to recruit more Nunavummiut to attend and complete the Nunavut-based social work certification and degree programs, recognizing that community members themselves can be most effective in addressing the legacy of issues from trauma.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is in full support of the department's contributions towards the operations of community-based family violence shelters, including the opening of four new shelters. While acknowledging that most shelters focus on providing support for women and children, committee members also recognize the need for more

shelter supports for men and youth. Members encourage the department in its efforts to provide assistance to communities and local groups which have expressed interest in opening shelters. Members further encourage the department to work with shelter organizations to standardize policies, operational procedures, and reporting mechanisms, with a view to improving services based on best practices and successful initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services delivers Nunavut's income assistance programs which are directed towards assisting families, adult individuals, and seniors in meeting their basic needs. The standing committee appreciates that income assistance workers have faced a number of challenges in delivering programs and services, especially during the pandemic. The standing committee fully supports such food security initiatives as school-based meal programs and the contributions of food centres and soup kitchens. The committee was happy to note that the department plans to provide more long-term core funding to entities which directly address issues of food security.

Mr. Chairman, the government's mandate specifically addresses the issue of support for our elders. While the standing committee approves of the department's proposed increase in benefits for seniors, members have raised concerns regarding income tests in determining eligibility for the Seniors Fuel Subsidy and encourage the department to review its policies in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services provides support for a number of programs and resources to assist adults in accessing education and training opportunities and gain employment. The standing committee encourages the department in its efforts to increase the involvement of career development officers at the community level.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do any of the members have general comments before we go to detailed questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for appearing before the committee today, Minister Nakashuk and Ms. Niego, it is a pleasure to see you in the House, and Ms. Turner, welcome.

Before we get into the detailed deliberations of the Department of Family Services' operations and maintenance budget, I just wanted to say a few words.

Of course I would like to start by echoing the chair of the social committee in her opening remarks. I understand that the Family Wellness Division plays such a critical role in providing services and support for children and other vulnerable Nunavummiut. Again, I would like to recognize the extremely difficult and challenging, and I hope rewarding, role that community social service workers play in ensuring the safety of those who need it throughout their investigations and interventions and other productive services.

I would also like to express gratitude to the Department of Family Services for augmenting the emergency shelter budgets, as well as facilitating in the planning and opening of four new shelters in the territory. This is something that is needed and I'm again glad to see that the department is making headway in this area. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude again for the creation of further supports for food centres in our communities, and more importantly, including multi-year core funding for their operations. I think this is something that is essential in ensuring or addressing food insecurity.

I recognize that the Government of Nunavut cannot do it all, and much of that effort in addressing food insecurity, will rely on our municipalities and non-governmental organizations, more importantly, non-profit organizations. So, that is something that again, I am very grateful for.

There are going to be many pressing and very detailed questions coming up over the next few hours, but I just wanted to say "thank you." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I have no more names. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank and welcome the minister.

In your opening comments, I am very pleased to see that there has been slight increase in the budget, and the reason why I'm bringing it up is that is you're making a request to provide services to the most vulnerable. This \$2 million will greatly help the people who require it, especially considering the high cost of freight associated with flying in food to the communities, along with the increased costs associated with healthy foods. All these factors are making it more difficult for the vulnerable demographics to achieve fair and easy access to healthy food.

We have to look at how we can better provide help. When you're sitting in the House you try and look at ways of how you can provide better programs and services to help the vulnerable. The issue gets recognized and every now and again we bring it up, but I'm very glad that it is finally included in this budget.

I'm very happy to see that the \$660,000 will help our elders, and I'm very glad that you recognized that the elders need the support. Some elders are homeowners and they have a hard time keeping up with the monthly expenses required in order maintaining their households. For many of the recipients, they work quite hard and still end up in a situation of food insecurity. This is not ideal, or acceptable.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to make that general comment in response to the minister's opening comments, and I'm very pleased that there are additional programs made available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list...I still have no more names, so we will go onto the page by page review of the department's estimates starting on L-4. Corporate Management. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister and deputy minister for appearing before the committee. (interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services has trouble to hire and retain staff especially at the community level. What are some of the challenges in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. We have made that statement repeatedly and usually the Department of Family Services struggles the most to hire and retain staff and some of the communities do not even have one. That is one of the main challenges is to retain the staff that we have. The social workers are all Inuit, which I am proud about. The career development division currently have full staff and in the headquarters and in the office there have been some turnovers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for her response. In regard to the career development officers, are there any in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one in Pangnirtung. I believe there are five. We have one in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk. Apprenticeship officer positions have also been developed here in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet. We have a career development officer in Igloodik. We have regional officers in several communities who visit outlying communities, one each in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for her response. (interpretation ends) Concerns have been raised that a number of Nunavummiut applied for and received federal funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Has the department been required to provide any assistance to Nunavummiut who may have suffered financial hardship as a result of receiving COVID-19 related funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. You can request financial support; there is \$1.25 million and they can apply for \$40,000 per community to provide assistance or food vouchers to the people in need at their community. There is also \$250,000 that was given to Tukisigiavik and Ilisaqsivik and the Embrace Life Council. We gave them operational funds. Those were given out during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. (interpretation ends) What specific support is the Department of Family Services providing toward government elders and senior care strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide different kinds of support for elders and senior care. We also touched upon the issue this morning in regard to providing fuel subsidy programs for the elders, which has been revamped, and also there are federal funds available. Senior citizens supplementary benefit is provided by the federal government; when an elder reaches of age, they can apply for that program. It is federally funded. Those are the subjects I can cover at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for outlining those programs under corporate management. (interpretation ends) The department has invested in new child and family service case management systems. What is the current operational status of child and family service system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It is still available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister please tell me a little bit more about the case management system? I am not fully familiar with what that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. It is currently in the works by the department. The social workers go to the communities and they have to document everything that is happening, outline who they have seen, what cases they have dealt with so that everything is documented should they get a new case worker or a new employee comes on board. It is all entered into the database. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I know that when children, especially young children, enter into care there can be many gaps in information about their experience in care. We also know that when young children are removed from their home it is a very traumatic and sometimes being removed from their home and family may be so traumatic that they block out entire periods of their life while they are in care.

As time goes on, there can be some difficulty in knowing and understanding their own personal history. What I am wondering about is how this case management system helps people who have been in care in moving through that trauma even after they are no longer in care and want to go back and understand that period of their life better. I hope that is a clear question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. As you just stated, cases are taken care of by the Department of Family Services. When they have gone through great hardship or trauma, we do not want to tell people about them because it is a private, confidential matter. If they are going to be requesting information about their past history with social services, it would not be a good idea to bring out the bad stuff the person went through.

When people go through great hardship and they had to go through court, or the caretakers had to go through court, Department of Family Services can help them move forward in those cases so that person can be protected some more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Mr. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I know many people who have been through being removed from their homes and the foster care system. As well, I know the families whose children have been removed, and the gaps in information about where the child was.

I will give you an example. I was fostering for a number of years one of my family members who I now call my cousin, we would walk and drive around and we would go through town and he would say, "I lived there; I used to live with that family. They had a dog," and I would ask when he lived there and he would say, "I don't know." This person is now a grown man with his own child and has significant gaps in knowledge of what his own childhood was because of the trauma.

What I am curious about for a person like that young man is does the case management system capture where he was placed, for how long, and of course for what reasons, and what resources were given to that person at the time they were in care. Secondly, is that person able to access their own information and especially in getting mental health support to help process that, is there a mechanism to allow the release of those records to a mental health worker who is helping that person process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. People who have gone through family services who have reached adulthood can request for their file from family services. I cannot really talk about other things. I believe health and mental health services also fill out forms and keep forms same as family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. I do have another question. I had it written down, but I do not see it. I will ask if there are historical records since 1999, have they been entered into the children and family service's case management system, and if not, why not? How would a person also be able to access those records that are not within this case management system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From the current case management system there was a prior contract in place. However, that contract was folded up and a new request for proposal was put out. That proposal is under review and a proponent should be selected in the near future. Meanwhile, from the first contract there was thousands of documents and pages put into electronic format for a system.

Prior to that first project, family wellness files were in various formats. They could have been in e-mails, hard copy files, on USB sticks, and various formats. When we do get a request for personal information from an individual there would be, especially historical, it would have to be through a manual search, electronic search, and other means.

The more recent contract that was in place folded. We went back to the creation of family services of health and social services. I believe 2012-2013. Anything since then should be in electronic format. However, as we were developing the first contract, we were trying to get communities wholly online, so not everything may not date back to 2012. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Prior to 2012 it was health and social services. Am I correct in assuming that health and social services actually has those files archived somewhere? I would hope so. I will just ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The government's documents, no matter what they are, are usually archived after nine years and they have to be kept for 110 years, especially for family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Excellent, I am glad you answered that because my next question was going to be are they subject to destruction at any time. I think really importantly if you can tell us how somebody might go about accessing their own historical files and requesting their file to be built and their story pulled together. Is there a specific division or person who is responsible for helping people to build their story and gain that information personally for their own knowledge and use? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those people who are requesting their files can request from the director of child welfare in the Iqaluit office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that that process is trauma-informed and that the team that works on that also offers additional information about mental health support that might be available to a person who is going through that process. I wonder if people know that that is possible and how family services go about

communicating to people about their right to access their own file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. In the communities, it is always available. We have never really promoted it. People who want to get more information on their case history in family services can request for the information. If they want to talk to someone I know that family services can help the way they can in the communities. That is the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next person on my list: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions here. In the business plan on page 153 in 2022-23 priorities, the very first bullet is a finalized plan to address challenges related to the staffing capacity within the family wellness division.

Many responses we get from different questions often have a capacity-related response. I do recognize that you are looking specifically within the family wellness division, but there is a lot of competition out there, especially for skilled workers here in the territory. There is a lot of competition interdepartmentally.

What are some of the plans that are being put in place to help recruit and retain in that division somewhat, but department-wide overall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. In particular, the regional directors try their best to recruit and often interest is also given to them for positions and the constant need to recruit, especially here in Iqaluit, is challenging and a lot of work is needed. Orientations have to be provided when recruitment is made. The responsibilities are huge and getting recruitment is tough, but we are planning strategies toward that.

(interpretation ends) A number of initiatives that the department is doing is with recruitment and retention. Having a job advertised for CSSWs, which is the social workers, has allowed faster and easier hiring within the department, and updating the job advertisement to make it more appealing, collaborating with Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre to develop an ad for new frontline workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I wish all the departments all the best in this effort. Right now a third of the positions are vacant so

it is obviously very difficult to continue to meet your mandate and obligations, and to meet the expectations of the public.

In the same priorities, the last bullet under 2022-23, supporting government efforts to promote and provide long-term core funding to support and expand effective models for community-led programs and services. I just have a question on this and my memory is failing me at the moment.

When we look at multi-year funding for core programming, how is that available to be done in compliance with the financial administration act and the financial administration manual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the first question, I do not believe I responded fully. We try and look at how we can further attract recruitment and we also go through look at the Arctic College social services also provide in that regard at Arctic College and we also are updating what jobs are available and those who are getting to retirement age during that phase we also have to prepare towards and also the data that was mentioned earlier to have our frontline workers do less paperwork and to basically to have more time with their clients. I wanted to add that. And how we can best utilize funds for operations in areas

Majority of the money that is provided for boys and girls clubs or those kinds of community-led programs are usually from the vote-for funding that we have within the department so there are different organizations that we work with at a community level and that could be the non-profit organizations or the local social workers will run programs for youth and children. The financial admin manual limits vote one and of course that is for the year as you know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response, it's exactly the point I was getting to.

During the last number of months, I've had the opportunity to participate with some non-profit organizations and one of the things that they call out for is multi-year core funding. I know that it's very difficult within the financial parameters that we operate under right now, and I know you're not the Minister of Finance, but it's also something to look at, to still have that accountability in there from the financial reporting from different proposals and different non-profit organizations that the Department of Family Services supports, whether it be vote one or vote four funding. There are a number of different organizations that you do help support.

I guess my question there is: in the priority it says to support government efforts and I just wanted to get the minister's position on whether the intention is to push the

Department of Finance to make changes to the *Financial Administration Act* to allow multi-year funding out of vote one funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question, you're right. This is one of the obstacles, organizations having to re-apply each year. We work within these government programs, and we often bring up the issues within our department and investigate as to how we can make improvements. We'll continue to address these while we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I thank the minister for that response. I think that's very, very helpful. I do know the Minister of Finance is sitting in the room and I'm sure he's been listening very closely to question upon question on this. Actually, that's it under this section, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names under...Mr. Lightstone, if I can remind members that if you have any questions under this branch please let me know ahead. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off with Inuit employment plan related questions, under four specific topics in this area: education leave, transfer assignments, internships, and mentorships.

I would like to begin with education leave; I was wondering if the minister might be able to provide an update to the House on the number of employees within the Department of Family Services who are on education leave and how many of those are Inuit employees as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question here. We also have Inuit employment that we focus on, especially positions that are in the front lines. To date, in regards to those who are on educational leave, I cannot give you an exact figure, but I can return and give you the figures at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd appreciate that, thank you for making that commitment, minister. I hope that the department is supportive as possible whenever employees come forward with these education leave requests.

