

**NUNAVUT HANSARD**  
**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022**  
**IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

*Corrections:*

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**PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY  
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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joelie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, 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): Good morning. (interpretation) Before we proceed, Mr. Simailak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning, Inuit who are watching the proceedings. To all Nunavummiut, I say “good morning” to you.

Before I begin, (interpretation ends) I want to wish the Sergeant-at-Arms the 69th birthday today.

>>*Applause*

I recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go directly to Item 19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly Item 19 on the order paper. Are there any nays? There are none. We will proceed to 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 to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that all members remain in their desks so that we can immediately proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): Good morning, all members here. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and Bill 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 of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, (interpretation ends) Arctic College, and Human Resources. If time permits, we would proceed with the Department of Culture and Heritage and Environment. 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 – Justice – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** 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:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, all. Yes, I do have officials.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can the officials go down?

Oh, sorry. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** For the record, Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, I have Deputy Minister Stephen Mansell; to my right, Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety Jessica Young. We also have Director of Corporate Services Mubashir Mahmood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are still on E-5. Law Enforcement. The next person on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Good morning, minister and your officials.

I have a question or two. My first question: what is the Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police doing to address alcohol being shipped through Canada Post? I am fully aware that our territorial government has no jurisdiction with the federal institutions. How is the department doing to address illegal alcohol being shipped through Canada Post? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like the assistant deputy minister to respond to that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since Canada Post announced their northern reconciliation strategy a few years ago, we have been working quite closely with them as to what that looks like for our territory.

We have created an internal committee with various departments that are affected by the same issue to look at the transportation of alcohol into the territory. There are legal ways to transport alcohol in as well as illegal ways to transport alcohol into the territory. We are working with Canada Post to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of how transportation works, what legislation governs that, and who has a role to play in that transportation.

As of right now, Canada Post works closely with our “V” division and local detachments to gather intelligence and work on removing illegally transported drugs and alcohol from their system. We will continue to work with them to develop a communications strategy with our communities to determine how we as the government can work better with our communities in stopping the illegal transportation of alcohol into the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. In the departmental business plan, within the next four years of this Assembly, the top priority for each fiscal year is to support RCMP efforts to recruit Inuit regular members, civilian members, and public service employees into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

There is a recent article dated May 25 stated the last Inuk who joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was back in 2003. That's 19 years ago. What is the department doing to address recruiting Inuit into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force? Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The “V” division is both traditional and non-traditional avenues for Royal Canadian Mounted Police recruitment with a view to attracting more Inuit to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Currently, the “V” division has one Inuk under the Nunavut Agreement at the security and suitability stage of the application process. The applicant is from the first cohort of the Assisted Application Training Program that took place in the winter of 2020.

During the first cohort of the Assisted Application Training Program that took place in 2020, seven applicants started the program, two applicants left the program soon after it began, and in the spring of 2020, the applicants were sent home due to COVID-19, but continued to work with the processing centre to complete the application process.

Four of the remaining applicants subsequently withdrew from the program or were asked to leave due to various issues, including failure to comply.

The lone remaining applicant has since moved out of Nunavut and is pursuing another career.

The second cohort of the Assisted Application Training Program that took place in the winter of 2021 brought 14 applicants from the following communities: Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, Baker Lake, and Sanikiluaq.

Of the 14, 10 applicants successfully passed the required Royal Canadian Mounted Police entrance exam. Unfortunately, eight withdrew their applications due to personal reasons. The two remaining applicants were deferred after completion of the pre-employment examination. One applicant accepted to enter the OCC program and the other has started employment a public service employee as early as May 2022. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just for more clarification, the minister stated that there are traditional and non-traditional methods when trying to recruit Inuit and the minister spoke of one here about applicant assistance.

Is that the only, out-of-the-ordinary, efforts that are being made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to recruit Inuit in? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you Assistant Deputy Minister Jessica Young, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a few routes that the RCMP take for recruitment. So, the traditional is having people apply to the RCMP and go through the traditional depot process without any support.

Here in the territory, they did start the Assisted Application Training Program. They have had two cohorts and are looking to do the third.

They also have hired someone in a position, within “V” division, for Inuit recruitment who is working on various initiatives in the division itself.

National headquarters for the RCMP is also working on an Inuit and Indigenous recruitment strategy, which we hope will be consulted on we can work more closely with them.

There are other options where they are looking at other successful Inuit police forces in our jurisdiction in Canada, and outside of Canada, to see if there are best practices that we can pull in for recruitment as well.

We are also looking at other options for community safety officers as well as the potential to look at special constable programs that had existed before, so that we can bring members or individuals into the RCMP in various roles in the hope that they will eventually want to pursue a career as members themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Going on to the next person on the list, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and welcome, good morning everyone. The current 20-year Canada-Nunavut Territorial Police Services Agreement was signed in 2012. The agreement provides for a contract management committee.

How often does the committee and how does it take into account concerns raised by municipalities regarding such issues such as the number of officers posted to detachments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was asked yesterday and responded to, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Brewster, another one?

**Ms. Brewster:** My apologies. In regard to the orientation that officers receive before coming to Nunavut to work and as well as ongoing orientation to a lived-experience of the community members that they serve.

Can you talk a little bit about what the cultural orientation is as well as what the orientation is to issues such as violence against women, and family violence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak:

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for your question. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provides training to members working in Nunavut about Inuit culture and Nunavut history and language. The orientation packages provided are specific to each detachment including introduction to community elders and community partners.

Following the first pre-deployment training held in January and February in 2021 there were 16 members that received the cultural, historical, and language training. A book has been developed by the cultural and language provider to assist police officers in expanding their abilities to communicate. Additional books were purchased and provided to the members in the communities.

The pre-deployment training consists of the following:

- mental health first aid, Inuit context;
- cultural, historical, and language training through the Pirurvik Centre;
- initial critical incidence response and de-escalation training, and;
- self-care and resilience training through the divisional psychologist.

Additional training based on the roles and responsibilities of the members will be delivered through virtual platform.

The cultural and language program is delivered in person and through a virtual platform to the employees' families.

Families will be able to watch the Inuit culture. Historical and language training provided to the members during the pre-deployment training via MS Teams or Zoom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister talk a little bit more about critical incidences, incidence responses, and the debriefing process that occurs in relation to the impact obviously on the officers, in terms of, you mentioned wellness training.

Some critical incidences can be extremely traumatic and impact the way, or create bias if an individual officer or a detachment has a series of critical incidents can really impact in how they interact with the community.

I would like to know what that internal debriefing process is that allows for lessons learned to share amongst other community officers as well as for ensuring that officers

are able to go on and continue to police in that community and have good relationships with community members in spite of some of these critical incidents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak:

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the member for the question. The department did hire a divisional psychologist and any critical incident is reported to the “V” division headquarters. Mental health is a very serious concern and a priority of the department, and I would like the assistant deputy minister to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mansell. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sorry about that, Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to what was already provided. The RCMP does have internal resources and supports that are available for members who are a part of a serious incident within a community. It was mentioned, they do have a divisional psychologist now who is available to meet with these members and ensure that they are mentally well and prepared to go back into communities.

There are also options for individuals to be moved from communities in the event they are deemed they are not a good fit to return to a community after a serious incident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you talk about service level expectations? Over the past year we've heard messages come from the RCMP that state that they are encouraging community members not to phone the RCMP for issues that should be able to be resolved within the household.

As we know, often issues can escalate rather quickly. The message to not call the RCMP is quite impactful, especially for people who are experiencing family violence and abuse. If they are hearing a message not to call the RCMP, to instead resolve their interpersonal issues on their own, it is very worrisome to me and to many that people may not feel that they are able to call for help when they need help.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. If there is anyone who is aware of a crime they should call the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The department does not agree with that type of thinking where they are deterred from calling in when assistance is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister for that response. What does the department do in that event then? If the department disagrees with a public message that's coming from the RCMP, how does the Department of Justice resolve that issue with the RCMP to ensure the safety of our citizens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Through the shared directional statement we'll be meeting with the new commanding officer and we will raise that issue with the new officer once he is on board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us about the data and reporting requirements on crime statistics that are part of this agreement? How often is the RCMP reporting to the Department of Justice about crime and do they collect this aggregated data? Do they share data about how many complaints are found to be unfounded and that sort of thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I would like the assistant deputy minister to respond to that please. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various reporting requirements that are required under the territorial police services agreement. We also work with the division to determine what type of information is relevant and useful for us as we move forward.

The division reports monthly by detachment and those monthly detachment reports are presented by detachment commanders to the local hamlets in all communities. That information is also provided to the Department of Justice.

The federal also collects data, the crime severity index, as well as other information that is relevant to our department that we use to determine service moving forward and the type of resources that are needed for the division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering who in the department uses that data to evaluate for trends in different crimes, in different areas of need and how is that useful or made more useful in terms.... . Because we can all look at reports and

receive information but it's what we do with that information that's important. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sorry. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That information is very useful for the Department of Justice. We use it extensively in the Public Safety section. We use it for community justice, crime prevention, corrections and policing.

We use it to determine what types of resources are needed in which communities and it helps us to identify which communities maybe in higher need at any given time. And, from there we can use the information to develop plans, contact local stakeholders and provide support that is needed.

It's something that we use quite often in Community Justice to determine where we might need more victim services coordinators or other type of programming that could be useful for a community that they may not know about as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a civilian oversight group that works with the Department of Justice and with the RCMP here in Nunavut? 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 department is looking at forming a police council and we will be working on that up to this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us a little bit more about that council and who what your expectations are of who would be invited to participate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Police council model comes from the Yukon. It's made up of public stakeholders and Indigenous groups, Indigenous organizations and what their made job is to help inform the shared directional statement in policing priorities.

We've reached out to our regional Inuit organizations to start that conversation as well as the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to begin that conversation. We want to hear

from them on what they think this model might look like for Nunavut if they are interested in participating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just can you talk about what the process is now for any citizen that does have complaints about policing in Nunavut? Who can they go to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a few options. The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, I think is probably the best option. It's an arms-length federal organization that has the ability to look into complaints with respect to the behaviour of RCMP.