Under the next topic; under Inuit employment plans is transfer assignments. I was wondering if the minister might be able to provide some details about the number of employees in the Department of Family Services that are on transfer assignments and how many of those are Inuit employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question here. I am able to give some details, but I don't know exactly how many at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, thank you minister, for committing to following up with that figure. I'm not sure if you will be able to answer this question either, but I would be very interested to find out how many interns or employees within the Department of Family Services are currently interning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any internal transfers at the moment within Family Services, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last item under Inuit Employment Plans, another very powerful tool in increasing representation at high level positions is the utilization of mentorships. I was wondering if the minister may be able to elaborate a little or provide some details on the number of Inuit employees who are currently utilizing mentorships and in addition, tied into that, whether or not the department has identified employees within the department who are at or nearing retirement age that would be suitable mentors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. We have different situations. For example, we have career development officers through Family Services, and when we have positions, they are always offered training opportunities related to as how they may gain more knowledge in the field they work in. For example, in counselling in particular, through Human Resources and the Amaaqaarniq Program, there is temporary summer employment and different venues made to further have education provided or training provided for staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, for your response, minister. I appreciate your commitment again, and I will be following-up on these specific items again at later date and likely next year as well.

My next line of questioning is going to be about the Office of the Public Guardian. I'm not entirely sure which branch that falls under. I'm assuming it's under corporate management, and if it is, I would like to ask if the minister may be able to provide an update on the Office of the Public Guardian.

I recall, the last update that was provided, there were 274 active files and roughly 80 new referrals that were received each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is under the Department of Justice, not Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone. No. Corporate Management. L-4. Total. Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,351,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn your pages to the next branch. Family Wellness. L-5. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Family Wellness, I would like to know what programs are made available under the Family Wellness Branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I'll have questions afterwards.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, I would like to thank you for that question. Under Family Wellness, there is a variety of programs that we provide for children and adults in vulnerable situations, as well as for youth under the care of Family Services and to those clients that are provided services outside of Nunavut.

That falls under branch of Family Wellness. In addition to that, there is also foster care included under this program. (interpretation ends): Family Violence Shelters and Community Safe Homes are a part of that division, and programs that fall under the Family Wellness Division. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. How about a family member who is under long-term care or has a chronic illness that requires them to receive frequent or continuous care. Are the care workers that are provided paid to do their work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for that question. If a family has decided to have their family member placed under care, they would follow the direction of the Department of Health or under our Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is usually an agreement between the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services so that the care worker can provide care using funding that has been made available by these departments. Can you perhaps advertise what's available under this program a little bit more to the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: *Qujannamiik*. (interpretation): It's called the Alternative Family Program, which falls under Income support and usually involves a close family member who requires constant care in the home. They are able to receive funding through the Department of Family Services under the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that information. (interpretation ends) Funding for a number of divisions within the department, Family Wellness Branch is projected to increase in 2022-23. What new initiative will be introduced? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are asking for operational funds and there has been an increase due to three new positions; Client liaison officers and two additional staff, from a quality improvement capacity.

And, under grants and contributions, we also provide funds to shelters in Nunavut and they have been divided up among six communities that have shelters. There is also an agreement under contract services that's for clients receiving care outside of the territories. There has been an increase in that line item when it comes to providing support, that's the current case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that information. Information from the department account structure chart on page L-1 of the Main Estimates indicates that a number of new positions will be added to divisional headquarters. What are these new positions and what activities will they focus on? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for that question. I previously mentioned two positions that would be related to quality improvement capacity Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services administers Nunavut's *Adoption Act* and the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*. What are some of the main challenges in administering these two pieces of legislation, and are any changes to policies and procedures being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I'll go back to the new positions, one is for the ATIPP position and one is for peer support. It involves providing orientation to new social workers. If it's okay with the member, I would like to refer his last question to my Deputy Minister. Thank you. (interpretation ends)

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*, some of the challenges are that although it's a territorial act, the commissioners are hired independent of government, so they are not public servants. They work alone in their community by commission and so they may feel unsupported when they have to investigate and make a decision according to Inuit custom on an adoption.

There might be a lot of pressure on a commissioner to go ahead with an adoption, even if there could be some questions from the community about it. There's so much pressure on them. They also do not have the office space of the GN, they are independent. Another issue is that it is customary Inuit adoption, which means... we are public, so we really need the support of Inuit organizations. We are currently looking at reviewing the act and getting into consultations with communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that information. That brings up another question regarding adoption services. Does each community in Nunavut have an adoption commissioner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): There are some in Nunavut, but again, we are short staffed and not all communities have adoption commissioners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that information. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priorities for 2022-23 is to support government suicide prevention postvention programs "...with an emphasis on those that address root causes such as child sexual abuse..." How will the department be working with the Department of Health, Justice, and Education to address these priorities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank you for the question. Especially in the schools, sometimes the social workers work with the school and also the RCMP about safety. It has always been the case, but under Family Wellness, we have dialogue. It is not an easy thing to do.

It also involves the Department of Health and the Department of Education under Family Wellness or wellbeing in general. If you would like further clarification, and if it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer this question to my deputy minister.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For collaboration with the other departments, first of all, we have a child abuse protocol that each of the departments have signed on for. I don't think the working group has met in a while, and so that is something we commit to ensuring that continues. It outlines a way of working together.

Secondly, another collaboration; especially on the child sexual abuse and physical violence abuse, is our work through the Umingmak Centre. All of the departments, I believe, that you mentioned collaborate through the Umingmak centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like one department can't do it alone and it is a very big subject and there are a lot of instances that we see in Nunavut and I'm very pleased that all of the departments are involved. That is more of a comment than a question.

(interpretation ends) What are some of the biggest challenges in recruiting foster families for the Nunavut foster care system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. It is quite true, that we have a hard time recruiting foster families at the community level and in Nunavut in general.

We have to look at the potential homes to see if there is adequate space, and there are also rules that we have to follow regarding filling out forms, criminal records checks, and other stuff.

Again, with the children in custody, we have increased the payments for foster parents, but the main challenge remains that we do not have enough foster families in Nunavut to meet the current need. Additionally, the shortage and overall lack of housing is another compounding issue. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki

Mr. Malliki: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this issue, I would like to further enquire... (interpretation ends) one of the department's priorities for 2022-23 is to support government efforts to reinvent the graded health and mental health promotional programs. How, specifically will the department be involved in these efforts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the member for asking that question. What I mentioned earlier regarding other ways that the communities can receive support for wellness purposes, is the father and son program, which is run by family services' where fathers and sons are given the opportunity to perform different activities together. It's the same thing for mothers and daughters; through playing or games and getting together and eating together. That happens too, in the communities.

Family Services provides contributions through funding, which includes for non-profit organizations. This includes: sewing programs, beading programs, and general wellness programs, which are especially important in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services provides contribution funding for women's initiatives and men and boys' initiatives. What kind of projects are being undertaken with the funding provided and how is the effectiveness measured? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking more questions about that. In reference to what I just spoke about, in regards to community programs, young children's programs, and young people programs, (interpretation ends) it's really hard to try and measure that kind of support in the community level, but when there aren't a lot of programs running in the community, those are definitely an asset too; providing more mental support for children especially with spending quality time with their parents in a safe manner. In terms of learning from each other or learning about new projects used in the programs that are put in place by the Department of Family Services and staff. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next person on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions. First of all, the people who have their children taken away from them as parents; do the parents get support from a mental health worker or do they receive the appropriate training that guides them on appropriate child-rearing practices? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. Yes, I think people think about family ...

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. Yes, I think people often view the Family Services department as one that is constantly trying to take children away from their parents. This is not the situation, nor is it their intention. It is their job to keep children safe by following a set of guidelines that have been established in order to prioritize the well-being of the children involved.

Parents are allowed to take a break if they get too worn out, and if they decide that their child needs to remain in care longer than previously determined, and then they are able to enter into an agreement that specifies such. So, we work with parents and take different factors into consideration when making decisions about a child's care. If necessary, the Health Department and Mental Health Services can become involved. Additionally, if they want to talk to a different person, such as a family resource worker, or whoever they are comfortable with, that is always facilitated.

Many resources are made available to the involved individuals, to the extent that if they express the desire to consult with an elder, that request can be arranged. We do our best to try to make elders from within the community available to those who request them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for explaining that properly. I agree that the Department of Family Services is often viewed as a group that simply takes children away. People need help, but can often not get the help that they need.

Facilitating the delivery of helpful resources to parents would improve the situation across the board. That is just a general comment, but what I'd like to ask is: We do not currently have an adoption commissioner in Pond Inlet, how can we start the process of appointing one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately that position is not filled in some of the communities, but the Department of Family Services is always interested in people who express a desire to get involved locally.

If anyone is interested, please notify the Department of Health Headquarters so that more information may be provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the member for clarifying. I hope that there are people are listening that will become interested and come forward. Another question I'd like to ask is; if a person who has gone to the hospital in the south or a person is down south and has their children taken away, which we know is possible, is your department able to help the family if that happens to them? Can local social workers in our communities assist people in that capacity so that the apprehended children can be returned home to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding what you just asked; if individuals on medical travel are in the south and have their children taken away, it is possible for the Department of Family Services from Nunavut to get involved and try to talk to their southern counterparts. However, Ontario has a different system with different laws. Regardless, we do try to work together with them on different matters. It's not necessarily as straightforward if an Inuk in the south has their children apprehended, but we are still able to help them. (interpretation ends) and provide more information or support when needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you that is basically all I have to say for now. I am sure I will have more questions later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the last annual report that was tabled by the Department of Family Services was for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and that was tabled back in February 2021. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide an update as to when the next annual report will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That document will be tabled this sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my next line of questioning, I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide an update on the Youth Support Services division within Family Wellness. I think this was recently created just two or three years ago. I was wondering if the minister might be able to provide us with an update on the activities of that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. There are different programs in different communities: in Cambridge Bay, they have the Okalik program and youth centre that people can go to; in Arviat there's the "Rise Up" program; in Iqaluit there is the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation and the Umingmak Centre; in Iqaluit, Embrace Life Council's (interpretation ends) we provide financial supports to them as well for their youth film program; the Hamlet of Kinngait, which is for the arena renovations; Pangnirtung, which is the outfitting PO services, and Coral Harbour Qaijuq youth centre. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for those details. I look forward to hearing more about those activities at a later date.

One specific area that I'd like to ask about, that the minister had touched upon, was the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation and their Umingmak society. Within the first twelve months of operations, that facility had managed to assist over 80 children in Iqaluit; approximately two thirds of those children had faced very traumatic situations such as child abuse.

I'd brought that matter up with the previous Minister of Family Services, especially after Cambridge Bay had opened up their own child and youth emergency shelter and asked if

the minister would collaborate with other organizations to see if we can get a much needed child evening and weekend youth emergency shelter here in Iqaluit. I'd like to ask the minister if there's been any progress made in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question.

It is a very good question and we often think about these in communities, about what centres we can have for our youth for activities in the communities. The Department of Family Services wants to work with communities, and whether it is activities for small children and youth, we have funds that are available. If there is a need for an emergency shelter, funds are also made available based on specific community needs and wants. If the community wants to work with youth and children, whether the community is small or not. We can definitely provide funding for such programming and if the proper planning is in place; we will not hesitate to work with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister for that response. I truly appreciate the Department of Education and the safe environment that they provide youth during the day, Monday to Friday, but there are still a considerable amount of at-risk children who are facing very difficult situations and unsafe situations during evenings and weekends, and I hope that there will be more youth emergency shelters opening up in the territory in the near future.

I would like to move onto my next line of questioning now, and it is in relation to children in care and how much interaction there is between the Department of Family Services and the Department of Justice in their young offenders facility, and more specifically, in any given year, how many children are released from young offenders and taken into the responsibility of the Department of Family Services, whether it is through foster care or group homes and whatnot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank you for the question. It's kind of difficult to answer because we have those situations in the communities, but you know in your community when someone has been released from a youth facility. It involves collaboration between Family Service, the RCMP and the child's family. We definitely do work with them but we cannot say exactly how many cases we deal with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I'll just set that issue, or table that issue for now and I will follow up with the minister as well as the Minister of Justice again at a later date.

An issue that I brought up earlier today in question period was youth who are at risk of human trafficking. So, the next question will be in relation to who are in care out of territory, whether they are in foster care or group homes. I was wondering if there have been instances where children in care have run away or just dropped off of the radar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question in this regard. I believe it was earlier, or perhaps yesterday that I provided a response on the initiative with Family Services. When care is provided outside of the territory, they are protocols in place that ensure that the children in the system are checked up on. We also have counselling available to them and have heard positive reports that care outside of Nunavut is and it is in a much better place than it was previously.

Whether they are at risk or not, the involved children are followed up with on a case by case basis, while working alongside the RCMP. Perhaps and my deputy can elaborate further, at your discretion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Since I have been with Family Services approximately, I am into my fifth year, I can only recall where trafficking was involved. Risk of trafficking; one or two individuals around the same time from one facility, but I believe they were young adults. Most of the children in care; children and youth up to the age of 18 are very well supported in the facilities outside of Nunavut.

Once they turn 18 to 26, the 26th birthday is where we can extend service through an extended service. The Act allows for that. However, when they are outside of Nunavut, there is a risk in there because other jurisdictions have other laws.

If a youth runs away from a facility and if they are over 18, we have no authority to get the police in that jurisdiction to apprehend and return the youth to the facility. So, a part of the process involves if there is no guardian in the Territory that is willing to go through the public guardian or private guardianship process, and then we may initiate that. There is always a time delay, depending on the work load of the office of the public guardian in the Department of Justice now.

And, as far as I know there haven't been any trafficking risks identified to my level anyway, in the time I have been with Family Services. I would have more concerns for

the ones that haven't been identified in Nunavut and they are not reported to a social worker in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the responses from the both of you, and I truly appreciate that we have a deputy minister with a former career in police enforcement. I am sure... it sounds like you take that matter very seriously. I am glad the department is in good hands.

Moving on to my next question; in relation to children in care out of territory; you mentioned that the Department of Family Services has the authority under the *Child and Family Services Act* to provide care up to the age of 18 and has the ability to extend that up to 26.

And, looking at the numbers of children out of territory, can you give us an idea of, sorry, the most recent numbers that I have is 81 children and 100 adults out of territory. Can you give us an idea if there is some sort of trend, if those are numbers are constant or if they have been going up or down over the years?

And, adding to that; how often or is it difficult to return these individuals to Nunavut once they're reached or aged out of the Department of Family Services care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. Looking at the numbers, there is a combined total of 68 individuals in care outside of Nunavut. Within Nunavut, there are 12 people who have been placed in (interpretation ends) group homes or residences or in a facility. Those are the figures. I forgot your other question. My apologies, can you repeat your last question?

Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone, if you can repeat questions if you didn't hear the response you want because it was fairly long, so minister said repeat what you didn't hear. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just condense the question. I'm wondering if the minister can identify whether or not there is a trend in the rate of children and adults out of territory and in care. Once children age out, have those youth been able to return to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, my deputy can answer that.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For children out of territory, the number over the last five years has been pretty stable, from anywhere from 65 to 75, roughly. The reason for that could be that some age out, but for the most part, we've increased efforts prior to sending children out of territory, in recent years.

On the adult end of this, there has been a huge increase with Nunavut's increasing knowledge of the Office of the Public Guardian and families being able to access social workers in their community to talk about the difficulties in managing a difficult to live with adult that has different conditions, especially mental health. That is where we are seeing increases.

A couple of years ago there was a large backload out of the public guardianship office when it was family services. Right now, with that office being in justice, we have a little less control in the adults coming into our care. There still needs to be some work between the Department of Justice and the Department of Family Services on how to manage the separation of public guardianship out of family services. So there is much more work to do there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. In relation to out of territory care, when youth age out, is the Department of Family Services able to assist them in returning, those that can, that we have the services here to accommodate their needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one of the major priorities and concerns; clients being able to return back to Nunavut once they are out of care. The Department of Family Services is dedicated to ensuring that individuals are returning to a safe environment and have access to the appropriate resources and services upon their return to Nunavut.

Additionally, there are assessments performed on each individual that is returning to Nunavut, so that the planning can be individualized and tailored to each person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before I go on to the next person on the list, we will take a 20-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:15 and resumed at 15:39*

Chairman: Good afternoon. I would like to continue on with our committee meeting on Family Services. We are on the Family Wellness Branch. L-5. The next person on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first of all like to ask a question about some of the communities who have many needs when it comes to programs under your department.

Some of the communities are lacking probation officers under Family Services. Since that is no longer the case and the position is not filled, people in my communities have noticed a significant, negative impact. Is it possible to get probation officers in the communities? That's my question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Probation officers are under the Department of Justice. (interpretation ends) We don't have probation officers with our department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The minister did mention that she is aware that probation officers fall under the Department of Justice. If you could elaborate Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Back then, some of the communities were looked after, or that position or the title for probation officer was under the social services workers. So those were, in some communities, I think have been removed from their responsibility.

My question was, why was it removed or can it be, because of that staff housing shortage, the opportunity for probation officer have never been or can't be advertised or offered in our community because of shortage; is there a way (interpretation) for the probation officers to go back to the Department of Family Services? They don't always have phone numbers and usually people requiring to report to probation officers have a contact number that is provided to them and they get in contact and that's how they are taken care of.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that question. As you correctly stated, the position of probation officers are no longer under the family services department anymore. They used to be combined and under the Department of Health. There were changes implemented in 2012 that resulted in the formation of a separate Department of Family Services, which did not include the position of probation officers. I can't tell you why the positions were moved from one department to another, but I do recognize that there were communities requiring probation officers.

I can't speak to the decisions and positions overseen by the Department of Health, as I can only comment on programs that fall under our department. I am able to give details pertaining to employees and positions that are under family wellness. We haven't talked about getting probation officers back to our department, and I can't really tell you what happened prior to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that explanation. I will use that information to come up with further questions that I can ask in future sittings.

For now, I would like to focus on foster parents or the provision of daycare by grandparents and other family members when dealing with care of a child whose parents have died. Does the Department of Family Services provide some kind of financial assistance to the grandparents who are raising the children of their deceased children? Are there any services or programs made available to these elderly people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. It is obvious that there has to be an assessment done should something like that happen. They can also get additional funds so that there is food available for the household, and we do provide support when the children are small and still have not entered the school system, but the Department of Family Services provides allowances to the eligible; foster parents Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that explanation. I just want to further clarity, because of course there are always people in need, and I wasn't exactly sure who I was going to direct this question to. My question is: can you provide support to orphans who have been left behind by the death of their parents? They were provided family allowances. Do you provide additional financial support to the foster parents? Usually family allowances aren't paid out to an individual who's over the threshold. Does your department provide further financial assistance to those individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. There are different programs. For example, if the foster parent doesn't make an income, they would go through income support and usually there would be a deduction made or a claw back in the past, but that is not the case anymore. There are no deductions in income assistance, but the children are provided financial assistance by the

federal government and there is a claw back clause which is outside of our jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. I would now like to focus on this next question. (interpretation ends) Funding for youth initiatives is projected to be \$900,000 in 2022-23. What are these funds going to be used for? (interpretation) I am interested in learning more about the details so that I can pass on the information to any youth councils or youth committees, and encourage them to apply for funding through the Youth Initiative Program. This would be especially helpful in the case of a youth centre or facility. That is why I am asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. The Cambridge Bay youth centre and the Arviat YTEP programs are provided funds, as well as the Kinngait arena, the arena in Pangnirtung, and the Qaujuk youth centre in Coral Harbour. We currently provide them funds, but they are currently being reviewed to see how we can maximize the delivery and utilization of future funds. (interpretation ends) They are under review at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear. (interpretation ends): The Departments' Grants and Contribution provides \$50,000 for Woman Initiative Grants. How many community projects have been undertaken with this funding to date and for what types of activities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) There are different programs that are available and it really depends on the availability of the community initiatives. There are some great programs that are offered, and there is like I mentioned there, the Men and Boys Grants Initiatives, the seal skin *avataq* making which was held in Coral Harbour, and the boxing and fitness club in Kimmirut. Women's grants initiatives and these were nine different applications from different organizations or communities.

Graceful beginnings, was done in Cambridge Bay. Sealskin pants making in Coral Harbour. Women are capable, which was held in Rankin Inlet. Those are some of the initiatives that have been held in 2021-2022 fiscal year. And, also the budget for the Woman's Empowerment Initiative is up to \$50 000, which is a grant as well as the budget for the Men and Boys Initiative is also \$50 000. The call for proposals was issued

for these projects in April 8, 2021, and the department received 18 proposals. So, the total budget for this was \$413 502. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to hear this, as these kinds of programs help women and the community in general, and I would like to make sure that the information is made available to the communities.

(interpretation ends) The funding for residential care is projected to increase in 2022-23; have the cost of residential care increased or has there been any increase in a number of clients requiring these services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. The people who are taken care of outside of Nunavut, we don't think that is going to increase by a great deal but the places where they are staying now and the operations for those places have become more expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll go to the next person on my list, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Good evening, minister, and your officials.

As you just stated; the annual funding available for the young men's programs is \$50,000. In the previous year, it was \$50,000 as well. Are there any plans to increase this amount, or has that amount been sufficient for the needs of the young men's programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. When it comes to the funding of programs under the Department of Family Services, which is intended to help our communities, the amount is never sufficient. Ideally, we would like to see an increase in funding, since more money would mean more activities in the communities. However, as it stands, the money budgeted is always all used up at the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, I would like to know more about some of the other programming that receives funding. What is the status of funding for young women, youth, or families to improve family wellness? The last one, the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit group, has their own group. Does that group and other

groups get funding from your department? Does all the money that they receive get spent, or is there ever any left over at the end of the year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the annual funding that is budgeted to help operations and activities, the funds are generally depleted at the end of the year. In the event that there is any money left over, it would be transferred over to another program.

The Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit annually receives contributions from our department through an agreement, so that they are able to operate and get help from the Department of Family Services for that purpose.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question on this matter. The Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit for people with disabilities, used to have conferences in Iqaluit and other places, and people living with disabilities expect those to happen again. Looking at the budget, it's only \$100,000. Has the Department of Family services considered providing money to groups like that? Has the Department of Family Services given that any consideration? That was my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. As I stated earlier, the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society (interpretation ends) we have yearly contributions agreements with the Rick Hansen Foundation, its \$40,000 annually and \$100,000 for the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society. Another one is the \$800,000, which is the... (interpretation) I accidentally wrote down something else. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut disability is \$800,000 that is given by the department through a contribution agreement, and in terms of the conferences that they've had, I'm not aware of that and it would have been run by the society if those programs ran. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the extended services agreement for young people between 18 and 26 who were or are in care. Deputy Minister Niego mentioned that Nunavut doesn't have jurisdiction in the other provinces or places where some of these young people are. I think it's really important and I appreciate the line of questioning about repatriating young so that they don't end up at risk to many things down south.

My question is whether or not there is a movement to develop memorandums of understandings, with either the provinces or the cities where these young people are in care so that it creates that jurisdiction to be able to search for that person if they abscond or leave the placement that they are in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. With your permission, I would like to have Ms. Niego respond to that question.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For those 18-26 year olds out of territory, unfortunately we are limited by those other jurisdictions' pieces of legislation, and so there is no appetite by their governments or societies to really work with us.

What we need to do is try to work with families prior to that aging out. We need to invest more into the children and youth before they get to those ages. Once they are out of territory, there is also this reluctance and resistance by the clients themselves to return to Nunavut.

Often there are traumas and triggers and they've severed relationships themselves, or their families have and so once a client goes out of territory, it is very difficult for some. For others who want to, then the matter has to do with their diagnoses and finding all of the right resources for them available in territory.

For those 18-26 year olds, the only way for us really is to work with the Office of the Public Guardian to ensure that there is a guardianship order in place and getting it through court. Unfortunately for Family Services, that is outside of our work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we have 81 children I believe was stated earlier, and at what point do these 81 children who are out of territory, in care, lose their residency status in Nunavut and become residents of the province or territory that they are in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: If you will allow, I would like Ms. Niego to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Children in the care of the Nunavut Director of Child Welfare would maintain status until, for example, they are still in the south and have chosen to live there once all of their current agreements with the department have expired. Then, I believe there is a three month timeline where they would have to switch over their healthcare card and apply to the other jurisdiction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. If a person emancipates themselves from an extended service agreement, are they able to change their minds? If they are 18 and they say “No, I don’t want to have this extended service agreement. I want to go off on my own.” Then if they find themselves in a situation where they have a different understanding of the value of that extended service agreement, can they come back and ask to re-enter into that extended service agreement that will help us to help them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) Luckily the department has not had to experience that yet. Hopefully it stays that way, but it would have to be under the Director of Child Welfare that would have to go through that process. It would have to go through that process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. Just going to the priorities for 2022-23 “to undertake a territory-wide foster parent recruitment campaign,” I’m wondering how many children in foster care are moved out of their community into care in either another community in Nunavut, or out of territory into foster care because of the lack of available foster care homes in their own communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to look into how many are in foster care. There are different situations. Some are moved to foster parents, and some to other communities within Nunavut. We would have to get back to you on those figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, minister. Moving back to case management, my question is: are there separate case files opened for the parents of a child who goes into care, and especially when a parent is experiencing something like family violence at home and

realizes that their home isn't safe for their child and asks Family Services to step in to provide respite and a safe place for that child?

Is there a separate case file opened for the child and then for the parent who is asking for the respite so that the parent can feel free to be as open as possible about their personal experiences, so as not to have their fear of sharing their experience impact their ability to bring their child back into the home if they feel that that is the safe thing to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. If social services receives a call and are informed that there's a risky situation or an unsafe situation in a home, then they have to follow a set protocol and remove the child from the home. However, at least one of the parents is always involved. The child may be taken to a temporary foster home or to stay with a family member or relative.