There is also an option to raise complaints to the detachment commanders. But, we encourage Nunavummiut to reach out to the CRCC. Their complaint form is now available in the Department of Justice website. It's translated into Inuktitut and it's important that they know that these complaints are happening because they track the statistics and they have a direct feed to the most senior leadership in the RCMP.

And they have expertise at looking into complaints regarding members. So, the CRCC I think is the best option for Nunavummiut that complaints about the actions of an RCMP member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if a community member is considering bringing a complaint to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, what assurances or methods are in place to ensure that that community member does not experience any undue stigmatization or problems with the RCMP member that they are bringing concerns up about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Retaliation would be a code of conduct violation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that response. I'm looking for a little bit more assurance or giving the opportunity to give citizens reassurance that there wouldn't be any retaliation and that though it may be a code of conduct violation, somebody might not feel comfortable, or be able to articulate, that they feel intimidated.

I guess I'll move on and just ask: What are the time limitations on bringing a concern forward to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission? Is there any flexibility that allows for a complaint to come forward after the standard timeline, given that sometimes a community member may feel safer bringing an issue of concern forward, waiting until after a certain member has left the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. As soon as possible would be preferred to submit the complaint to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission.

But when we had the engagement with the CRCC they did mention that within one year would be good. There really wasn't a timeline, they don't really have a timeline, but they did prefer it to be done as soon as possible while the whole incident is still fresh in everyone's minds. The sooner it is done, the sooner it can be addressed, too.

But there really isn't a timeline that the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission has to receive any complaints. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When sharing the results of those complaints, when the commission is done, how are the findings used to impact national police training initiatives, allowing them to take into account the knowledge gained from looking at those issues of concern through the lens of improving policing in communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Recommendations are submitted to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and it also has to be reported as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a national police training board or organization that they're submitted to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's submitted to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** My time's up. It's good.

**Chairman:** Sorry about that. I'll go on to the next person on my list, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister and your employees.

You mentioned earlier, elders the training when they come from the south. When they come here does the department provide channels for elder advice? Are they trained culturally? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Simailak. I know that you talked about this a bit but if you can elaborate at bit more on what training is required? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Deputy Minister Mansell, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The pre-deployment training that the RCMP have set up to provide their members with cultural competency and training prior to coming to Nunavut or early when they come into Nunavut was developed with the Pirurvik Centre.

My understanding is Pirurvik Centre does work quite regularly with elders. And, they would employ elders at the Pirurvik Centre and they use their staff there too as well to provide this cultural competency training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank for the information on that. So, Chairman, does Pirurvik, I know you don't to have to get back to me so, little bit a rephrase there.

So, when the department is talking about community elders, is the department looking into hiring more elder advisors within the department itself? 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, that is in the Corrections division in the department. It's part of our business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the law enforcement that the department is actually looking into the additional funding of \$16 million and that include with the fiscal not physical but for fiscal year for 2022-23.

And, so that is why I mentioned this when there is anticipated of First Nation, Inuit Policing Program, but, when it comes out under Public Safety under the contract, well under the contract for Public Safety. I think it should be considered.

So, with that would that recommendation be at least considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Assistant Deputy Minister Young please?

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we become part of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program we also become eligible for other funding for what's called a Community Consultative Group to develop the community tripartite agreement. Those groups are developed between our department, the federal government, as well, as the communities.

So, community leaders and elders are included in that process as well. And they provide advice and recommendations and they develop the mandate that they want to see for First Nations and Inuit Policing Program members that are established in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information on that subject. On the minister's opening comment, it was addressed that there are uncontrollable costs when it comes to the fiscal budget. What are the uncontrollable costs when it comes to law enforcement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Assistant Deputy Minister Young, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the territorial police services agreement, there are various services that are provided to "V" division that are common to all

divisions in the country. Those shared resources are considered under divisional administration and that's billed at a per capita basis to the Government of Nunavut.

Those include core administration, the payment in lieu of leave, health services, and special leave for members.

In our division, special leave is one of the highest cost drivers and so those are expenses that continue to rise as those areas increase, as well as the supports provided to our division as we get more members' increases as well.

So, anytime we request new regular members now we build in the cost of divisional admin for those members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Still sticking with that fiscal budget. So is that one of the issues that when it comes to shortfall, when the department asking for additional funding, is that one of the issues when it comes to budget for shortfalls then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's because the departments never ask the additional funds that are needed ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, it was touched based with the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission. Is there a toll-free number that can be provided when it comes to individuals wants to put in a complaint? Is there a number that they can be reached at and what is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a toll-free number. The department's working to publicize that better through different means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to know that there's a toll free number.

I'm assuming... . Is the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission located here in Nunavut at least? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It's a nationally run organization, but they are working on doing some more presence in the territory. They wanted to do that sooner, but there was a budget shortfall from their end and COVID-19 was a big factor in what they wanted to do.

They are looking at doing some more public education and visiting some Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's nice to know, because when an individual decides to make a complaint for the first, I believe we're the first that they go to and so at times we have to direct them. Sometimes, no, all the time. So that's why I ask this question on if there is a number or at least a facility in Nunavut.

Saying that, Mr. Chairman, when it comes promoting public safety, how is the department addressing this? Let's say for instance, for those who are new, you know, that are graduating and in the member's statement there were a whole lot of graduates here in Nunavut. So, how is the department promoting this public safety board, or at least in recruiting these Inuit? How is the department addressing this, when it comes to public safety and then promoting youth up, you know, if they want to have a career with law enforcement? How is the department addressing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We gave that information earlier but the recruitment of Inuit members is critical to the long-term policing of Nunavut. The Department of Justice continues to support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in their efforts to recruit Inuit members and frontline employees. Any Nunavummiut who are interested in a career in policing are encouraged to take part in Royal Canadian Mounted Police initiatives.

The "V" division has the Assisted Application Training Program where they help Nunavummiut fill out the forms and take a pre-Cadet Training Program. It's a three-week training program for Indigenous individuals between the ages of 19 to 29. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I said that in their priorities for 2023-24 is that they want to put in an effort to implement community-based initiatives targeting youth.

So, I guess that's one of the initiatives when it comes to public safety. Considering that Mr. Chairman, they said the department, at least, are considering in hiring these youth for the summer student program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a department we do hire a number of summer students and it's a priority for us to bring young people into the department to expose them to everything that we do.

With respect to the RCMP, the pre-Cadet Training Program as well as the program in July that the minister spoke of is another way to get youth involved in public safety and policing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to the member, the member was asking if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police hire any summer students. I am not sure if you know that or not. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** I can't say for certain Mr. Chairman, but we could follow up.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. On the follow-up question, yes, I'm sure and I appreciate that you are going to follow up on that.

So, it was also stated that the department is upgrading the radio. There was a pilot project with the cameras with the RCMP. Is it still a pilot project or will it become mandatory as Nunavut-wide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a national rollout and is mandatory and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are currently working through the procurement phase of the process.

It is anticipated that this will be complete by the fall of 2022 and field testing will begin shortly after the contract is awarded, likely in August of 2022. Iqaluit is currently listed as one of the three communities to implement the new tool and this will eventually lead to enabling every operational member in Nunavut to be equipped with these body-worn cameras. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it is still in the early stages if I say, "Is this a positive asset? Is there a positive outcome on this or a negative outcome vice-versa?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, can the member please repeat the question?

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think the member wanted to know if it was a positive or a negative outcome of the pilot project for the body-worn camera. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We believe the department believes that it builds trust and transparency as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, for the clarity, Mr. Chairman. So, as body-worn cameras are not were not mandatory in Nunavut but, it wasn't a mandatory for nationwide and I believe we are also part of Canada. I believe it should be a mandatory when it comes to public safety and with the Emergency Preparedness Canada.

Can the department make recommendations once the new commander-in-chief is here in Nunavut to make a recommendation that it should be a mandatory. Will that also be in the consideration too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister. Sorry. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a bit of background on the rollout of body-worn cameras. So, until the pilot project in Iqaluit, no RCMP anywhere in Canada regularly wore body-worn cameras.

There was a lot of call for this in 2020 and the RCMP decided to implement a pilot project. A lot of lobbying by previous Ministers of Justice and the Department of Justice, that pilot program happened here in Nunavut which I think is very important.

In part because of the pilot program and commitments made by the Prime Minister there's now a commitment to have body-worn cameras on all RCMP across the country. Again, we have been working hard to have a commitment that again the initial national rollout will start in Nunavut which I think is very positive as well.

So, we've been one of the leaders in this in getting these in Nunavut and we are going to keep working with Public Safety Canada for the rollout and keep working to have all the members in the territory wearing the body-worn cameras when the procurements complete and when the national rollout occurs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I glad that the department is taking a lead role on this and I really appreciate it.

So, it was also a touch base with the civilian employees. Would the department be also considering in hiring civilians within the communities, not just within Iqaluit, but within the community that can actually you know take phone calls and where can I take this to or when it comes to recruitment part or when it comes to promoting these youth and going after this career. Is the department at least considering in hiring Inuit in the local level when it comes to public safety? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. That's been talked about and though about for a few years now. And, it is actually happening now. It's been happening for a few months at least. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ma'na. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and that's nice to know that the department is looking into these civilian employees within the community level.

And, so, the reason why I mentioned is that if the minister can further explain when it comes to when it comes to Inuit context under our tradition. If you can further explain what Inuit contexts are actually put in place when it comes to these RCMP coming up here you know for work. What Inuit contexts are at least categorized or at least explain to the law enforcement? That be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are civilian members and public servants total to 20 PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I have no more names on law enforcement. Just before I go on, the minister mentioned that there are civilian workers in communities. Can the minister elaborate which communities have civilian RCMP workers? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have the listing right now, but we can get back to you when we get the list from the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. We are on L-E5, Law Enforcement, Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$64,162,000. Agreed?

**Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go on to the next page. E-6, Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,040,000. Sorry. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions before we actually agree. When it comes to legal support services, in the objective on page 55 the department is looking to provide relevant legal training to government departments as appropriate. When stating that, is there a training place for Inuit trying to become a lawyer or at least thinking of becoming a lawyer at that level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have the Nunavut Law Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many of the law participants are in that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, deputy minister Mansell, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, the Nunavut Law Program began in 2017. It was a four-year program to provide students with a University of Saskatchewan law degree without having to leave the territory.