Removing a child from their home and separating them from their parents is not the main goal of family services, but if there is a recognized risk to the child, then a temporary placement is made. I will say that in some communities, there have been situations where children were being cared for in the social services office due to a total unavailability of social workers, and foster parents. Regardless of where they are cared for, the priority is always to keep the child away from an unsafe place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We heard about the Umingmak Centre earlier and I think a lot of us know what good work they do there. I am wondering if that model is being considered to use in other communities in Nunavut and whether or not there is any planning towards a creation of more centres like Umingmak Centre to support children at risk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind me saying, there are a number of options that can be looked at. The Umingmak Centre is one that operates very well, and is being considered for other communities, with family services being involved and an agreement being reached. Each community has unique needs and different resources available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been told that we would provide those services for all communities in Nunavut and make it easier for children and families to access that service closer to home. Earlier, the child-abuse protocol was mentioned and I

wrote down “working group” and the question, “who is in it?” I admit I don’t specifically recall the details but I do have this note here so, is there a child-abuse protocol with the working group? Did I capture that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to request that Ms. Niego respond to that question, thank you.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, you are correct. There was a working group. It hasn’t met in a while as far as I know, so we’ll be ensuring that there is a future meeting not too long from now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us please, who is in that working group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I cannot recall all of the membership, however, Department of Justice, Department of Education, I believe there was Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs representation, I can’t recall all of them, I’m sorry. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing more about that at a later time. When it comes to children who find themselves touching on services outside of the territory, while they’re on medical travel, or any reason and have to interact with the Children’s Aid Society of Ottawa, for example, is there a multi-stakeholder working group that meets to support that child and make sure that they get repatriated as quickly as possible, if they’re taking into care outside of the territory while on travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it’s okay with you, I’ll ask Ms. Niego to respond to that as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For a child travelling out of territory, if they are a client it’s likely that there’s a relationship between the caregiver and our local social services worker. That’s one natural means to find

support while there are issues with another jurisdiction's children's aid society or child and family services.

When it comes to a child that has never been in care, or we have not dealt with from Family Services perspective in Nunavut, the local child and family services in the other jurisdiction, they should be aware of an 'interprovincial desk', is what we call it. We do have one person assigned to that from Nunavut who would be in contact with the other jurisdictions' person.

Information is transferred across jurisdictions through that method. From there, we may or may not be able to provide information or provide suggestions on extended family potentials, or some better way to handle the situation from their perspective.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Deputy Minister. Can you tell me, minister, more about the Quality Assurance program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you would allow Ms. Niego to respond to that?

Chairman: Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Upon the creation of Family Services in 2012, we recognized that we were just a new department and lacked some resources. I believe one of the reasons for the separation was so that children received more priority services because it got overwhelming for Health, the Health side of it. Sorry, I've lost the question...

Quality Assurance. So, one of the areas where we find the need is with standards and procedures and training at the headquarters level, we still lack those resources. So, within this budget ask, the quality assurance and a peer support PY is being requested, so that we can provide that proper support to the front line. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there an internal briefing process that encourages public servants to identify gaps? They know best what barriers are and are perhaps most importantly; know what resources are needed to address those gaps. So is there an internal process in place already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. As it was mentioned earlier, social services in each community are the frontline workers, and with respect to reports that are entered into our database and here in the Iqaluit office, they collaborate together on what actions or improvements may be made. This is on an ongoing basis, and I believe Ms. Niego would like to add further to this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego: Can you ask the question again?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster, please re-ask your question. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: What I was asking was if there was an internal briefing process that allows public servants within Family Services to identify gaps and areas of concerns, as well as importantly, possible solutions or anything that they need in order to address those gaps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently we have an organizational restructuring underway. It started off with branching off family wellness from career development and income assistance. Prior to the restructuring, there was one regional director in each of the regions, which managed all three program areas; family wellness, income assistance, and career development.

It is very difficult to find a director who has expertise in all three, so we separated that stream out and now, as a continuation of that reorganization, we will be continuously requesting more resources; an increase in positions, so that the frontline can feed up. Right now we are so limited and we are constantly in crisis management.

Of course, we hear from our frontline through our regional offices, especially now that we have regional director positions. However, it takes time to fill even those positions. Then with the burnout on the managers and supervisor level and the vacancies, on top of constant casuals changing in and out, it is very difficult for our frontline CSSWs that are casuals; sorry, community social service workers, to identify the issues when they are first learning about Nunavut, learning about culture and language, and how families in Nunavut work.

There are means, but we have a lot of work to build our structure and processes to better receive ways to hear from the frontline. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you very much for that response. Does the case management system also include a listing of resources that are available to your teams? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: What?

Chairman: Sorry. Minister Katsuk. Nakashuk.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under those in the communities, if there are any other support systems available for the supervisors and so on, should they require further training, they usually work together and do a review and possibly work with a nurse and coworkers. That could be the case, but in the office environment, we are getting more family case workers. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You talked about burnout and the turnover. Does the department work with Human Resources do exit interviews for people who leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are made available, be it social workers or government employees, or temporary government employees. It is also always available in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I've exhausted all of my questions and perhaps the best way to get me to get through that is to show me a clock that is running down quickly.

I really appreciate all of your responses and the incredible and immense amount of work that is done to support some of our most vulnerable people through your programs. I hope that you all have a great evening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list and I think we have gone through this branch thoroughly. Family Wellness. L-5. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$80,990,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Go on to the next page, which is Income Assistance. L-6. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The topic of discussion is income assistance and I will be asking questions on that as well. It's always brought up in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my colleagues for asking possible lines of questions and it answered a lot of my questions too.

My first one will be: the department has implemented a number of reforms to income assistance programs in recent years. What further amendments are being considered for 2022-23? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to income support, we are doing an ongoing review and during the last government we used a claw back where recipients had other income and we also look at requests. During the next meeting we will be bringing up the other amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister. Has the COVID-19 pandemic significantly changed the way the department delivers income assistance programs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. Using our office as an example, we had many more consultations done over the telephone because we couldn't have a lot of people in the office. We also switched to auto deposits. So, the answer is yes, we had to make drastic changes to the system because of COVID-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you minister. How many income assistance clients accessed federal COVID-19 funding, and what was the related impact on the department's income assistance budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. We had discussions on the impact of the income assistance program and the CERB program under the federal government. As of March, it was accessed by about ten thousand people on income assistance, with the following breakdown: CERB 3,270, CRSB 2,100, and CRCB 4,050. I do apologize for using the acronym. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister. One of the department's priorities for 2022-23 is to review the results of the guaranteed basic income fees feasibility study. When will the report on the results of this study be provided to members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at the guaranteed income fee available in next year in 2023.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the business plan, page 159, "objectives: to identify, review, and evaluate policies and procedures surrounding the delivery and administration of income assistance programs in Nunavut." On the second bullet: "to ensure that income assistance programs are delivered in a manner consistent with the *Income Assistance Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and other statutes and policies relating to the delivery of the programs in Nunavut." (interpretation) How can these three Acts be reviewed, as it seems that some people are found to be not eligible once they have been assessed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The income support programs are geared for the most vulnerable and should really be the last resource so, we always encourage people to find employment or training, especially at a young age to try and drive young ones to go to school. In the recent updates with the Act that we have we were able to make that change with the financial impacts. When there is cash coming into the family, we were able to change that to \$700 a month, depending on the family size and that is something that I believe Family Services has done well in trying to provide to provide the support without impacting their assistance.

Also, we do recognize the high cost of food and high cost of other things, but Family Services really does try and provide support, and that is including paying rent, paying utilities, on top of assistance that they get for the amount of people within the family.

Those are things that we are always continuing to see where we can improve, especially having to recognize the cost of living in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. (interpretation) I have been told by elders that income assistance is very important to some of the people in dire need. Once they are denied, they don't have anywhere else to turn to except to get help from their family, or to perhaps move south where it is way cheaper.

Usually they get the bank there assessed by having access to their financial assistance, or their banking. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment.

My next question will be: funding for the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit will be increased in 2022-23. Will the amounts allocated to each senior be increased, and if so, by how much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We indicated earlier that there is an assessment of how much income they have and we don't want to see people in need, but there are many different cases in any community. With the lack of employment, they have no other means except to access income assistance through the government.

Yes, their income is assessed and reviewed because that is one of the requirements. There has been a slight change on the monthly stipend, but we know that there needs to be further changes made as we have a very high cost of living here in Nunavut.

Also, for people who are outside of the territory for treatment, if they should be out of the territory for 60 months, they are eligible to access funds through the government. We are always reviewing the whole.... (interpretation ends) With the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit; (interpretation) there will be an increase of \$300, and with the fuel subsidy, there is \$4,000 per year for homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. This will be my last question. The department recently introduced a Senior Burial Benefit. What administrative support will be provided to applicants for this benefit, especially with respect to accessing the required documentation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be my last question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. Especially in Iqaluit, we have seen people who request help, and the fact that they have to pay for the funeral and burial costs, people who are over 60, if any of their family passes away, we are now able to help them with their funeral costs. We provide \$6,000 or \$7,000 for burial expenses. This is for elders that are over 60 who have passed away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next person on my list for income assistance: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To continue with the member for Netsilik's questions; you want to review the income support policy and something else. I would like to understand this. For people who are on income assistance, their bank accounts are viewed, and also, how can I say this; and electronic money transfers. When they get money through an EMT to their bank account and when Family Services is looking at the statement, has this been looked at where the people get money through their bank account and this could be stopped?

You stated that you are making sure that it is standardized all around for income for revenue that they make, that you are not going to consider that anymore. Have you thought about stopping the whole claw back thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. As I stated earlier, in the regulations it states that when they don't have any means of support, then they have to go for income assistance, with no choice. If they do make money and get support from somewhere else, it doesn't look good in some way. With the agreement that they make, they have to explain the revenue that they are making.

We know that they get reviewed to see how their situation can be improved. This is all about the revenue that they make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try and rephrase my question here. When it comes to income assistance recipients, let say for example, this recipient goes for medical travel, either here, to Ottawa, Edmonton, Winnipeg and they receive an electronic money transfer, either from their parents, their brother, their sister, and the minister mentioned that they are in the process of amending the *Income Assistance Act* and regulations, what I was trying to ask was: will this be part of the amendment when it comes to electronic money transfers, that this won't be part of the process anymore when it comes to recipients receiving money electronically? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think the minister answered it, but if the minister wants to elaborate a bit more, Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you allow, my deputy minister can answer that question, please. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is a two-part answer so the first part is: because this is government money, there has to be a process, and it has to be a fair process. When it's not fair it puts big pressure and hardship on the front-line workers who have to deal with the clients who are desperate for their income assistance when they are hungry. If the system is too generous and doesn't require proof of income, then it would allow anyone in this room to access income support, and I don't think those hungry people out there would be very favourable about that either, so there has to be some process.

If what I think some of the concerns are is when a needy income assistance client is out on travel, sometimes you get family members who are asking to buy things for them. There is a way to work through that with the income assistance worker. You can explain those EMTs within the process, but the income assistance worker needs to be able to sort through them because there are some individuals who will cheat the system, some who, perhaps, are making money illegally, so we have to see whether or not this person really is in need and it has to be a fair process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for letting me go on with my question and thank you for explaining that very clearly about people who may break the law and do things like that. But there are people in need.

The next question I have, Mr. Chairman, is when they are able to view the bank accounts, what is the threshold, the limit? Can they make \$500? If they get \$500 revenue, then they won't be getting any income support? Or, if they get \$300 extra money, will that be taken away from their income support? What is the limit that they can make before anything is clawed back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. People who come for income assistance come from different backgrounds. There are people who live with their children. There are single parents. There are people with partners and when they fill out the application forms, the support they get is different because people have different situations.

As to how much money that they can have in their account that cannot be touched by family services, there are limits set. Some revenue they receive is not clawed back, like the Child Tax Credit and also money used if they bought something, like if I won a bingo game or a won a ski-doo or a Honda, then the income support would not be touched, because that equipment can be used for hunting purposes and fishing purposes. People with physical disabilities are looked at differently as well because they are not affected. If they are over 60 years of age, there are limits that are put in households; some are \$700 that they can make as personal income without the income assistance being affected and it follows the number of people in the household.

Many people were getting income support during the COVID-19 pandemic and some people were also getting financial support from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, which were not deducted from the income support that they're eligible for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the whole thing should be reviewed.

Let me move on to something else, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan for the coming year and the next year, the community deliveries that you do, I believe it's around \$60,000 and this continues to 2024-25. It states here that in the Baffin region, it's handled by one community. Can the minister indicate which community they are handled from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for asking that question. It's in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I saw this in the business plan, so apparently there are two communities and I don't see anything wrong with that; they are small communities.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on the question asked by the Member for Netsilik about the Senior Fuel Subsidy. You told us how much fuel is subsidized. When they get their monthly pension, does the Department of Family Services look at how much these elders are making? For example, if the elder makes \$85,000 in pension, is there a limit that they can make or is there no limited dollar threshold? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. The Senior Fuel Subsidy or assistance is given out every year. Depending on the income tax filings, there are different amounts given, but people can make up to \$100,000 and still get support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. My colleagues may have other questions and we may be going late tonight.

(interpretation ends) In the priorities for 2023 and 2024 on page [161] of your business plan, it is to “Develop and pilot training and cross-training matrix for Income Assistance Workers.” Can the minister further elaborate on this cross-training matrix for income assistance workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. The computer that is used or the program that is used on the income assistance identifies and a questionnaire is also given on whether they want to go back to school. These are included there. Under Continuing Education and so forth, those are also entered into the database and if they want to further their schooling, this is identified and progress is noted and entered.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for clarifying that. You just reminded me of something, minister. If I may say “way back,” I once came across...given work or a job for so many hours. While you’re doing your review of the guidelines or policies under the programs, are you going to be also looking at volunteers for hunters? At one time, people used to gain experience when they were given the opportunity to volunteer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that question. Income support recipients are given a questionnaire each month on productive choices they may want to take on. Any volunteering they may want to do, including helping elders, or other career paths they want to pursue. As we know, continuing education is available. If that is a part of their goals, there are career development officers who assist the individuals.

People also need to understand, there are individuals that have been receiving income support for a long time, and also wish to work, or return to school but cannot because they are single parents. They simply don’t have enough income, and often they are lacking affordable childcare. There is support available for low-income earners to cover

the cost of (interpretation ends) babysitting or daycares, (interpretation) and this is also handled by career development officers, (interpretation ends) if they are looking for employment and are on part-time jobs or whatever, (interpretation) I know that I am adding to the questions that were asked, and this is because there are many scenarios, options and outcomes to look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaerner

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could maybe preach; those who are 18 and over, that they are included.

With that, Mr. Chairman, also under Income Support, on top of income support, they are given support for babysitting or daycare services. The Nunavut government signed an agreement with the federal government on \$10 per day child care support. Looking at your request of \$477,000, would it be enough for what you have planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. We want to encourage people to access funds that are available. This has not changed. I just wanted to speak to other options that can be pursued in terms of support when they go to school, but this, at the moment is also being reviewed further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for clarifying, minister. Under the application for support, there is support for funerals for elders. Is the amount too insufficient or enough? Seniors Burial Benefit, is that more than enough or insufficient? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. This is a very new program. It has just been put in place. Communities don't often face the costs as the hamlets pay for the funeral services. We haven't heard anything about the sufficiency of the amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question. We have families having to fundraise for funeral services, pity.

The question I have is on page 161 (interpretation ends): “Priorities for 2025-26. The department is going to explore additional options for strengthening that “One Client, One Plan” approach.”

If the minister can clearly elaborate on that. What kind of approach is the department looking into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) What the department is trying to gear towards is ensuring that Income Assistance clients have a one-stop shop where they are able to meet with their income assistance [officers] as well as being able to discuss with career development officers where they want to go and what options there may be in terms of what training they might be interested in. If they need more supports and career counselling, those are things that are offered through career development officers.

Other supports that our department offers, we want to make sure that our clients are not transferred or moved to different areas and are trying to make it into a one-stop shop where we are able to provide the adequate supports to further themselves. (interpretation). That’s about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to the next person on my list, just clarification from the minister; the grievance, you said that it’s \$67,000. Would hamlets be eligible to apply for that too? The hamlets do that in all the communities, but the hamlets do it at their own expense. Would they be eligible too? Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Like I had mentioned, this is very new to our department and it’s usually the family members that are applying. We’ve had family members request for their loved ones to be put to rest in the different communities. So that has been the support that we have been able to provide as well.

In terms of hamlets, we haven’t come to that. We haven’t had any requests from the hamlets yet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on the list. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question concerning some of my constituents who may be widows or widowers and oftentimes they have difficulty going out hunting for themselves. I want to know what is the common obstacle preventing them from going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Irrespective of who the individual may be, when they apply for income assistance, their income in previous months has to be reviewed and how many children they may have and if they have household members. Different factors are looked at, but the focus is on their annual income and a review of the past month's income. Those are the main areas reviewed and based on that, they may or may not be eligible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, just so the members will be clear, if the minister can explain, if an elder is on Old Age Pension and has no dependants, would that elder qualify for income assistance? Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It would depend on the applicant because their assistance from federal is exempt. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding income assistance. The first question that is usually brought up by my constituents is if the amount of income assistance will increase as the price of food increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. We also review the rise in inflation or food cost. These are constantly being reviewed and there are different prices or increases we see in food prices in each community. These are constantly being monitored. Just recently, I believe, adjustments were made after a number of years, but this is something that is constantly being reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on, is the Senior Fuel Subsidy being utilized by elders in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. There are 100 Nunavummiut who are eligible to receive the fuel subsidy. They have to be Nunavut residents and be 60 years of age and older and be a homeowner, living at home, and if the person is not receiving income support and if the

individual's income is over \$100,000, they are not eligible. They are eligible if their income is below \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, after paying their own groceries and they submit their receipts, are they reimbursed on a monthly basis if they have applied for reimbursement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. Just recently we made changes here. That was the case previously. If a person purchased fuel, the cost would be reimbursed, but adjustments were recently made through the Department of Community and Government Services. Those who have been eligible are now able to get their fuel tank filled up directly without having to wait for reimbursement. That's the change that has been made. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. That's very good to hear and I hope my constituents are listening.

My last question is in regard to the students who get \$100 every two weeks as a top-up. My question is if that amount is going to stay at \$100 or if it is going to be increased sometime in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can bring that up under Career Development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of my questions have been brought up already, but I would just like to go back to the comments that were made by the previous member regarding the fuel subsidy for elders. I am very pleased with this program. My mother has received a tremendous amount of assistance from the government through the fuel subsidy program. It has greatly decreased her concern to operate her own home.

Under the business plan, we were talking about income assistance and you indicated that it goes by community and following the prices of food in each individual community. my question is: how does it work with the communities that only have one retail outlet and there is no other competition? It seems like there is an increase in the prices every month or every three months. They have a monopoly and their prices just keep going up. Do you

keep an eye on those communities with only one retail outlet? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like your question, even though we don't like to hear it, but it is of a concern with the communities that have only one retail outlet. The amount of income assistance follows the prices in their particular community. It was increased in July 2018 and we always make sure that we're up to par with the cost of food in each community. We look at the food basket on a regular basis through our department and also at the community level. There are varying levels of assistance provided depending on each of the communities and they are categorized as zone 1 and zone 2, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that information. Some income assistance recipients use their benefits properly. Have you ever considered buying in bulk and bringing the supplies in by ship or some other means of offsetting the high cost of living up here? Looking at Clyde River, it's very expensive and possibly one of the northernmost communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that information. There are people who are very strict with their budget and it is very interesting about buying bulk and having it shipped up here. The career development officers are also available to assist you, how to do budgeting, and so on. It's something that's of importance today with the prices of everything going up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. This is not a question, but this is more asking the government to make sure that there is information available on what types of programs and services are available through the Department of Family Services. It's very obvious that there is not enough information being made available at the community level. I would like to urge your department and other departments to make sure that they provide the information about the list of prices and programs. They have local radio stations that can be accessed. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 160 of the business plan, it lists Administration – Regional, “Three regional Income Assistance offices are responsible for staff that administer and deliver Income Assistance programs.” I’m wondering if you can talk about those regional offices. Are they fully staffed? Are they staffed with full-time people or part-time people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the three regional offices, they do have all the divisions, of course, and that includes the Career Development Division, the Income Assistance Division, Family Wellness, those are the... . We do have 43 employees in those offices. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Of those 43 employees, how many of them are full time versus part time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are 11 part-time employees and the rest are full-time. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that enough people to deliver all of these programs and to work with our community members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you for the question. I guess it really depends on which division. In term so the Family Wellness Division, there is always a stretch, especially knowing the workload for that area. Career Development, sometimes it has its low peaks and busy peaks, depending on the school season.

Income assistance, of course, is quite busy on a monthly basis, but in those offices it is usually the supervisors that are based for the income assistance workers out in the communities or the family wellness staff.

Most of the regional offices have most of the career development officers located right in the offices which travel out into the communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If we could just stick to income assistance on this branch. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was specifically asking about income assistance workers there.

I'll move onto the 160, priority 2022-23, "Review results of the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study." Can you please talk about guaranteed basic income and why there was a feasibility study? Perhaps kind of the overarching findings, and then also let us know if there will be a report tabled or provided to Members of the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The report, we are expecting to come out in December of this year. The end of literature, I guess, is the scan of GBI; the general basic income, that includes programs in circumpolar regions in Canadian provinces and territories, providing recommendations on design and implementation of the GBI in Nunavut, and how it can be pilot tested, coupled with the creation of the guaranteed basic income evaluation framework.

There are a number of them providing analysis and recommendations on how it could better support hunters, harvesters, seasonal workers, artisans, and parents, working towards Inuusivut; providing financial analysis on the cost of a Nunavut guaranteed basic income program; and recommend the rates for Nunavut communities, family size, and family compositions; providing analysis and recommending how the program would work and compliment Nunavut's housing market and systems; conducting assessment on the number of Nunavummiut not completing taxes and what barriers to completing taxes exist in the Nunavut communities; and analysing how the program would complement existing territorial and federal income support measures. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. I noted that the review of the results is a priority for 2022-23, and then priorities for 2023-24 include to "Prepare revisions to the *Income Assistance Act* and Regulations and implement recommendations from the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study."

However, the priorities 2024-25 and 2025-26 make no mention of the implementation of a guaranteed basic income, so I'm really curious about why there is this work being done over the next couple of years, but there doesn't seem to be an implementation of the guaranteed basic income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister, Ms. Niego, to explain that more.

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

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the guaranteed basic income, because we are in a feasibility study stage, it is very difficult to predict what type of GBI, or guaranteed basic income, will exist. We don't know, based on past attempts of other jurisdictions, the implementing and then reverting back, we really don't know which direction this is going to go.

We have some sense of perhaps combined models, but it is very hard to say until the research is done. We have the group meeting regularly and there is some initial information, but until the work is completed, it is very difficult to predict two or three years what this will look like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that response. In an earlier response I heard different groups of people that might be potential targets for guaranteed basic income, and I believe you mentioned hunters and artisans, and I'm wondering if you can elaborate on that.

I just want to get an idea of what the possibilities are in terms of having a number of a subset of community members who are receiving a guaranteed basic income and how that would impact the community as well as the economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you allow, Ms. Turner to respond to that.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The feasibility study for guaranteed basic income is a model that has been studied elsewhere in Canada and the world. We recognize that there was the potential to create a model that is more based in Nunavut's history and culture.

As a part of the study, we wanted to look at specific groups where we could advocate maybe this is the model that would better support. We value hunters, so is this type of model of an income support going to better support that group, will it better support parents, will it better support; so to help kind of build a full picture of what kind of model to advocate for why this model would be a better model than what we are currently using.

So it's too early for us to recommend that it would be only for a target group, but we wanted to add that to the research that would help us build the eventual program model

and build the arguments for why we would make a change to the program model instead of the current one we are using today.

We will also be looking at models where guaranteed basic income is applied to everybody and there are models where guaranteed basic income is applied just under certain income thresholds. The study will provide the research that looks at the different kind of areas of impact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in building that knowledge in order to create a rationale for a guaranteed basic income, how is that feasibility looking at the potential impact on our GN workforce, and specifically, on those regional office, for example, that are distributing income support? Is part of the study looking alleviating some of the issues related to these really important questions that came up today about people having to report into income support on a regular basis and almost renegotiate their income support on a monthly basis and the impact that that has on people's workload. Is that part of the study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) The income assistance system is to reduce administrative processes, so it would really help. Looking at the report we will see further on, but at this time, it is more toward income assistance. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is a saying at work, "smarter not harder." To me it seems like anything we can do to ensure that our citizens have access to the means to buy food and live a good and healthy life is really smart.

I think I'll leave that subject for now and I don't have any more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment. I don't know if the minister wants to comment. Okay. On to the next person on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise a topic of discussion that was discussed last year and it was tracking clients who transition from income assistance to any of the various career development programs.

Last year, the minister had indicated that the Department of Family Services was at that time, was not tracking utilization of career development programming of income support recipients.

However, it was noted that one of the new “one client, one plan” approach that the department was implementing to service delivery and there will be opportunity to track this information more effectively. Now that the one client, one plan approach is being implemented, I was wondering if the minister would be able to update us today on how many income support clients are utilizing career development programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. It is very interesting you ask that question because we do have records of how many clients we see in the territory, but in the last couple of years, with COVID, we did see a fluctuation of clients coming into income assistance because CERB took over, so it was really hard to try and determine how many went for further training or out of income assistance, but the number did spike back up, but at this time we don't have that record from the last fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I have no more names on my list for income assistance. Income Assistance. L-6. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$63,402,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay, onto the next page. L-7. Career Development. I'll just give members a few minutes to get to that page. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to start off with the labour market programs. The department delivers labour market programs with funding support from the federal government.

Can you provide further information on how different target groups for these programs are identified and what kinds of programs are delivered to each group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm glad you asked that question. There are a few programs that I can think of that are more towards the federal funding program that could be the heavy equipment one that is under that budget, which is delivered at OETIO, which I held in Morrisburg, but there are other programs I can't think of.