Students graduated in 2021. There were 21 students, 18 were Inuit. The Department of Justice has done its very best to hire as many of those graduates as we can and to provide them articling opportunities so they can get called to the bar. We hired 7 articling students and those students are completing their articling year so they can get called as lawyers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go back to Mr. Kaernerk, for clarification did the minister state that there is still a law program? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the confusion, but it is done. They all graduated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just follow up. Will this be implemented again in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, deputy minister, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Law Program was a joint initiative between Nunavut Arctic College, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Department of Justice. There is no commitment to have the program as an annual activity. There needs to be a review of how things went and the stakeholders need to discuss.

As well, prior to the law program, the territory had 74 resident lawyers. We have now graduated 22 new lawyers. We need to determine how all those lawyers can be absorbed into the legal community in Nunavut before we decide we are going to make 22 more.

I think the program was a great success. I look forward to welcoming all the graduates to the legal bar in Nunavut and working with them. I think there is going to be a process now to learn from the program and decide next steps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that it becomes a yearly program because the departments have a legal and constitutional law within the department and that is one division I was trying to touch base with and have a legal expertise and graduates. As you have stated, there were 21 graduates in 2021. It is just a comment.

Moving on to my other question, on page 55, they want to revise and consolidate Nunavut legislations. What kind of amendment is the department looking into when they want to maintain the consolidated Nunavut legislation? What are the issues there? I am done right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What that means is legislation over time will have various amendments and small changes. So what the legislation division does is they will publish the most up-to-date piece of legislation. It is taking into account all the amendments and all the changes. They will publish that so the public knows exactly what the most up-to-date piece of legislation is. That is an ongoing project that the legislation division continues to do.

During session and before session, they are very busy with bills and things, but when legal drafters are available they continue to work on that project. There is no legislative requirement to do that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Onto the next person on my list. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to the reference to the objective to provide relevant legal training to departments as appropriate. I am wondering if that includes training different government employees in different divisions about their statutory responsibilities in the implementation of particular acts. I will have more questions later on regarding FAIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The focus is on contracts, procurement, and ATIPP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is apparent that different divisions are struggling with the implementation of particular acts, is there a possibility that the legal support services would provide training to government employees in different divisions related to the implementation of an act if it is requested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Under Lawyer Support Services, I just have a question. I do not know if the minister will have the information. Speaking of the law program, of the first law program are there any of the graduates working in Nunavut as a lawyer? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does not know where they are at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the department have a list of lawyers that are registered to work in Nunavut? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The law society has that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Going on Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,040,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members can turn to page E-7. Registries and court services. Let's give the members a few minutes. Registries and court services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$14,024,000. Agreed? A little louder.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Okay. Next page. E-8. Corrections. Let's give the members a few minutes to get to that page. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few questions on corrections. The first question I would like to ask is when does the minister expect to table the next annual report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not a statutory requirement. The act comes into force. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Historically, the Department of Justice had tabled corrections division's annual report, which was a statutory requirement, and it has been a number of years since one of those reports were tabled. If the Department of Justice intends on producing another corrections division annual report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no statutory requirement for an annual report in the previous corrections act. It was done by the department. However, with response to the OAG getting the new corrections act underway, opening a new jail, and dealing with COVID, there have been a lot of other pressures.

The new corrections act does have a statutory requirement for an annual report for corrections. The intention is to bring the act into force start fresh and begin to table under that piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mansell for that clarification. I believe the last annual report on corrections division for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. When the act does come into force, does the department intend on continuing where it left off or will there be a gap in between annual reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell did say they would start fresh, but did you want to elaborate more on that, Mr. Mansell?

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. As the new act has specific requirements, we will start fresh with 2022-23 and move on from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. The next topic I would like to discuss is the inmate work release program. I believe it has previously been referred to as town crew. These types of employment initiatives are beneficial to correctional inmate rehabilitation, introducing them back into independent living as well as gaining skills, responsibilities, knowledge, and qualifications through employment throughout their incarceration. I was wondering if the minister might be able to put an update on the House today as to what sort of employment opportunities are being given to inmates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman. So, the member is right. We have town crew, which is an important opportunity for clients to work outside of the community. As well, we have a trades program that gives them training and prepares them for the trades when they leave the facility.

In Rankin Inlet, the Inuksuk unit, which operates in a halfway house model, allows clients to actually be in mining. We have had success in clients having full-time careers in mining when they leave the facility.

We have partnered with Qikiqtani Industry Ltd, Habitat for Humanity, and NCC to increase skills development and participation of Nunavut Inuit working at the Qikiqtaaluk Construction Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. That is really excellent to hear about all of the different opportunities that are available to inmates. Just to follow up on that question; are you able to provide some more details about how many inmates are currently taking advantage of those town crew programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that information on hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Just to give advance notice that we will be following up on this topic next year.

Looking at Greenland's newish correctional facility, I was quite surprised to see how progressive it is and the fact that they have a number of inmates ranging from medium to

maximum-level security all in one facility that does not have any bars on the windows and has more advanced programming aimed at rehabilitation as opposed to penalization. I was very surprised to see their work release program that they have available, even for the maximum-level inmates, and how beneficial it was for those inmates to take part in this program for their rehabilitation. I will be following up on that again at a later date.

I was wondering if the minister might be able to find a little bit more information about the establishment of the corrections investigations office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first request for proposal was unsuccessful. We are putting one out again soon and we will go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If the next RFP is successful, how soon can we see this office staffed or up and running? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. If it is successful, it will be as soon as we find the person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my last line of questioning, yesterday the minister had mentioned about a junior correctional caseworker being created and utilized to increase Inuit employment levels within correctional facilities. I was very happy to hear this. I think that it's an excellent opportunity for Inuit to enter the public service. I was wondering if the minister may be able to elaborate further as to how many of these positions were created. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that information on hand, but we can get back to the member.

**Chairman:** Thank you. On to the next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan priority 2022-23, there is a bullet that states begin preliminary review of a restorative model of programming in the corrections division. I am wondering if you can elaborate on that because it is not clear to

me if you actually have a restorative model in place or if you are reviewing someone else's model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a model in place, and reviewing with the relevant stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, are you already implementing restorative model programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department has become that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently, a number of us took part in a discussion on the review of the audit of corrections division. Just remind me if that was part of the audit, reviewing the model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we learned about practices that are evolving and in place within the various facilities is a move toward what is called administrative segregation in lieu of punitive segregation and I asked a question about whether or not the department has knowledge about the psychological impacts of segregation. I understand that the length of time people are segregated has shortened.

My concern is about the impact of segregation on still-growing brains. We have youth facilities and we have a number of young people who are in adult facilities whose brains are still growing. I am wondering if that would be part of your review in that restorative model programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason that we moved completely away from any sort of segregation and input restrictions on the use of segregation and our mandate is the shortest period possible is because we agree that psychological

segregation is something we want to move away from for the protection of our clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My follow up question to that was whether or not there is a difference between the lengths of time or there is a difference of impact on a growing brain depending on the length of time I think that is something very important to consider when we are growing our youth, no matter where they are.

I will just move on to a question about the priority bullet number 4 on page 63 is to begin planning and development of a community-based youth supervision programs in Nunavut. I am wondering if that is an alternative to incarcerating youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. That is correct. The intention of that type of program is to build supports in the community to possibly have community care rather than incarceration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just go back to that question of whether or not there is evidence of an impact on growing minds and related to being incarcerated for any period of time, whether it's in administrative segregation or in being incarcerated and if that move is meant to mitigate those risks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's better all around for the youth to be in their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just move on to a question to what extent our operating procedures in each facility are comparable to every facility. Is there a standard operating procedure that goes across the board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is being reviewed to make sure they are following all standard operating procedures in all facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it safe to say that an employee at the women's correctional healing facility has the same access to training and knowledge of operations that the people at the Rankin Inlet facility have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and they all go through the same pre-deployment training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to be clear, does that include people that are employed casually, do they go through the same training as indeterminate employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, everyone that is going to be on the floor has to take the pre-employment training and we are also looking at expanding to do that in Rankin Inlet as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the priorities listed under 2024-25, there is a bullet that states conduct a review of Gladue and forum practices in correctional facilities and community corrections. Can you elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Deputy Minister Mansell, through you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can say with respect to that priority, the many competing issues at corrections that have come up in the last number of years have prevented us from doing that review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On priority 2023-24 on page 64, the second to last bullet is to support government efforts to reinvest in suicide prevention and postvention programs with our partners with an emphasis on those that address root cause such as child sexual abuse, trauma, bullying, and discrimination. I am wondering if you can tell us what programs there are that are available in our facilities and whether or not all programs are available in all facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently programming space at the Aqqigiarvik facility, the following programs are the Inuit cultural skills program, Iqaluit restorative community, which is in the development stages, the hope program, elder counselling, counter-carbon program, substance abuse counselling, Inunnguiiq parenting program, Pilimmaksarniq educational program is offered to clients with an emphasis on the introductory topics on the eight Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles, inside out.

As part of the recovery, it teaches clients to problem solve and improve. There is also alcoholics anonymous, reformers unanimous, partnerships with an emphasis on addictions and recovery, recreational programming, intramural sports within the units with an emphasis on traditional games, Embrace Life men's support group, and a country food program, but its currently restricted due to COVID-19, but restrictions are being lifted as we all know.

There's a trades entrance exam, work release program, voice program, life skills program, Inunnguiiq parenting program, better father/better husband program, Aqqigiarvik correctional healing facility restorative community, on-the-job training with Pilitak construction of QCHC, and training provided by the Kakivak association, writing and resume building skills, safe food handling, workplace hazardous materials information system, worker health and safety, prevention of harassment and bullying, and prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace.

In the Rankin Inlet healing facility, they have land skills programming, traditional skills, tool making, spousal abuse/anger management, alcohol and drug program, elder visitation and counselling, spiritual service and bible studies, first aid, kitchen worker program and kitchen skills program, ice gathering for the community, health services, Nunavut parks summer work program, educational opportunities, carpentry, soapstone carving, work assignments, better father/better husband programming, men's group, town crew with the Rankin Inlet housing association, the Pilimmaksarniq educational program, sewing, and Inunnguiiq (how to make a better person).