Okay, there are quite a few actually, in the recent times: the Frontier College that we also have worked with to try and get more trades training in the communities, which I also had mentioned in a member's statement; the Hamlet of Arviat; heavy equipment operator training; Inhabit Media, which is a careers books series for young people; Kitikmeot Friendship Society, computer literacy, Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society,

which is the employment services and training for persons with disabilities job coach training; Nunavut Arctic College, and there are a few programs, Office Administration, Skilled Trades Worker, Heavy Equipment Operator; Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Coalition; Nunavut Literacy Council, Qikiqtani Industries Ltd.

Those are the programs that are funded under vote 1 funds. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the minister mention trades training. My next line of questioning is on the Apprenticeship Division of career development. I do realize that it has kind of balanced back and forth a couple of times with the Department of Education over the years. I'm thinking back, I'm going to go out on a limb here and say about 15 years ago, the Apprenticeship Division had three staff. Now I see 15 years later, I still see three PYs under that division. I guess my first question is: are those three positions filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The one that you are referring to is the vote 4 for the positions of the apprenticeship field. The number of employees in that area has increased and some of the apprenticeship officers are located outside of Iqaluit.

So we are seeing a bit of an increase with the positions outside of Iqaluit as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the accounting org. chart. Under Nunavut Apprenticeship it has 3 PYs and it does have a total of 10.3 PYs and third-party funding. So is the minister saying those 3 PYs under Nunavut Apprenticeship are third-party funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, those are different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what I thought. My question regarding the apprenticeship is, again, like I stated, doesn't seem like a lot has changed in the last number of years. However, we have put a lot of focus on apprenticeship across the

territory and I know the Department of Family Services has made some great strides in the Career Development Division overall.

My next question is, and the minister may have some numbers on previous years, but I'm just looking at: what kind of apprenticeship numbers is the department dealing with on an annual basis? Are there 20 apprentices across the territory, are there 150? Just to get a rough estimate of how impactful this division has been. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking for how many. Just a moment please. Thank you. (interpretation ends) The total apprentices are 115. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I guess my next question along this line would be: what are the trends in apprenticeships? Is that number fairly stable, is it increasing, decreasing? In addition to that, now I know that we have been looking at offering more trades training in-territory. Has that made an impact on more people getting into the trades; the trends of numbers as well as if there are any trends regarding specific trades that seem to be more popular than others? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the numbers, we haven't really drastic changes today. What career they may want to opt for; heavy equipment technician is the most popular course to date in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question: with the limited amount of staff in there, what kind of outreach is provided to students across the territory? I made some statements in the Minister of Education's appearance yesterday on how I feel trades is such a great opportunity for a lot of our youth that are really good hands on and just need some assistance for the academic side for the pre-trades exams and to help through the academic side of trades training and getting, ultimately, their red seal certification.

So, again, just to get an idea of what type of outreach is your Apprenticeship Division able to provide to schools across the territory. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for a very good question, particularly for our youth. If they want to get into trades, I think the biggest venue we have is the Skills Canada competition.

They learn many different kinds of applications and we also have career development officers who prepare people to enter into certain careers, and they also focus you on trades entrance exams, whether you want to get into electrical or whatever trades. Because they're not always readily available, we used to have an exam before that they are tested on before any pre-trades exams are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the exact point I'm trying to get at. We had Team Nunavut here earlier today and I know we are all very proud of how they fared in their most recent competition; some of them hands on and some competing virtually. My point that I'm getting at is that there are still limited opportunities because of the lack of infrastructure in our school system. I know there are more trades courses opening across the territory and the Rankin Inlet trades school, and I know there are opportunities, but the point I'm trying to get at is that communities that don't have that infrastructure in their schools that don't have that really as an opportunity to join Skills Nunavut to compete in a carpentry trade because they don't have that access or training in their community.

So I'm trying to get to a place where all of our students and all of our youth have equal opportunities to go into whatever field they choose, whether it be trades, academics, medicine and health, education; there are so many different opportunities for our youth here, I don't want to have their lack of availability in their community to hold back. I know you can't have a full program in every community. It's not realistic, and I understand that. Just getting exposed sometimes to trades opportunity and that is where I think the Apprenticeship Division does have an opportunity to work with the Department of Education to help provide students with these ideas that may click in their head.

We have all had these lightbulb moments in our lives of finding something that we are good at. Some of these kids don't even know they are going to be good at something until they get exposed to it. There isn't really a question in there, Mr. Chairman, but I would appreciate a comment back from the minister. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your comments. This is also something that we discuss when we meet and have our discussion on how we can further prepare our youth towards trades and what we can further acquire.

I would like to discuss this. As you mentioned, what can we do further in our schools and what can we provide in terms of resources? Family Services is also putting together a

strategy to further advance, along with the Department of Education in areas of trades and to provide more resources.

We also deal with other areas, like Frontier College, preparing our students on their career path, whether they have to be prepared for exams and what other further supports could be provided in these areas, but we also don't have the staff necessary to do this, but we are also looking at, as you mentioned earlier, and I also believe that some of our youth are more hands-on than academic. Those programs could also be made more available in working in collaboration with the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hickes sort of got into my line of questioning. This was an issue that was raised last year when we had passed the amendment to the *Apprenticeship Act*. At that time I had become aware that Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada which does not have a youth trades program and I do believe that Skills Nunavut is an excellent opportunity and is a great method and avenue for youth to gain experience and learn about the different trades or skills that they can learn. However the youth trades programs in the other provinces and territories are built right into the curriculum and allows youth to go to school while also working towards an apprenticeship.

Just to further follow up on Mr. Hickes's question I was just wondering if in the last year the Department of Family Services has been able to bring up that topic of discussion of youth trades programming with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question you raised here. In collaboration with the Department of Education, we look at whether we can start early apprenticeship training and looking at how we can include that in our schools. It's in the developmental stage in terms of discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone. Sorry. I have no more names on my list for Career Development. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the question I asked earlier, for those attending school who receive food vouchers, they receive income support of, I believe, \$100. Has that been reviewed for a possible increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question, which is a good question. This is one of the big concerns, in particular when support has been given with income support and the schools in the community are given some support in that regard. This is being reviewed and I have mentioned previously that it's also raised as a concern. A person is subsidized when they are homeowners and these are also areas that are being touched on, looking at the household and how they can be impacted. These are areas that we are looking into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Career Development. L-7. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,109,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will take a 20-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:53 and resumed at 18:17*

Chairman: Welcome back and I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are still on Family Services. Poverty Reduction. L-8. The first person on the list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back, everyone. Minister, funding for the Emergency Homeless Shelters, Transitional Housing and Support Services Division is projected to increase by \$1.5 million compared to funds allocated in 2021-22. I'm wondering: what specific shelters' activities or resources will these additional funds be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Emergency Homeless Shelters, Transitional Housing and Support Services Division, the increase in funding is for salaries and benefits and also for the outreach programs for (interpretation ends) Sivummut House, (interpretation) Umingmak in the Kitikmeot, (interpretation ends) friendship centre, transitional housing programming, *ammalu* Uqutaq Men's Shelter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, minister. The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 155 that the department will support food centres in all Nunavut regions, including multi-year core funding, which is great news. How will multi-year core funding agreements be negotiated and what improvements are expected from this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow Ms. Turner to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Turner: *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. Over the years through the Nunavut Food Security Coalition work and our community project fund, we have received requests from various communities and food banks and food centres for core funding. \$500,000 is the fund that has been established for this new initiative. It is not a fund that will support core funding for a food centre, but we will work with the communities that have reached out to us as a starting point and work toward finding additional support.

The understanding that we have come to in working with our community food organizations and community food initiatives is that core funding would allow them to stabilize their operations and allow them to find space to operate.

There are many communities where the food bank or the food kitchen is operating out of someone's kitchen. This would allow them to stabilize their operations, find a space to operate, but also to move just beyond food relief, but get more into food programming where they could have cooking classes, young hunter mentorship programs, programs that bring a whole family together to learn how to cook, financial literacy programs, a whole range of different community ideas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is really good to hear. I know that a lot of the community grassroots groups that work on food security issues and on shelter issues sometimes struggle with governance issues and reporting issues. That can be quite burdensome when they are caused to report before receiving funds and I am hoping that this could alleviate some of those problems. I am wondering if this fund also includes support for those communities to support board development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The communities make requests for our department and we will also use that money for food security training workshops and see if they can access third-party funds to supplement what they receive from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just staying on the subject of access to food. One of the department's priorities for 2022-2023 will be to support government efforts to

enable elders to access more *Inuksiutiit*, or country food. How specifically will the Department of Family Services be involved in efforts to provide *Inuksiutiit* for elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. We have looked at how we can better access local programs, especially for elders. We have not finalized this program, but we are looking at the hamlet councils, hunters and trappers organizations, and volunteer groups to see where we can provide more country food for the elders. That is one concept of the program. There are other community volunteer organizations that we can have access to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if you can talk to us about the new Makimaniq Plan. In the 2022-23 priorities, the first bullet is to finalize the new plan with the homelessness action plan. I am wondering if the homelessness action plan is also being finalized. I do not know if I am reading it wrong. Food security strategy incorporated as important pillars in the foundation of the new Makimaniq Plan. Are you amalgamating these two plans into one? Is that what I'm reading? Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. Yes, it would be an amalgamation of the two and we will review and see how we can better distribute the programs or those affected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason that I asked that is because in the first bullet of the priorities for 2023-24 is to "Continue to implement the Nunavut Homelessness Action Plan and develop additional resources for safe and affordable housing specific to homelessness shelters, respite services, and transitional housing." Is that just an error or will a component for the Nunavut Homelessness Action Plan be within that new amalgamated plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We only have a draft action plan on that, so it is yet to be determined. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell me who are the stakeholders that you are working with on this plan and do they include external and community level stakeholders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can she repeat the question? I couldn't keep up; I'm sorry. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Brewster, can you repeat your question there? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: I think we're talking about two things, but the question is for both the Makimaniq Plan and the Homelessness Action Plan. You said that you are in the development stages. I'm wondering: who are the stakeholders that you are working with on the development of these plans and do they include community level representation, people who are living that experience right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that follow-up question. It's not only our department. We would have to have a community roundtable, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who also deals with poverty reduction. Everything will be identified after that roundtable meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue of emergency homeless shelters, transitional housing, and support services, I'm wondering specifically about transitional housing related to people who are experiencing family violence. I know that the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* provides the opportunity for people who are the target of violent behaviour to apply for an emergency protection order that can remove the person who is perpetrating the violence from the home. What I know about that as well is that often there is nowhere for that person who is the subject of an emergency protection order, removing them from their home, there is often nowhere for that person to go.

I'm wondering: related to that specifically, is there knowledge of that within the work for Emergency Homeless Shelters, Transitional Housing and Support Services in supporting the implementation of regulations and actions that come out of our FAIA legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. In regard to the Act that you referred to, it's under the Department of Justice and it's not under our department.

It's very true that we do have challenges and especially when you're in a smaller community. They have fewer resources than some of the other communities, but we try to make sure that there's a safe shelter in a community and if there is a need to remove a person outside of the community, we could also do that. There's YWCA that can provide further support.

However, as I indicated earlier, we do have challenges, but we try to make sure that there is support available, especially for those who have to get away from danger or if they are in distress. The Department of Family Services is always there to help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, regardless of why a person is homeless, there is that provision for emergency shelter and that's why I think it is really important not to be siloed.

Even though the legislation is under the Department of Justice's purview, that legislation is 100 percent in place in order to protect Nunavummiut and those who are especially at risk, not just at risk of being a target of physical violence, but also the very real and impactful risk of being in the presence of violence, especially for young children, while their brains are still growing and while their emotions are still growing, the traumatic impacts lead into many problems years down the road.

That's why I believe it's important that when we talk about emergency homeless shelters, transitional housing, and the support services around that, we do everything that we can to make sure that we're supporting the implementation of very important legislation because at the core is about safety in the home and communities. I would encourage the Department of Family Services to work really closely with Justice to discuss how that can be better done because the outcome of that is that people are given more time and space away and that perhaps targets aren't compelled by their family or community to take that person back who has been removed because now they're a burden on other households because they have nowhere to go. That's all I'll say today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list, or does the minister want to comment on that? It looks like it. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe in what was just said and I can say that even though the Act is there, it's not just the Act's responsibility; we also have a responsibility, each of us, and we will not turn away people who need help. As I stated, using whatever is available in the community, we have to see

what's available and we always review that. In larger communities, there are emergency shelters, but not all communities have those. That's why we rely on other people and families to see if they can be housed with a relative. That's the way we have to approach helping them currently, because there is no other alternative. We work with some of them through our offices, and you're talking about different situations, but we're not just trying to give away responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee is next.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question here. (interpretation ends) The department's Poverty Reduction division provides funding for community-based initiatives to address food insecurity. What types of programs or services are provided for community-based groups with this funding and how does the department evaluate their effectiveness? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the different proposals that are handled through Family Services, in 2021-22, the requests that came from the communities and the help that was provided to the communities, included: a pregnancy and breastfeeding program in Igloolik, a nutritious food program in Igloolik as well, another one through Ilisaqsivik in Clyde River as well as a hunting program for hunters. Here in Iqaluit, there were breakfast programs that got help from us, (interpretation ends) also in the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, with the inheritance of country food to the new generation; gathering elders, parents, and kids weekly for country food dinners, (interpretation) the Iqaluit Literacy Council, (interpretation ends) the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre in Iqaluit, the Baker Lake Prenatal Nutrition program, Hamlet of Arviat, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Literacy Council in Arviat, and the Nunavut Literacy in Rankin Inlet. Those are the groups that submitted proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great to hear everything that you just talked about.