In addition to the programs referenced above, the Inuksuk, or open unit, is a transitional unit run in the halfway house concept for clients to look for work in the community or attend training events that will assist them in obtaining employment release at the Utaqqivik residential centre. Utaqqivik is a halfway house.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sorry. Minister, if you can be thoughtful of the interpreters. The minister is speaking too fast and the interpreters are having a hard time keeping up. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was it, and sorry to the interpreters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for providing that comprehensive list of programming. I am just wondering if all of those programs are available to all people housed in the facilities, whether they are on remand or they are serving a sentence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Programming is available for both remand and sentenced. However, depending on security rating, not all clients would be eligible for programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to that review of that Gladue in forum practices. The statement was that due to all sorts of reasons, it has not begun. How confident can we be that that review would begin in 2024-25? If you can let me know, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to try to live up to the commitment. We cannot commit to that right now, but we are going to try. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list under corrections. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$43,493,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members can move to the next page. Community justice. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department's draft 2022-23 main estimates indicates that the number of positions in the department community justice branch is increasing from 34.0 PYs in that year in the 2021-22 fiscal year to 37.0 PYs in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is an increase of 8.8 per cent. What new positions are being created? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are three community justice outreach workers that have been approved for the following communities: Kugluktuk, Sanikiluaq, and Qausuittuq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends). Your department's 2021-24 business plan indicated that it has completed an evaluation on victim assistance. What were the results of the evaluation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was some difficulty with the fund due to federal legislation. However, that had been worked out. We reviewed the fund. We were able to re-establish the committee and do a call out for proposals under the fund. They are just being reviewed now. Additional questions are being asked of the proposals and then we hope to be able to provide that funding in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for the response. (interpretation ends) The department's 2021-24 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2021-22 fiscal year was to continue to assist justice committees in providing community-based justice and healing programs in order to address family violence and to divert a case in the form of a case from the formal criminal justice as of today. Which communities do not have a functional community justice committee? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, inactive justice committees for the communities are Kimmirut, Kinngait, Clyde River, Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour, and Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I wonder why they do not have community justice committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were not enough volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 66 that one of its priorities for 2022-23 fiscal year is to continue training in development of community justice outreach workers in all communities. As of today, which communities do not have resident community justice outreach workers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay. Currently, the ones that do not have a community justice outreach worker are Grise Fiord, Sanikiluaq, and Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. They provide programming for communities and support those that are going to court. Why do they not have an outreach worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are either capacity issues or office-based issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2022-24 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2021-22 fiscal year was to continue legislative processes for family abuse intervention act and territorial office legislation for necessary updates. What specific amendments are being considered and what is the timeline for the introduction in the legislative assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultations were just concluded. Now we have to go back and review what was submitted to the consultations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) In March of 2022, your department issued a public service announcement concerning community consultations in Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. In which other communities will the consultations be held? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would give us a minute? Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, sorry for the delay. The following communities were visited for the consultations: Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Sanirajak, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, and Naujaat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Here, it says your priority for 2022-23, under the second bullet (interpretation ends) “Continue to assist justice committees to provide community-based justice and healing programs in order address family violence and to divert cases from the formal criminal justice system.”

(interpretation) How many people have gone through this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don’t have that number on hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation) The next person on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask, under this section in the business plan (interpretation ends) under bullet two, “To seek advice and assistance of elders in the communities on how best provide alternative justice using traditional law methods.”

As stated like that, “assistance of elders in the communities” but there’s always a big issue of the language barrier between the elders and the policing, because most of the communities don’t have office translators. So how are you dealing with this?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department provides funding through public service to have bilingual services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) For clarity then, the member asked if there was translators in the communities in the detachments. Are there translators in the communities in the department through this funding? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the confusion. No, we do not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget increase is larger than 2021-22. One of the problems in the communities is no phone available in town where there is no translation service, they end up looking for translator either through the hamlets. They end up looking for translators even from people that are walking by whether they can translate in a situation.

So, this is a problem that has to be dealt with. Can you speak to this and it is a real concern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think that was just a statement but if Mr. Mansell can reply to that. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community Justice does have community justice outreach workers and specialists in the communities. The minister named a few communities that don't have CJOWS.

The large majority of our CJOWS are Inuit and speak Inuktitut. If the member is referring to RCMP dispatch, we do have one bilingual applicant currently going through the OCC training and procedures in place to get someone who can speak Inuktitut if a unilingual person calls into OCC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that information. My next question is in regards to the courts and, the need to work together and see where things have to be revamped at the community level regarding the community justice committees.

So, that the clients will know exactly what process will be used? 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. If I am correct we're referring to the community justice process, the diversion process with clients. How that process works it's a pre or post referral of charges and that come from the RCMP or the Crown to the Community Justice Committee. And the Community Justice Committee themselves works with the clients once they receive a file they review it and then they contact the offender.

There is normally someone who can speak in English or Inuktitut depending on the requirements of the client themselves.

So, it's actually then the responsibility of the committee or the community justice outreach worker and their capacity to provide support in the language of the client is much higher than the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, a very simple question now is that before or after with court party, meeting with community justice committee, with Crown prosecutor. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It can be either for community justice committees. They can be before they go to court or after they have been charged. The interaction is normally with the RCMP first, but once there is a charge with the RCMP, the clients are also provided with support from the Legal Services Board, a lawyer as well, and they can provide that support and information to their clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to get more clarification on a concern from the community justice committee. It's that it always shows most of the time at the court hearing and being present that there's not much communication being done through the court party to work with or have a meeting with the justice committee.

A lot of files that we hear at the court when listening on the floor, some of them are very, what.... (interpretation) I'll speak in Inuktitut. Some of the cases should be referred right away to the community justice committees. (interpretation ends) This is more just that I'm bringing this up as a concern from my constituents to your department. It really needs to be seriously given attention, to work with Nunavummiut community justice committee. That's more of a comment and concern that really needs to be addressed.

(interpretation) And looking at the budget, there is a slight increase, if we're looking at the last year's numbers. Are you going to be providing programs or services that are more Nunavut friendly? I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. This increase is all salary based for the three communities that have been approved for community justice outreach workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I could just get a clarification for the member earlier when Ms. Young said that they can be dealt with before court or after charge. Can you elaborate on what the difference is between before court and after being charged?

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the assistant deputy minister can answer that better. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of our community justice committees, they can be referred pre or post charges, and that information and the work that's done by those clients, and the work is done by bringing the clients and the individuals who have been harmed by the behaviour of the client together, to restore that relationship. Sometimes it can prevent charges from occurring. Sometimes the work that's done, the programming and the healing that occurs can be considered once they go through the court process.

Our department also runs the Therapeutic Justice Program, which is a post-charge program that can support clients post-charge and that is in Cambridge Bay and Arviat as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) for the explanation and recognizing the clock. We will break for lunch until 13:30.

>>*Committee recessed at 11:54 and resumed at 13:29*

**Chairman:** Good afternoon. I would like to welcome everybody back to our committee meeting. We are doing the Department of Justice. We are on the last branch, Community Justice. On the next person on my list is Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back everybody. I would just like to talk about the business plan 2021-24 that indicated that the 2021-22 fiscal year was to continue legislative process for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and territorial offenses legislation for necessary updates. I'm just wondering if you can talk about what that involved.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spoke about that already, community consultations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Okay, so they were only community consultations. Was or were there reviews within the department and inter-departmentally about the implementation of that Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, as part of the consultation process we talked to community members but we also talked to frontline stakeholders that have a role to play in the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. As well, as users.

The next step is to analysis all the feedback and do the necessary policy work and determine what amendments would be necessary to ensure that the Act is meeting the needs of our clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for elaborating on that. What I am curious about is what that internal consultation turned up in regards to the barriers to implementing various parts of the Act and more specifically about the use of emergency protection orders that remove violent individuals from households and where who is responsible within the implementation of the Act to provide options for temporary housing for those people who are removed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mansell:** I know that is a concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that is a concern that we've heard in the past under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. There is a separation and one person is usually asked to leave the home. We're still going back and we are in the early processes of reviewing that we've heard in the consultation.

But, that may been something we've heard, obviously that would be worked with other stakeholders, the department doesn't have a lot of facilities in communities to provide alternative accommodations.

So, if that is a concern that would be a multi-party resolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you. The reason I ask you specifically is because in a response earlier this week I was told, we were told that the Department of Justice is responsible for arranging housing for those people who are removed temporarily.

I can tell you that in my knowledge and personal experience with using the emergency protection order that that when a person is removed from the household there is a scramble to find a spot for that person to be.

And that person may end up couch surfing with family members who are related to, we'll say their spouse, and there is often pressure for the person who took the... . Who initiated the emergency protection order to resolve things quickly in order to alleviate the impact of having somebody having their relying on family members or community members to house them during this period which is meant to prove a safety net for the people who are targets of the abuse.

And to me it seems that if we are to ensure the safety of the individuals who are targets, which is at the core of the creation of this legislation, that we should take every measure to alleviate the stress or the onus on the person who has initiated that emergency

protection order to make it possible for that abusive person to return. The reason that we need to house these people is so that violence does not escalate. What we know about violence, and especially about family violence in Nunavut, is that it often escalates and it can lead to death.

In the spirit of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, I think it's imperative that when we sit in this House and ask these types of questions that our leaders assure that every measure is being taken to implement the entire spirit of that Act in order to save lives.

I very strongly urge the department to work with other interdepartmental stakeholders to come back to us, rather quickly, with a plan to house those people who are removed due to emergency protections orders, or any order, that is meant to keep a family safe. Thank you. I'll move on.

When that review is being undertaken of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, I would like to know whether or not the Department of Justice is looking at the 231 calls for justice from the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls inquiry, and reviewing which calls to justice are relevant to protecting Inuit women and other Indigenous women, all women in Nunavut and looking at the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* legislation update through that lens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to the report and recommendation of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the department does track the recommendations that were made that are relevant to public safety and the Department of Justice as a whole.

In terms of supporting that work, we do have a family information liaison unit that exists within the department under our Community Justice Division and they work with families of individuals who have been affected by these crimes.

They do various work, such as providing information to families regarding investigations of their family members. They do private family healing sessions with these families, they do group healing workshops, and they also have participated in and facilitated celebration of life ceremonies.