The question I would like to ask is: are the financial requests that you are making in this budget adequate? Do you believe it will be enough to get things going well? So, through your deliberations you've found that the funding that you are proposing, as well as the proposed increases, will be enough? We've heard how useful they are. The increase in funding will be used to give everything a fresh start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The things that I just explained, about the groups that received assistance,

that's actually just some of them. All those things I listed, the total funding distributed was \$400,000. There's also the additional \$25,000 that was given out to 14 communities for food security programs, so they got help in different ways like that.

The last question that you had, to see how effective it was, we know that it is effective. We are just the route that they go through to provide support to communities. The money was that will be handed out through Family Services if our budget will help a great deal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I don't have many questions. (interpretation ends) When it comes to a summary of grants and contributions, for the Homelessness Initiative Grant there was budget of \$360,000, and for this fiscal year there is no budget for it. Can the minister explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the winter session, there was the Ikur'raq Cabin Building program. The money was already used up and that's why there is no new budget for it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this program ran very well, are you going to be repeating this program? In terms of addressing homelessness, to help people, Family Services can see that the community requested it. So, will you able to offer it again because it was requested again?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question.

That question is always asked of us when a program is done well the first time it comes. We are going to look at it again because there are requests for it. We don't know what it would look like, but we haven't completely let it go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tried to help an elder when they wanted to make a proposal. This is just a comment. It's great to see that the Department of Family Services is helping with Poverty Reduction funding, and there is a request here to be increased. I will support that. This will really help communities to rise up and see how else they can improve their situations. It's recognition of how the government has been working in homelessness and poverty. I would really like that it be

given more consideration as well as the money that is given to HTAs for local food. This is just a general comment. That is all for now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I just wanted to address this further. Our finance person's report came out, and for elders there is \$500,000 that can be used by Family Services. We'll talk about that some more.

I know, looking at the communities, the fact that they want to do things on their behalf, when communities are interested in doing things, then they end up being more successful with being funded. Sometimes there are no groups submitting proposals and the funds have to be given to different groups.

I just wanted to say that we look at the number of proposals coming out of a community. That Cabin program that we talked about; some communities did not do that, and we re-checked the communities to make sure that they're not interested in doing this. So that is how our staff did it. They went and checked back with the communities to make sure that they really are not interested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is great to hear. I really like hearing what I'm hearing.

I'm very happy now and I just thought of a question and I believe you already addressed it a little bit. I guess that is how it will be run, but I'll proceed with my question. Some communities who did not support requests beforehand and then suddenly submitted requests, and then there are other groups that had successful programs. How will you handle this with the new proposals as the communities hear about this program and want to take part in this. How will you figure out the priorities? When there are too many proposals, do you make cutbacks on how much money is given out to each group?

I may be premature in asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. The funds, first of all, were utilized for the first time. Particularly during the pandemic, the funds were divided to communities and the working group made decisions as to how it would be utilized and what further the funds could be used for and that's how it worked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee. You're done? I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Poverty Reduction. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,776,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page L-3. Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$169,636,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and officials. Minister Nakashuk, do you have brief closing comments?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, colleagues, for moving ahead with our presentation. I would also like to thank those who prepared this, our staff. We don't have a huge number of staff, but looking at Family Services in Nunavut, those who are tirelessly working at their jobs, they are dedicated and they were able to move ahead. If it wasn't for them, maybe we wouldn't have had what we presented. Thank you, for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

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

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back to the committee meeting. I would like to ask Minister Simailak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, committee. I have to my left, Deputy Minister of Justice Stephen Mansell; to my right, Associate Deputy

Minister of Public Safety Jessica Young. I also have Director of Corporate Services Mubashir Mahmood.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee to present to you the 2022-23 Main Estimates for the Department of Justice.

A total of \$158,478,000 is being requested for the operations and maintenance of the department for the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is a \$24 million, or an 18 percent, increase from the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The total expenditure will include the following:

Under Law Enforcement, additional funding of \$16,254,000 will be included in the 2022-23 budget for the following items:

- seven regular members to increase Royal Canadian Mounted Police staffing;
- a potential significant increase of regular members under an anticipated First Nations and Inuit Policing Program partnership between the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut;
- Accommodation Program Charge (APC) for major/minor capital and staff housing;
- inflation and divisional administration cost to address uncontrollable cost;
- funding to meet radio upgrade project operational cost; and
- budgeted funding for salary increases and shortfall in retro pay due to recent collective bargaining executed between the Government of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As members would have heard during the review of the Auditor General's follow-up report on corrections, the department has made significant progress in addressing its facilities needs at Nunavut Corrections with the construction of the Aqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. This increase would help with corrections to build its staffing capacity to ensure the new facility is properly resourced and ensure the safety of both clients and staff.

Under Corrections, \$2,790,000 in additional funding will be included in the 2022-23 budget for the following items:

- 24 new staffing positions for the new Aqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, already opened in September 2021: and
- additional funding for a corrections investigation's office, which is necessary to bring the new *Corrections Act* into force.

- An additional \$328,000 will be added to the 2022-23 budget for Community Justice to allow for the following:

- ensuring the Therapeutic Justice Program extends beyond the pilot phase and continues to allow access to alternatives to the formal justice system for Nunavummiut; and
- stabilizing our Community Justice Outreach program by repatriating three positions from the hamlets back to the Government of Nunavut.

- In regard to the grants and contribution, we are requesting for \$4,440,000 for the Legal Services Board (LSB) for 2022-23 for the following:

 - \$2,380,000 funding for the salaries of new positions in the areas of criminal, family, and civil law for the three regional Legal Services Board clinics; and
 - \$2,060,000 to support the operations of the Legal Services Board.

Finally, the department is requesting an additional \$490,000 to be used within the Department of Justice for three senior legal counsel positions in the Legal and Constitutional Law Division.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan of the Department of Justice.

The department's proposed 2022-23 operations and maintenance budget is \$158,478,000. This represents a 17.8 percent increase from the 2021-22 fiscal year. The number of positions in the department is increasing from 435.0 to 462.0 PYs. The majority of this increase is accounted for by new positions in the department's Corrections and Community Justice branches.

The *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* received assent on March 14, 2017 and came into force on April 1, 2022. The department's proposed 2022-23 main estimates include \$250,000 for the operations of the Civil Forfeiture Office. Members asked a number of questions regarding the status of this office and look forward to its contributions to the fight against the illegal sale of alcohol and drugs in Nunavut communities.

The department's proposed 2022-23 main estimates include \$901,000 for the operations of the Office of the Chief Coroner. The 2011 *Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Coroner* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2014. No other annual reports of this office have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since that time. The standing committee strongly encourages the minister to resume the practice of tabling this office's annual reports so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the

opportunity to review its important work, including recommendations made following such proceedings as coroner's inquests. The standing committee notes that the department currently has a number of outstanding statutory tabling requirements under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, the *Human Rights Act*, the *Victims of Crime Act*, the *Labour Standards Act*, and the *Legal Services Act*.

The department's proposed 2022-23 main estimates include \$11,276,000 for the Court Services operations. One of the department's priorities for the 2023-24 year is to "Explore the feasibility of satellite courts in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regions." The standing committee encourages the minister to clarify the objectives of this initiative and looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The department's *5-Year Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2017 and expires this year. The standing committee was pleased to hear that the department is working with key partners and stakeholders to update this strategy and looks forward to the completion of this new strategy and its tabling in the House.

The department's Directorate division is responsible for supporting the day-to-day operations of quasi-judicial boards, including the Labour Standards Board and the Criminal Code Review Board. Members appreciate the important work done by these entities.

During the minister's recent appearance, members asked a number of questions regarding the status of Inuit employment within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, including what training opportunities are currently available for Nunavut Inuit. Members asked the department to clarify the number of Inuit that completed training facilitated by the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The standing committee strongly supports initiatives to recruit and retain more Inuit into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. On March 12, 2020 the Minister of Justice tabled the 2019-2021 *Government of Nunavut-Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division Shared Directional Statement* in the Legislative Assembly. Members look forward to the introduction of a new shared directional statement and its tabling in the House.

Members noted that the budget for the Legal Services Board is increasing by \$4.4 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year, which represents a 37.5 percent increase from the 2021-22 fiscal year. Members asked a number of questions concerning the rationale for this increase and requested clarification on what new positions will be created with these additional funds. Members look forward to receiving updates on the status of these new positions.

The department's Community Justice Division supports Nunavummiut through the delivery of services under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* with the intent of providing tools to "holistically intervene and prevent family abuse with a focus on the immediate need for safety." Members noted that the department is continuing its community

consultations regarding the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Members look forward to reviewing the feedback from these community consultations and updates on this important work.

The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Work to establish the Regional Justices of the Peace Program." The standing committee encourages the department to clarify the scope and objectives of this program. Members enquired about which communities do not have resident Justices of the Peace and what work is being done to fill vacant positions.

The standing committee notes that one of the department's priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Begin planning and development of community-based youth supervision programs in Nunavut." The standing committee looks forward to receiving updates on this new and important initiative.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do any members have general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? Mr. Malliki. I'll start off, I have no names for general comments. Directorate. Mr. Malliki.

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

(interpretation ends) The Office of Public Trustee and Guardianship was transferred from the Department of Family Services during the 2020-21 fiscal year. Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2020. As of today, what is the status of the transition? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transfer is complete. They are now fully part of the Justice department, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his response. (interpretation ends) The 2011 *Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Coroner* was tabled in the legislative assembly on March 19, 2014. No other annual report of his office was tabled in the legislative assembly. When will you resume the practice tabling annual reports of the Office of the Chief Coroner? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not a legislative requirement. The chief coroner will not be tabling any reports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) Your department currently has a number of outstanding statutory tabling requirements under the *Human Rights Act*, the *Victims of Crime Act*, the *Labour Standards Act*, the *Legal Profession Act*, and the *Legal Services Act*. A number of these reports are prepared by arm's-length entities. What accounts for the delay in the preparation of tabling of these annual reports? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Capacity issues and we cannot direct them; we can only support them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) The department's 2022-24 business plan indicates that a new Criminal Code review program would be established during the 2021-22 fiscal year. As of today, what is the status of this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member point out where he is looking? Can he clarify his question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki, can you point out to the minister so he can see? Mr. Malliki

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): The 2021-24 business plan indicates that a new Criminal Code review program would be established during the 2021-22 fiscal year. As of today, what is the status of this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like the deputy minister to respond to that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The Criminal Code Review Board is the board that works to determine if an accused is

criminally responsible for their actions. That board is fully operational and all vacancies have been filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Your department's *5-year Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2017. The strategy expired this year. How has your department measured the effectiveness of this strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, the deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are currently working with stakeholders in the department but also our outside stakeholders and public safety to determine the success of the strategy and to determine the success of the different initiatives that we funded. When we get that information, we are going to use the best practices to determine what the next phase of what the strategy should look like. Right now we are doing a consultation process and an information gathering to determine what the next phase of the crime prevention strategy for Nunavut should look like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Your department's draft 2023-26 business plan indicates on page 51 that the budget for the survey forfeiture office is \$250,000. As of today, how many positions in that office are filled? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. One position and we lost the first case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify, please? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak, can you clarify your answer? We heard some words, but the member would like you to clarify.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One position was filled and we lost our first case to the courts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department officials confirmed during the 2021 winter sitting that a tip line was being set up for Nunavummiut that do not live in Iqaluit to contact the director of the Civil Forfeiture Office. As of today, what is the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The line is up and running and we will do some more work on it this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names under directorate. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions. I will keep it short. One matter that has been raised on numerous occasions in the previous assembly was the need for the Department of Justice to collaborate with the RCMP on promoting their crime stoppers program.

For those that are unaware of the crime stoppers program, it is an anonymous tip line that the public can use to inform the RCMP of significant matters. One area of concern where this would be particularly useful is in combating the illegal sale of alcohol.

As it has been brought up on numerous occasions over the years, I am wondering if the minister can provide an update on any discussions that there have been between the Department of Justice and the RCMP on promoting this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It is part of our public communications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that it is part of the public communications avenue of the Department of Justice, but there are literally bootleggers in every Nunavut community, and it is wreaking havoc, alcohol-related harm on our population and our court system and whatnot.

I think that the Department of Justice and the RCMP need to do more to really get that crime stoppers message out there, whether it would be going on the radio or social media, giving stickers in all of our official languages and posting them in every community so people will know about this. There are phone numbers and emails. You can even text.

The general public is not very familiar with this program. Whenever people come forward with issues related to bootlegging or illicit drugs, I always recommend Crime Stoppers to them because it is an effective tool. I just want to recommend that to the minister to try to really push this and get Crime Stoppers out there. That is just my recommendation.