This is federal funding that has been provided to our department and has been continued on until 2023.

In addition to that, there are various recommendations that have been made to policing in Indigenous and Inuit communities. We work closely with our partners, Public Safety, as well as the RCMP, in implementing plans and solutions for those recommendations as well.

I believe we have very positive outcomes that are coming from this including the expansion, hopefully, of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, as well as other community-based initiatives.

We are also looking at civilian-based recommendations and oversight bodies that can support this work as well. We will continue to monitor this and support the lead department on this file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second bullet on page 66 under the priorities for 2022-23 indicates “The continue to assist justice committees to provide community-based justice and healing programs in order to address family violence and to divert cases from the formal criminal justice system.”

Under the community justice program, we know that there is the administration of the victim assistance fund and also providing support services to victims of crime and facilitating the work of the Victims Assistance Committee.

I wonder if you could talk a little bit more about how that... . Is that a territorial-wide victims’ assistance committee? Are there community-level committees? And, how do they interact with the community justice committees in order to meet that priority that I just read, bullet 2? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is territorial-wide and there are three programs: the Victim Travel Support Program, the Victims of Crime, Victim of Crime Emergency Fund, and the Victim Assistance Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that. These are to me, these are two really important committees and I would like the minister to answer how the Victims Assistance Committee interacts with the community justice committee, if at all, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Victims Assistance Committee is established under legislation and the primary role of that committee at this point is to oversee the Victims Assistance Fund that provides support and implementation of programming in communities through callouts and grants and contributions providing funding for community-based programming.

At this point, there's no formal interaction between the committees but the individuals on the committee. There is one person who worked in the Victim Services section of Community Justice. So, inherently they are all connected. And then our community outreach workers, who are supported by specialists and a manager, all work very closely on those same initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to bullet 6 under the 2022-23 priorities, which is "To deliver vicarious trauma learning module to all community justice frontline staff and justice committees." Can you talk to us a little bit about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Could you give us a minute? Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Thank you for the patience, Mr. Chairman. To deliver a vicarious trauma learning module to all community justice frontline staff and justice committees. There's a trauma and self-care training module that has been developed for frontline staff.

Training sessions delivered to all community outreach workers and community justice specialists in March of 2022 including compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burn-out, self-care strategies, low-impact debriefing, and establishing and maintaining workplace wellness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the nature of the work that correctional workers do, do they have additional leave days available to them that relate to that to being trauma informed and self-care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there are no additional personal days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder as well, I think this is a really important... I'm really happy that this happens and what I'm wondering about as well is what kind of additional vicarious trauma care is given or available to clients who may experience vicarious trauma in our facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a mental health team and we also work with the Department of Health to assist our staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** My last question will go back to the review of the legislative process for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and specifically, the implementation in 2024-25 states “Implement systemic changes for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* program legislation, regulations, policies and procedures in collaboration with the Policy and Planning Division.”

What I’m wondering about is to go back to Justice’s responsibilities related to the coroner and I’m wondering if this whole process includes death reviews, whether or not there have been any recent death reviews related to violence, whether it’s family violence or otherwise, and if not is it possible to do that in order to inform the update of this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Coroner’s Office participated in a research program with the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with the vulnerable population.

The goal is to identify risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide-suicides in Nunavut to gather evidence-based information on effective risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning strategies in order to prevent lethal domestic violence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Next person on my list, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Good afternoon, I’ll be short with my questions. As your deputy mentioned the community legal team, what I want to be clear about is their within Nunavut, being inside Nunavut, for example Sanirajak and Igloolik. You have (interpretation ends) community justice specialist. As he said it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** If you’ll give me a second here, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience. Both Sanirajak and Igloolik are filled by a community justice outreach worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) My intention, when Mr. Mansell mentioned there are these community justice specialists in Nunavut, I was thinking “Oh, there is community justice in each of the 25 communities” but if the minister can further explain: Are these positions just in the regional hubs or are they within the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The specialists are in the regional hubs and they help and supervise all the community justice outreach workers in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for clarifying that.

(interpretation ends) When it comes to offenders that are held at the Akausisarvik, once their sentence is done, how does Corrections collaborate with Community Justice when they are reintegrated into their communities? How does the collaborating working relationship work between Corrections and Community Justice when inmates or offenders are sent back home when they are on probation and whatnot or conditions are put in place? How does Community Justice play a role in this part? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Deputy Minister Mansell, please.

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

**Mr. Mansell**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supervision upon release from one of our facilities is carried out by our community corrections officers. We currently have community corrections officers located in 16 communities and we are working on staffing in Igloolik, Baker Lake, Kinngait, Rankin Inlet, and Sanikiluaq.

Any community that doesn't have a community corrections officer in their community is supervised by another community with regular check-ins.

In December 2016 Corrections launched a discharge and release plan for clients who were being released from custody back into their communities and who are on probation order. This initiative helps clients by providing a continuum of care. Corrections plans to enhance this program to provide more information to our partner organizations within each community in the hopes that all organizations will work together.

So prior to release, and upon release, Corrections is working with community stakeholders and that would include Community Justice. In a number of communities the CJOWs and the CCOs actually share an office space, so there is dialogue there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The interpreters might not know all of the acronyms, so if we can stay away from acronyms. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. With the community justice outreach workers you referred to, when counselling is required, do they give that support as well?

(interpretation ends) When it comes to helping these offenders with counselling, for those communities that have no community probation officers, does the community justice outreach worker have a role, and if they do, what kind? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our divisions of Community Justice and Corrections actually work very closely together to support our clients as well as victims who have been impacted by crimes as well.

When they start the planning process, which begins at the time a client enters our facility, they include all of the supports and assessment. Through their assessments, they identify all the supports that might be needed by a client. There are many times that our clients leave our correctional facilities and they also do not have a probation order, so they wouldn't be under the supervision of a community correction officer either.

At this point, community justice workers provide support in identifying supports within communities for these individuals and they do reach out.

Unfortunately, it's not mandated in those cases and all they can do is provide support. In those cases, the community justice outreach workers also make sure that they support the victims of crime so that they are aware when individuals are coming back to the communities as well so that they can provide support.

There is a full spectrum of support that is provided for our correctional clients as well as victims of crime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can remind everyone here to be mindful of the interpreters and the speed of which we speak. They have to interpret simultaneously. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, speaking about victims of.... It was a little bit touch base with those victim assistance committees. Does each community have

a member on the victims assistance committee? If not, how many are involved in this victims assistance committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Victims assistance committee is actually a three person committee and we sought representation from each of the regions to sit on that committee.

Again, that's committee that oversees the Victims assistance fund that puts callouts for proposals to provide funding to community-based organizations to implement crime prevention programming in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the information. Do they travel here or do the victim assistance coordinators travel to the communities? How does it go? Are they on a teleconference, Zooming, how does it play out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee will meet when they can and the staff will travel when they come to offer assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take that as they go on a teleconference and so, in saying that Mr. Chairman, does the department give consideration to expand the committee? Since there are victims throughout Nunavut within 25 communities, is the department considering to at least have more victims assistance committees involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Justice oversees various committees related to victims.

So just for some clarification, the victims assistance committee is a committee that oversees funding for proposals that come from communities. They do community-based callouts and seek proposals from communities for funding.

Our community justice outreach workers and community justice specialists can support communities in putting together these proposals, but that funding and support does not go directly to victims. It's funding for crime prevention initiatives.

Our community justice committees exist in all of our communities. They are in the communities themselves, and they provide support directly to the clients and the victims of crime.

In terms of the support directly for victims and our clients, those are in the communities themselves, but for the victims assistance committee, that's a committee that's set solely to review proposals to provide funding to community-based programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if they meet on a monthly basis, just reviewing proposals.... Since you touched base on a victim assistance fund, was there any disbursement from the fund last fiscal year? Was there any disbursement fund that was actually granted under what the assistant deputy mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the fund was depleted and we just, we were doing a call for proposals after we finished reviewing the past practice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation) Just before I go on to it, for clarification, the member asked if last year's funds, if any funds went out, and the minister stated that there were no funds. How were there no funds if there were no funds given out? Just a clarification, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the confusion. The assistant deputy minister can respond to that, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Young.

**Ms. Young:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. There was a review of the Victims Assistance Fund to ensure that we had stable funds coming in from the federal government through programming that we had. Once we confirmed that the Victims Assistance Fund was viable moving forward, we were able to restart that program. So during the review period, we did not hand out any funds to the community. Once we assured that funds would be stabilized, we got the committee up and running again with the three regional members and did a call out for proposals. We're currently in the process of reviewing those proposals with the community-based partners who've provided them to us. We look forward to providing those funds in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation) Thanks for the clarification. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I greatly appreciate you clarifying my question. Moving on to another question, and I'll leave that part for now, looking at your business plan for the Inuit Employment Plan here; let me focus on the executive or the director's position, only here in Iqaluit. Since it's the Community Justice Division is here in Iqaluit, are all the positions in that division filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department decentralized the management positions to Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Isn't it supposed to be here in Iqaluit rather than in a regional office, because Iqaluit is the headquarters? I don't get why they are in Cambridge Bay and the other community you mentioned. Wasn't it supposed to be here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Community Justice Division had some openings in our senior management, director, and manager level. We have excellent staff at Community Justice outside of Iqaluit, in the communities and their staff, who love their community and weren't interested in moving to Iqaluit, and we sought permission from cabinet and approval to allow those positions to move to those communities.

It has worked very well. It's actually been beneficial to have senior managers decentralized, and through teams and conference calls, we haven't experienced any issues with that and we're very happy to have those hard-working staff in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the information. I figured that position would be more suitable if it was here since the majority of the employees are in this community, in Iqaluit.

In saying that, I'm still with the Inuit Employment Plan. The department is looking into accessing the Sivuliqtiksat intern program for various positions within the division. How far is the department on this initiative when it comes to various positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is currently concentrating on the assistant deputy warden positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a timeframe for that position to be rolled into? What's the timeframe there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is working with the Department of Human Resources and we're hoping it will be completed within the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions, but I would like to make a recommendation here if it can be considered for these various positions. When it's in the business plan, I'm thinking that at least when there's a job offering or job advertisement, I'm sure there are capable people that would be willing to move here or there, so when it comes to these various positions and when looking at the Sivuliqtiksat, Internship Program, I would like to see my two communities be more considered because I am sure there are very good Sivuliqtiksat in those communities. Can that be put into consideration? It's not a question; just a comment if it can be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Simailak, I'm not sure if you want to comment on that or just move on. Okay, next person on my list, Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Huh? Me again?

>>*Laughter*

**Chairman:** Sorry. Quqqiaq

>>*Laughter*

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have maybe two lines of questioning, or just one. In the priorities 2022-23, and priorities 2023-24, bullet 4, "Continue to work collaboratively with the Corrections Division to support offenders as they reintegrate into their communities at the completion of their sentence."

Mr. Chairman, this is a known fact that I know, that I have known about one offender that went into the system, and then after the completion of his sentence, when he was

released, he had a public housing unit, but then when he returned, he had no public housing unit, no home to go to.

To prevent recidivism, I think what would work great is if an offender had a public housing unit, to make sure that when he gets back home, and to prevent being a burden to families, he should have a home to call home when he gets back home.

This is a known fact too that when they are going to be remanded into custody; before being remanded into custody, there would be a phone call to a family member in another community and the question would be asked “Can I stay at your place?” There are lot of them that, and it’s a known fact that they would say no. It’s the fact that they are being charged with a crime and the nature of the crime might be something that the family doesn’t want to take in the individual, even though it’s a family member.

So saying that, would the Corrections Division support the offender when they get back home to make sure they have the public housing unit back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s my only line of question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The committee is fully aware that the Department of Justice does not have any control over housing issues in the communities, but if the minister wants to comment on this as it is related to community justice. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m just going to say that Justice has no control over the Nunavut Housing Corporation policies. It’s up to Nunavut Housing Corp. or the local housing authorization to allow that or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for the response. I highly recommend that the Corrections Division work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation if they are to support offenders when they reintegrate back into their communities, so that way the community would be a lot safer and the family would be a lot happier. That way they wouldn’t become a burden to the residents of the communities when they are reintegrated back into their communities.

Would that be a possibility, if work you can with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make sure the offenders get their units back when they are reintegrated back into their communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and that is my last question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, no that would not be prudent I don’t think. 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 received conflicting answers from two ministers on an issue that I raised today and on another day.

Mr. Chairman, they seem to be passing the buck at the cost, and the cost of that is immeasurable grief and trauma for those families who are impacted when families aren't fully supported in breaking the cycle of violence.

Mr. Chairman, I will be asking the Premier during oral question time what is the correct answer to the issues that I raised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Ma'na.* I didn't see a question targeted to the minister at all, the Minister of Justice. So do you have any further question, Ms. Brewster? *Ma'na.* I shall go on to the next person on my list. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question I would like to ask (interpretation ends) with regard to the *Family Intervention Act*. When a victim applies for an emergency protection order or CIO, when that carries and then when it is approved, then the offender is removed from the occupancy from the household.... .

Now I want to briefly bring this up. (interpretation) Perhaps I will say this in Inuktitut. The person inflicting abuse on perhaps their partner, children, grandparents, through that, once the form has been filled out and a hearing has taken place, as the process goes, there is some discussion and after that phase where the offender is evicted, and my question, from what I have seen as I have worked in this area, how is it today for communities' support for safe homes where they can assign a safe shelter that can be used? Are you in support? Is this program running or not running in our government through the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Justice does not operate shelters or run shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member was asking about funds and shelters being helped in the communities. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that's operated by the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's now clear that your department has released this. It was created at one point for where it can be.... . When the

*Family Abuse Intervention Act* was implemented, it was part of that. I remember that. Safe homes were part of that. There was funding for people who need counselling too. I understand it now that your department has released it or has given it to another department. I understand that now and that's why I asked that question. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list for Community Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,668,000. Agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, go back to E-3. Total Expenditures for the Department of Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$158,478,000. Agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank minister and his officials for all the tough questions that have been here and the Department of Justice is a heart-wrenching department at times. Minister, do you have any brief closing comments?

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the committee as well for all your questions and comments. Hearing the intricacies from your constituencies does help the department understand the needs and wants in your constituencies and we hope to be able to help fill some of these services that are needed.

I would also like to say “thank you” to my officials who were able to help me out these last few days and to all the people behind the scenes that have helped prepare for these committee meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. We will take a five-minute break before we deal with Finance.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:19 and resumed at 14:26*

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

**Chairman:** Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I do, sir.

**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 Kusugak, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The officials are coming in as I speak. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance. If you could do the musical chairs...

>>*Laughter*

I'm never wrong, by the way.

>>*Laughter*

To my right is Jeff Chown, my deputy minister, and to my left is another Young, brother of the previous, with us is Daniel Young, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

Colleagues, members, Mr. Chairman, I am here to discuss the Department of Finance's 2022-23 Main Estimates and Business Plan.

As a central agency, the Department of Finance supports core financial governance and administrative functions so other departments and public agencies can deliver programs and services to Nunavummiut.

We are seeking to appropriate \$102.95 million for our operations in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is the same amount of funding the Assembly approved for the Department of Finance in 2021-22.

Of our total budget, \$27.7 million relates to the compensation and benefits costs of paying our 198 approved Vote 1 positions. We have not added to our core team's size in years.

The department requires \$3.5 million for other operations and maintenance costs. The largest share of our proposed budget is to pay for centrally administered funds. The Department of Finance manages these expenses on behalf of the wider government.

Specifically, we are seeking \$71.8 million for the following central expenses:

- \$25 million for employee medical travel. We are reducing this from \$28.3 million we budgeted in 2021-22. Reducing this budget represents a return to a pre-COVID “normal.”
- \$17.6 million for energy subsidies, including the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program and the Nunavut Carbon Rebate. This is up \$1.5 million over last year.
- \$10.1 million to pay for the government’s insurance premiums. This is about \$1.3 million more than last year.
- \$8.9 million for the costs we pay as an employer to the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission. We need to increase this budget by about \$600,000 to cover increasing employer rates.
- \$7.7 million for accounting expenses related to post-retirement employee benefits; and
- \$2.1 million for the Nunavut Child Benefit, a grant paid to low-income families with children through the income tax system.

By reducing our employee medical travel budget by \$3.3 million, we can manage other cost increases within the same overall amount as last year.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my comments. I am available to take questions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Hickes, please proceed.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and the '22-26 Business Plan of the Department of Finance.

The department’s proposed '22-23 operations and maintenance budget is \$102,953,000. This is unchanged from the '21-22 fiscal year. The number of positions in the department remains unchanged at 231 PYs.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee.

The Department of Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has responsibility is the size of the public service. The total number of positions in the government continues to increase. The government’s proposed '22-23 main estimates indicate that there are

approximately 5,354 positions in the government's departments and major public agencies and territorial corporations, excluding the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Chairman and members, this represents an increase of approximately 230 positions over the number accounted for in the '21-22 main estimates and an increase of approximately 537 positions from the '18-19 main estimates.

It is important for the Financial Management Board to be mindful of the need to control the growth in the number of government positions being added to organizational charts at a time when departments, public agencies, and territorial corporations continue to face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies. It is also important to note that approximately one-third of the government's total operations and maintenance spending is now allocated to compensation and benefits for its own workforce. For the '22-23 fiscal year, this amounts to over half a billion dollars.

The '21-22 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the boards of directors of the government's major public agencies and territorial corporations were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2021. The responses to the letters of expectation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the same day. The standing committee notes that the letters of expectation and responses made reference to the recent creation of a new Territorial Corporations Committee. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of the '22-23 Letters of Expectation and their responses.

Mr. Chairman and members, the department's draft '22-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the '23-24 fiscal year is to "Establish formal memoranda of understanding between all territorial corporations and the Government of Nunavut to ensure efficient and effective administration of operations." The standing committee will be monitoring progress in this area.

The department's draft '22-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the '22-23 fiscal year is to "Undertake a review of [the] Nunavut Household Allowance program as a tool to encourage employees to move from Government of Nunavut staff housing into private market rental units or homes of their own." The extent to which this review will also introducing a new down-payment assistance program for Government of Nunavut employees is unclear.

On November 8, 2016, *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's '21-24 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the '21-22 fiscal year was to "Conduct a review to identify impacts of the Iqaluit's beer and wine store on nearby communities." Members look forward to the minister tabling the results of this review in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman and members, the standing committee also notes that the department's draft '22-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Research and develop agency store agreements to explore new ways to serve smaller communities." Members emphasize the importance of ensuring that any decision to allow

in-person, over-the-counter retail sales of alcohol in a Nunavut community is based on the results of a formal plebiscite, as have been held in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet.

The department's draft '22-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the '22-23 fiscal year is to "review the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program for residential and commercial customers." Mr. Chairman and members, the extent to which the timing of this review will align with the Qulliq Energy Corporation's recently submitted general rate application is unclear.

The department's 2019-2020 main estimates and the '19-22 business plan reflected the creation of a new Financial Management Development Division. Its purpose is to "build financial capacity across the government, with an emphasis on increasing Inuit participation in financial [management] careers." Mr. Chairman and members, the division's proposed budget for the '22-23 fiscal year is \$1,005,000. The standing committee strongly supports initiatives in this area.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed '22-23 Main Estimates and the '22-26 Business Plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do any members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? I have no names, so we will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the Department of Finance's estimates, starting on C-4. Corporate Management. I'll just give members a few minutes here. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,576,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, turn to the next page. Fiscal Management. C-5. Any questions? I'll just give members a few minutes. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're not getting away that easily, Mr. Kusugak.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I thank you first of all, minister, for your appearance and your officials.

The Department of Finance's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 20 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Undertake a review of [the] Nunavut Household Allowance program as a tool to encourage employees to move from Government of Nunavut staff housing into private market rental units or homes of their

own.” What specific changes to the program are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the *Katujjiluta* mandate priority to expand the housing continuum, we’re continuing to recognize the importance of making it easier for Nunavummiut to move out of staff housing and into their own homes. Currently the GN employees in staff housing pay a much lower rent than employees who receive the Northern Allowance and in market living.