I just want to follow up on another matter that has been raised in previous years, and that is the need for...many colleges across Canada utilize police foundations or provide police foundations programs for law-related fields, such as corrections, by-law, and general policing as well. I was wondering if the Department of Justice has had any further discussions with Nunavut Arctic College on this specific initiative or program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have been very focused in the last couple of fiscal years on our pre-deployment training, which is internal to Corrections, but it does provide a lot of the same training that those courses provide. We are providing it through our staff in a facility that we have rented, but we can look at expansion. Right now we have been very focused on our internal pre-deployment training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next name on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the goal to increase Inuit employment. When you go to page 73 on Inuit employment, there are 127 employees who are Inuit and there are 160 vacant positions. There is a request to add 24 more positions. What will you do to make sure that jobs are slated towards Inuit? Will you be helping them? How do I say this? Will you be making anything available for Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Just a second. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following Article 23, we are using in the pre-deployment that the deputy minister spoke about. I will be having public engagements in trying to reduce barriers to get more Inuit into these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes, clerical positions have the highest vacancies. What is the reason for all of the vacant positions? Why haven't they been filled? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: I thank the member for her question. We are staffing as quickly as we can. It's just taking longer than we had hoped. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before I go down to the next person on the list, if the minister could just elaborate. The minister stated that barriers will be removed. What barriers for Inuit employment are there that you will be looking into to remove? Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, deputy minister, please.

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

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the barriers that we have identified at Corrections was the job descriptions required previous correctional experience. If you are from Nunavut and you've always worked in Nunavut, you're not going to get correctional experience anywhere else but Nunavut, so we have created a new job description for a junior correctional case worker position that doesn't require prior experience, and that gets people into our facilities without that barrier there.

We are continuing to look at our other job descriptions to see if there is anything else like that that we can reduce to help people get their foot in the door at Justice. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next person on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question about the business plan, on page 50, under Public Trustee and Guardian. (interpretation ends) "The Public Trustee's mandate is to administer trusts on behalf of minors and estates and trusts of Nunavummiut who die without a will or are in need of protection because of disability."

(interpretation) The question I have is: how do you promote this to the communities? Do you promote it to the communities whenever there is a court party in town or something? Is the open by the lawyers? How does it work in the communities? Can it be like a

service in the communities? It would be good if people were better informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The court appoints the trustee. It is done through court services. They only have a role with a court order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in the communities this needs to be brought up more so that the communities know about it. I have mentioned here in the House as a concern before. Inuit have really good expensive things and the Public Trustee has to do things.

They use a will template. Is it in Inuktitut? Has it been translated into Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Yes, it is available on the Justice website and it is available in all four official languages in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is really good to hear. My question is under Coroner's Office. When there is a coroner's inquest... Maybe I should ask "how", how does it work if a body needs to be investigated or autopsied, thinking about the effect on the family, I believe we need to understand it better as the people of Nunavut in terms of how the process works.

Where does it start? Does it start with the RCMP, or the nursing station? I would really like to know the whole process. That is my first question about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. If the death is unknown, or if it seems suspicious, the coroner does have to issue an autopsy order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the response. I would like to use an example. It is a concerning matter. Let's say there is a suspect, and when a person is sent out from the community they pass away. How does that work? Will that body be stuck where they died before the local community starts the process of bringing the body back? Does your department have any responsibility and do you at all worry about people who die away from their communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a second please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, deputy minister, please.

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

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there is a different role with respect to who deals with a body if someone passes away. If we know there has been a crime committed and person is deceased, then the first ones who will sort of have a role to play is the RCMP, because they are the ones who are investigating the crime, and the coroner is there in a support role.

The coroner would be the first one to have control of the body if we don't know the cause of death, but we are quite certain it wasn't a murder or something like that. There are different roles to play there. Definitely the respect for the body, the respect for the family, is something that all, no matter who is involved, is concerned about, but also preserving evidence and ensure that we determine the cause of death is also a very important factor. You have to juggle those two issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't quite sure where to turn to if this happened again, so now I know.

My last question, I would just like to hear; on March 26, 2022, (interpretation ends) a fire in Gjoa Haven burned a building down that housed several Government of Nunavut services, including the Legal Services Board Headquarters. What is the response plan for those employees in Gjoa Haven? (interpretation) Thank you. That was my last question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those staff members are currently working from home and we are waiting for Department of Community and Government Services to secure some more office spaces for that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,091,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to the next branch; Law Enforcement. I'll just give members a little bit of time to switch the page. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a while since there have been any highlights in the media on RCMP seizure of alcohol or illicit drugs. I was wondering if the minister might be able to provide us a brief summary of some of their activities and seizures that have occurred so far this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. In January 2022, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Pangnirtung seized eight 26 ounce bottles of illicit liquor. In April 2022, the Iqaluit RCMP seized 3,000 grams of marijuana, 450 grams of magic mushrooms. I'll say the street name. In May 2021, the Pangnirtung Royal Canadian Mounted Police executed a search warrant at a residence and seized 436 grams of an unknown substance believed to be methamphetamine. In July 2021, Rankin Inlet Royal Canadian Mounted Police conducted a joint investigation with Nunavut, and Manitoba federal Serious Organized Crime Sections issued a search warrant which was the result of approximately 25 lbs. of illicit marijuana worth over \$15,000. In July 2021, the Kugluktuk Royal Canadian Mounted Police executed a search warrant resulting in the seizure of 32 suspected methamphetamine pills. One male was charged with possession.

In August, 2021, 50 suspected methamphetamine pills on the ground in a baggie by the playground on the road in Kugluktuk. It was seized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Also in August 2021, the Kugluktuk Royal Canadian Mounted Police seized 300 pills of an unknown substance believed to be methamphetamines.

Notable alcohol seizures; 2021, January 2021, Rankin Inlet Royal Canadian Mounted Police seized 24 60 ounce bottles of liquor from a male who was charged with offences under the *Nunavut Liquor Act*. Between January and the end of March 2021, Coral Harbour Royal Canadian Mounted Police have seized liquor illegally imported into the community on nine separate occasions. A total of 68 bottles of liquor were seized. Lastly, March 2021, the Rankin Inlet Royal Canadian Mounted Police seized 18 40 ounce bottles of liquor from a male who was charged under the *Nunavut Liquor Act* and criminal code for breaching his undertaking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister for providing that information. Some of that is very shocking and I'm glad that to hear that

the RCMP were able to keep that much alcohol, and more importantly, the hard illicit drugs off of the streets.

You had mentioned that one of the individuals was charged with offences against the *Nunavut Liquor Act*. Would you be able to update us today? What are the range of offences that an individual can be charged with if they are found guilty of breaching the liquor Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The liquor Act falls under the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving onto my next line of questioning, I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide us with an update on the Department of Justice's discussions on seeking a civilian oversight body to investigate serious incidents involving the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, the deputy minister. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have been active and quite focused discussions with civilian oversight groups, investigative groups in the provinces. The Yukon is an example of a smaller jurisdiction that has partnered with a civilian investigator in a larger jurisdiction. They work with Alberta.

We have recently made some very good progress with our provincial partners. We are in discussions right now, but we hope to have an announcement pretty soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mansell for that information. It is very great to hear and I look forward to hearing more about the announcement.

I also want to again congratulate the Department of Justice on your anticipated First Nations and Inuit Policing Program funding to secure additional police members in our territory. I was hoping you might be as close to an announcement as you are on your

other discussions. Can we expect that we will hear an announcement soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We were hoping to have the announcement this fall. We are waiting for the federal funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next name on my list: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister for your prompt responses. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 53 that the budget for the Law Enforcement Branch will increase from \$47,908,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to \$64,168,000 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is an increase of 33.9 percent. How was the amount of this increase determined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member of his question. There are seven line items that attribute to that increase. The accommodation program charged for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, at \$6,000,082, inflation and divisional administration costs at \$3,720,000, increase of four regular members at \$1,140,000, three regular that were previously approved in 2020-21 at \$775,000, a radio system operational cost of \$490,000, the anticipated three regular members for First Nations and Inuit Policing Program at 48 percent of our cost for \$460,000, and a salary and retro pay of \$5 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank the minister for that explanation. (interpretation ends) During the winter 2022 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, \$11 million in supplementary funding was approved to address the projected budget shortfall due to overspending in law enforcement grants.

Information provided to MLAs indicated that "The Department of Justice is reviewing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's current staffing and funding model in its consideration of how to best address the territorial policing needs moving forward." As of today, what is the status of this work?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We are hoping that this new money will address the shortfalls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are we going to be seeing that kind of amount next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We hope this is it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current 20-year Canada-Nunavut Territorial Policing Service Agreement was signed in 2012. The agreement provides for a contract management committee. How often does the committee meet and how does it take into account concerns raised by municipalities regarding such issues as the number of officers posted in detachments? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, the associate deputy minister. Thank you.

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

Ms. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract management committee is an administrative committee that is made up of all jurisdictions who have the RCMP as their police force in their jurisdiction. So myself and the assistant deputy ministers from all provinces and territories. We address at that committee any issues that arise under the territorial police service agreement and from there those issues are addressed with the RCMP and Public Safety Canada, our partners.

Any time there is a concern that is raised by municipalities, we try to deal with those first at the territorial level, but if they require further assistance, we can bring them to the contract management committee to review, or directly to Public Safety Canada for support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A question popped up on answers. Do you travel to communities or do they have to call a certain number to make a complaint on these issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of complaints made by community members, there are various ways that can occur. If they are large complaints with the hamlet, first they can meet with their detachment commanders who go to hamlet meetings regularly, or they can meet directly with the commanding officer of the RCMP who makes annual visits to the communities themselves.

If there are additional issues with hamlets, they can address it directly with the Department of Justice, or they can go through the Civilian Review Complaints Commission with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that explanation. Many individuals often do not know.

(interpretation ends) On March 12, 2022 the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Shared Directional Statement 2019-2021 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. What is the status of implanting the major priorities in the current shared directional statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We have a new commanding officer that will be starting here at "V" Division this summer. The statement will be reviewed and signed with the new commanding officer at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) When will the next shared directional statement be ready for tabling in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The new commanding officer is slated to come in this summer, so we should be able to table it this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) To what extent will the new shared directional statement differ from the old shared directional statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. A lot of it will be pretty much the same; community policing and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2021-24 business plan indicates that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been working to fill four new Inuktitut speaking call taker positions. As of today, what is the status of filling these positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: I thank the member for his question, Mr. Chairman. It is one right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the minister can indicate why all positions are not filled yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member please repeat his question? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I'll repeat it for him. The member wants to know why only one of four positions filled to date. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. There were two applicants, but one of them withdrew on their own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that response. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2021-24 business plan indicates that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has signed a new protocol agreement in relation to your department's Therapeutic Justice Program. When will the copy of the protocol agreement be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, minister. I thank the member for his question. It has never been tabled before and we have to go back and see if we can table it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 53 that one of the priorities for 2022-23 is to "Support RCMP efforts to increase capacity to communicate in the Inuit language." What specific action will your department take to assist the RCMP with this priority? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have undertaken the following initiatives:

- National Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program; four Inuit recruits from Nunavut have been selected and will be attending the National Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program held at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Academy in Regina this July 2022. It is designed to expose candidates between the ages of 19-29 years of age to apply police sciences, personal defence tactics, drills and other aspects of academy life. "V" Division recruiting has worked hard to identify and prepare the candidates for the program. They have also assisted with application training program third cohort now. Funding has been sought from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for the third cohort. We are waiting for approval.
- Four operational call centre positions, Inuit-specific. There are four of them. They were created to assist "V" Division in the recruitment and pre-training of Inuit candidates to pass the testing required to become an operator. Two applicants were successful in the hiring and security screening process in fiscal 2021-22. One applicant did remove themselves from the program for family reason. The second is doing well in their pre-training.
- Creation of public service employee positions; six of them in half-time positions or person year positions in various community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister for that response. (interpretation ends) In January 2021, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police issued a news release announcement announcing its partnership with Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation with the goal recruiting and training Inuit into Royal Canadian

Mounted Police ranks. How many Inuit completed this training? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. None were successful in completing the program, but one is now working in the Iqaluit detachment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the minister could elaborate a bit on my question. I would like to know if it is culturally relevant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, the assistant deputy minister, please.

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

Ms. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program is supposed to be designed specifically to support Inuit applicants. It's an assisted application program training that helps with the skills needed to enter into the application stage with the RCMP. Part of the program is delivered right in the communities. The first one was in Iqaluit and the second, I believe, was in Rankin Inlet. It allows people to stay in the territory to get the training. There are portions of the training that are culturally specific that are delivered to individuals as well. It's supposed to remove the barriers of the traditional application process for the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is this training community-based or in certain regions in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, assistant deputy minister, please.

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

Ms. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program itself was based on specific funding provided to the RCMP and it's limited per training. The first one was in Iqaluit only; the

second was in Rankin Inlet only; and they're working now as to whether or not a third cohort of this training should go forward and that would also be in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) Is your department considering working with the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for further training opportunities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Currently the department is going to use the pre-deployment program that we have in place for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion and it's not debatable. Those in favour of the motion. Those against. Motion is carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials off and I will rise to report progress.

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Joanasie. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, there is a meeting of the Striking Committee tomorrow at 9:30 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 9, at 10 a.m., but before we leave, I would like to wish Mr. Quirke and his wife a happy 50th anniversary.

>>*Applause*

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:02*