We will undertake and we are continuing to undertake the household allowance to determine how it can better support employees living in market housing. We’re continuing to take a look at that and actually in that, we will take another look at possibly reintroducing a down-payment assistance program through that of some sort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the answer. To what extent is the Department of Finance working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to encourage homeownership for residents who are not Government of Nunavut employees? That will be my last question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been talking with the housing minister, he’s quite an interesting guy, and we have been working with him to see where we could work with the Department of Finance and other departments to see where we can encourage and create a housing program that would benefit Nunavummiut and work with potential homeowners and buyers within the Government of Nunavut. That work is continuing through the housing corporation, as that’s their portfolio, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your deputy minister. I have a question here. (interpretation ends) Your department’s draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 23 that one of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission’s priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to “Begin the process to provide local access to lower-alcohol content products (such as beer, wine, ciders and coolers) in Cambridge Bay.” What is the timeline for opening a beer and wine store in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Cambridge Bay question, we are still taking a look at that. We are just half a year into the liquor store in Rankin Inlet and as we move forward, we're still trying to see what kind of a system would work in Cambridge Bay community-specific. We're still taking a look at that. We don't have an identified hard start date for that community, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 23 that one of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Research and develop agency store agreements to explore new ways to serve smaller communities." Does that mean that your department is considering over-the-counter sales of alcohol to residents of communities other than Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. The commission is still working on this direction and currently we're looking at seeing what kinds of programs and policies and directives are in place across the country where different kinds of municipalities and small communities have liquor outlets and beer outlets. We're trying to gather as much information across the country and see where that kind of work can benefit our communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) In that case, are you working with Family Services or the Department of Health to have programs to better their lives in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very interesting question, and yes, we do. I think it's important, especially when it comes to alcohol and substances and tobacco that if we are going to move forward on any of these actions we have to work very closely with the departments that deal with family services and family wellness and also the communities that these are going into and work with. Those communities have different members and committees, so it is important that we do work with them and communicate with them, and timing of that is important.

We won't do them right up front but as we progress through this stage, we will definitely include all those departments, agencies, and community interest groups that will be affected by whatever decisions that may be coming down the line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister. That is a concerning subject for the people of Nunavut, especially as there are not enough services being made available. (interpretation ends) Are we going to send our Inuit down south for healing from trauma? (interpretation) Those have to be seriously considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, absolutely. I agree with you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister. (Interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plans indicates on page 24 that one of the Nunavut Liquor Cannabis Commission priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is "Take steps to further implement recommendations from the "Halting the Harm" report relating to the responsible sales of liquor." What specific recommendations does your department plan to implement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is ongoing. The Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission is seeking ways to liberalize access to legal products and combat the illicit market. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As of today, how many applicants have been approved and how many have not been approved for cannabis retail? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you. Right now, that's under a different branch, but as of right now, we have one approved and I believe we are reviewing another one at this time. 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 24 that one of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Promote and implement the Ujjiqsuqtu Community Grants and Contribution policy and funding to

community organizations in an effort to broaden harm reduction initiatives and promote public education initiatives at the local level.”

As of today, how many applicants for support under this program have been received by your department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far we've had one application for the community grant and we are continuing to work through this directive. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for that information. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2022-26 business plan, on page 24 states that one of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's priorities for 2022-23 fiscal year is to “modernize the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's approach to procurement.” What specific issues with the Commission's current approach have been identified? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time the normal procurement process doesn't work well or fit in with the liquor and cannabis procurement so we are working directly with the vendors to see how our procurement practices could work better and compliment the procurement of alcohol and cannabis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. What specific changes to the Commission's current approach to procurement are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As in the previous answer, we are taking a look at dealing with the procurement of alcohol and cannabis as different than procuring other goods and services. We're taking at that and to see through Justice and to ensure that the laws and acts are followed adequately so that the procurement process follows the strict rules, regulations, and laws pertaining to procurement of alcohol and drugs in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list under Fiscal Management. Sorry, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague was asking questions about these smaller communities and possible availability of beer and wine. Has any consideration been given to if (interpretation ends) the government will be running the stores or it will be run by public bodies? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to remind you, we're in the preparation phase in case there might be community that is interested. There is currently a beer and wine store in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and in the Kitikmeot the Cambridge Bay beer and wine store is underway. There could be a community that decides they do want a beer and wine store. If a plebiscite is held and the result is that the community does want to have a beer and wine store, that would have to move ahead.

We are thinking ahead on that process in consideration of the fact that community may want to get a beer and wine store, we want due process to be already established for that purpose and we are being proactive on that.

If we are to look ahead, where we are at this stage, the community consultations would be done on what they envision moving forward, Mr. Chairman. I am not saying that we are going to see a beer and wine store established right away tomorrow, but we are just in the preparation phase just in case.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that response. I raise this question because lack of housing in Nunavut and there would have to be a capital project towards a warehouse if a community decides that they want a beer and wine store. In light of that, what consideration has been given to whether or not the government would be running the beer and wine store or would it be a private business? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that the answer to this has been given already, but Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not there yet, we're not making decisions like which community wants a beer and wine, do we need to build a warehouse, and who's going to run it. We're not there yet. We're just putting in place certain things in view that a community may decide to have a beer and wine store.

We want to have that process started out in case a community decides to have a beer and wine store. If a community were to decide that it wants to have a beer and wine store, we would have to start discussing those questions, like would we need a warehouse and so forth. We are not there yet, but we are starting to plan in case that happens.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I still have names on my list, but we will be taking a break. (interpretation ends) We will take a 30-minute break for the Commissioner's event, 30 minutes.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:57 and resumed at 15:33*

**Chairman:** Welcome back to our committee. I would like to restart our committee meeting and we're on Department of Finance. C-5. Fiscal Management. The last name on my list: Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me put myself to an exercise when we're on fiscal management.

In the priorities for 2022-23 on page 22, the department would like to review the Tobacco Act and the Petroleum Products Act for potential updates. When will the minister give us an update on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We should have something to deal with those questions by the fall, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few more questions here. In the next bullet here on the same page with the same priorities for 2022, the department would like to "Introduce a Liquor Tax Act to align with the review of the *Liquor Act*." When is the minister going to introduce this Liquor Tax Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut is among a few jurisdictions in Canada that do not have a liquor tax or a tax on liquor products. Adopting a liquor tax would generate public revenues to support the government services and programs. The Act will be introduced during this session, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. Yes, we know that Nunavut is the only jurisdiction without a Liquor Tax Act.

(interpretation) I would now like to follow up on a question that was asked earlier about cannabis products. They have to do plebiscites to get approved in the communities through the hamlet. You can tell me if I'm wrong. Is that the process for cannabis products? Do you require a plebiscite for that process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are plebiscites for alcohol purposes, if you're going to sell or change the status of a community or whether it's prohibited. If there is a request for a business to sell cannabis products, it's not done through a plebiscite, but they do consult the community to get their feedback on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,201,000. Agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: I would like the members to move to the next page there. C-6. Comptroller. I'll just give you a few minutes to find it. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only two questions on this page. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut's most recent annual report on grants and contributions indicates that the government spent approximately \$267.2 million on grants and \$5.7 million on contributions between the 2004-05 and 2020-21 fiscal years.

What direction has the Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board issued to the departments concerning how to evaluate the effectiveness of grants and contributions spending, including spending on grants and contributions to for-profit businesses? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you for that, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Deputy Minister Chown respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Chown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rules set out by the Financial Management Board with respect to grants and contributions are set out in the Financial Administration Manual and they provide the rules and requirements around issuing and reporting on grants and contributions. There is no specific direction at this time with regard to overall review of grant and contribution programs government-wide that would be included in the directive, but the directive is one area we're looking at this coming year as part of our continuing work to review the Financial Administration Manual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the deputy minister for that clarification. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 27 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Update the Government of Nunavut's approach to grants and contributions through a review of Financial Administration Manual Directive 801: Grants & Contributions." What specific changes are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you. That's my last question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The revised directive that my colleague is referring to, we expect to have that finalized by August 2022. The revisions to the financial directives incorporate changes to accounting standards, as well as clarification of roles, responsibilities, and application across the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list under Comptrollership. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 27, the fifth bullet, in the business plan here, the department would like to "Review and revise the Government of Nunavut's approach to honoraria payments under" the *Financial Administration Act* in accordance with honoraria. How will the department be able to revise it? Will they increase or decrease? What's the process going to be like? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed changes on this include functional classification systems for all boards, as well as changes to the remuneration in terms of streamlining some of this work.

Maybe if you could allow Mr. Chown to elaborate a bit on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Chown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work on this directive is going on right now as we speak and as the minister noted, we're looking at the classification system. Right now the current directive sets out a moderate, medium and high level responsibility and sets honorarium rates within those three categories.

In looking at the directive, we feel that those categories maybe are a little bit too broad, so we're actually revisiting how those categories will be classified and trying to make it easier to determine where different government boards and agencies would fit within the honorarium. As part of that process, we're also reviewing the current honorarium rates to determine if they are still appropriate or if there should be adjustments to the level of those rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just for clarification for the members here, I don't know if the minister would have this, but how many boards are there within Nunavut? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** There's the housing board...I'll have to get back to you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you. We just want to know so we can have an idea of how much of an impact this decision will have. That's the reason I asked for the number of boards. Next person on my list: Mr. Quqqiaq. Oh, sorry. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I should have my forehead covered because you asked the question I wanted to ask, but what's the time frame in approaching this directive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working on this thing as we speak and we hope to have everything completed by early fall, late August to early September, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the information on that, minister. With the priorities for 2023-24, it will be my last question on this topic here. The GN would like to initiate a wide review of "Specimen Signature records." Can the minister further explain what "Specimen" records are in this? That's my last question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That specific topic, if I could have Mr. Chown respond to that, Mr. Chairman, please.

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

**Mr. Chown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the *Financial Administration Act*, all disbursements of funds within the government must have expenditure and a payment authority signature to authorize those disbursements. Who is allowed to sign into what dollar limits and on which budgets are set out in a document called a specimen signature record. The review we're undertaking is to review those forms, the specimen signature record process, and the rules around it that are set out in the *Financial Administration Manual*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have three lines of questioning.

Your department's 2021-24 business plan indicated an "external assessment" of the Internal Audit Services Division had been completed. Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 27 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Conduct an operational review of the Internal Audit Division and its functions." What specific issues with the division have been identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The operational review of this division is planned to develop a strategy to deliver audit services, given the challenges with the recruitment of audit professionals.

Mr. Chairman, the internal audit function is key in assessing the effectiveness of risk management, controlling and governing processes, and providing insights and recommendations to enhance these processes across the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 26 that the budget for the Business Transformation and Development Division is increasing from \$465,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to \$1,005,000 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is an increase of 116.1 percent. What accounts for this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's due to an additional position and service contracts to support the enterprise resource system of \$250,000, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 27 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Roll out the Financial Management Development Program." How many employees are expected to participate in the program during the 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Chown give the details on that particular question, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Chown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that program, the government has eight modules that were currently in the process of finalizing with plans to roll those out this summer. As part of that rollout, we will be putting a call out to interested individuals wishing to take those courses. We can't say at this time how many people will express interest in taking the courses, but we're certainly hoping that we will get a good uptake on this program. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$20,366,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, turn to C-7. Centrally Administered Funds. I'll give the members a few minutes here. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask only two questions under this. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 28 that the Government of Nunavut budget for employee benefits will decrease from \$44,592,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to [\$42,010,000] in the [2022-23] fiscal year. This is a decrease of 5.6 percent. What accounts for these decreases? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main driver of that is we have decreased the medical travel budget because it has been over-budgeted in previous years. Mr. Chairman, that accounts for that change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 28 that the Government of Nunavut budget for Energy Subsidies will increase from \$16,107,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to \$17.6 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This is an increase of 9.3 percent. What accounts for this increase? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy program. The increase on that is that we intend to better promote the underused commercial subsidy and anticipate growth in subsidy costs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list under Centrally Administered Funds. Sorry. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I tried to beat Mr. Malliki there, but I did not.

Looking at the budgets here, most departments, when it comes to grants and contributions and when I see page C-8, the departments have contributed [\$19,700,000]. Why weren't there any grants contributed under this grants and contributions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that item, there were no major changes because these grants for Centrally Administered Funds deal with the Nunavut Carbon Rebate, the Nunavut Child Benefit, and the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy program that totals to that amount, Mr. Chairman. There haven't been any major changes across the board in terms of that funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just stop on the grants and contributions.

Looking at page 28 for the employee benefits, what's the percentage in Inuit employment within the department? If the minister can explain on that. As of February '22, what is the Inuit employment right now within the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Out come the big sheets, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit employment rate right now within our department is 48 percent, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department also in consideration to increase that percentage? If there is any goal within the department, what's the percentage rate with the Inuit Employment Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our goal is always to have 100 percent Inuit employment, I believe, in all departments.

In our department at least, we are having discussions in terms of how we could increase our employment. Finance is one area that's very hard to fill because of all the requirements necessary to do some of the work that the fine people at Finance do in terms of accounting, bookkeeping, and many of these requirements within our department require some kind of designation of some sort. We are working towards that.

We are in discussions with those that could and deliver management programs and accounting programs. Mr. Chairman, our goal is to steadily increase these numbers. If it's one person per year or more, our goal is to keep increasing the numbers, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that the department is at least looking to increase Inuit employment or have a plan.

Also with the priorities from last fiscal year, 2021-22, in the second bullet on page 31, the department has identified Inuit employees who have been employed casually for a long term. Is that within just the Department of Finance or is this going to be government wide when it comes to direct appointing these casual employees that have been employed within the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of our department, wherever possible, when we have Inuit who have been within our department for a number of years and have the skills and expertise in the positions they are filling, we will look to direct appoint the Inuit into these positions where we can and where they don't interfere with other capable Inuit of filling that position should it go out for competition. It's a very tough situation to go through, but we want qualified people to direct appoint and when we get that opportunity, we would. I wouldn't to, at this point, talk about a territorial employment plan as that would not be in my position to say so, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to appreciate the government for the information on that.

Still on the same page, Mr. Chairman, what kind of specific employment is the department looking into when it comes to performance management goals or senior managers' performance? How is the performance laid out when it comes to embedded performances? That's going to be my last question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Performance is important at all levels and all different levels require different performance goals and achievables. Depending on the position they are in, Job Evaluations would come in and they would be evaluated on the performance in their positions and worked with to ensure that they continue to progress forward and up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$71,810,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to page C-3. Finance. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$102,953,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded with Finance?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister Kusugak, do you have any brief closing comments?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I just want to take this opportunity to thank all those workers across Nunavut that work within Finance. They do a lot of hard work and their hard work doesn't go unnoticed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their contribution to making this presentation of our main estimates readable, legible, and we continue to strive to do better.

I look forward to reporting to you in the fall on those documents that we said we are currently working on, and I thank you for your patience and working with our department. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your chairmanship. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table and we will take a five-minute break to get the next department ready, Economic Development and Transportation.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:01 and resumed at 16:06*

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): I would like to welcome committee members back to the proceedings. I would like to ask Minister Akeeagok: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the table.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, my fellow members. I am pleased to be here. To my right is David Kunuk, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and to my left is John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation. Sitting nearby is an official I will ask to go to the witness table later on, Gabriel Karlik, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Economic Development.

Thank you very much, my fellow members and Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to be here to present the 2022-25 operations and maintenance budget and the 2022-26 business plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

For 2022-23, the proposed budget is \$95,146,000, an increase of \$3,350,000, or a 3.65 percent, more than the budget for 2021-22.

The year-over-year change is due to the approval of the following four business cases:

**1. Motor Vehicles Division reorg**

(interpretation ends) As it is currently configured, the Motor Vehicles Division is unable to effectively deliver the full breadth of its mandated services.

In response to feedback from the public and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Economic Development and Transportation has determined that it is necessary to restructure the division, increase its capacity and expertise, and redistribute the division's resources to provide more consistent access to services to all Nunavut communities.

The reorganization includes the addition of four new person years and the request for additional annual operations and maintenance funding.

## **2. Marine Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance**

The Government of Nunavut is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Iqaluit deep water port, the Iqaluit small craft facilities, and the Pond Inlet marine facility. The small craft facilities in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet will be fully operational for the entire 2022 open water season. The Iqaluit port will be operational in August 2022.

Operation of these marine facilities includes managing the physical infrastructure, monitoring vessel and community use, communicating with facility users, overseeing regulatory matters, and maintaining maintenance contracts.

In 2022-23 the department will require new annual funding to operate and maintain its marine infrastructure assets. It will also require an additional person year to create and hire a marine operations manager position.

Beyond the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet facilities, this new capacity will also support the department's existing marine infrastructure programs as well as future Government of Nunavut owned marine facilities, and will be well-positioned to advocate for additional federal investments in marine infrastructure.

## **3. Operational funding for the RV Nuliajuk**

In 2020-21 Economic Development and Transportation took over operations and maintenance of the RV Nuliajuk from the Department of Environment. The vessel has been used every summer season since 2010-11 to support Nunavut-related marine and fisheries research, and can be used as a platform for marine employment training purposes. The investment in the RV Nuliajuk has been a notable success on the path towards achieving the Fisheries and Sealing Division's mandate to support the sustainable economic development of Nunavut's fisheries sector.

The department has requested annual funding to allow the division to complete proactive maintenance, ensure safety protocols are met, and address any required repairs. Additionally, with stable funding, Fisheries and Sealing can create long-term plans and partnerships with communities for fisheries research support.

## **4. The Discover, Invest, Grow (DIG) Program**

The department is committed to supporting the responsible development of Nunavut's mineral resources. Economic Development and Transportation developed the Discover, Invest, Grow program to encourage investment in projects in the territory. Exploration work conducted in mineral-rich areas further serves to improve our government's geoscience knowledge base, can lead to mine development, and provides local employment and training by the private sector.

Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not have an exploration support program. The creation of the Discover, Invest, Grow program will increase private-sector investment in the territory, which has been in steady decline over the past several years.

Economic Development and Transportation has requested annual funding to implement the Discover, Invest, Grow program via the associated contribution policy.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening comments. I am happy to answer any questions the members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The department's proposed 2022-23 operations and maintenance budget is \$95,146,000. This represents a 3.6 percent increase from the 2021-22 main estimates. The number of departmental positions has increased from 155.0 to 160.0, which represents an increase of 3.2 percent.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy was released in June 2003 and reached the end of its ten-year life in the spring of 2013. The department's recent business plans indicate that work to finalize a new economic development strategy was not completed. The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Review all departmental strategic plans and begin work on refreshing strategies with stakeholders and partners to ensure effective sustainable economic development and diversification in all sectors." It is unclear if the department has the capacity to accomplish this work, in addition to updating its expired program policies, within a single fiscal year.

On June 8, 2016 the Government of Nunavut's Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report indicated that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation will "place a greater focus on job creation when reviewing departmental programs." The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2022-23 main estimates include a total of \$22,937,000 in grants and contributions expenditures for economic development. The standing committee notes that the department has made a number of significant changes to the administration of its grants and contributions programs. The standing committee supports the department placing a greater emphasis on job creation in smaller communities, especially in relation to funding that is provided to for-profit businesses. The standing committee also emphasizes the importance of funding

recipients being in compliance with the terms and conditions of their contribution agreements with the department.

The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Explore opportunities to improve monitoring and reporting on economic development programs delivered by the department." A number of policies administered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation contain specific annual reporting and tabling requirements regarding the administration of these programs. However, these reporting and tabling requirements are not currently being met in all cases. The standing committee applauds the department for having begun the practice of preparing and tabling comprehensive annual reports under its Strategic Investments Program Policy, its Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy, and its Country Food Distribution Program Policy.

The proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation include \$3,358,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation and \$900,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee looks forward to the minister's 2022-23 Letters of Expectation to these corporations being tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner.

On September 9, 2019 the Government of Nunavut announced that the Fisheries and Sealing Division of the Department of Environment would be transferred to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The department's Fisheries Development and Diversification Policy expired on August 31, 2015. The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Complete strategy engagement with Nunavummiut and finalize and implement the 2023-2028 Fisheries and Sealing Strategy and associated support documents." The department's draft 2022-26 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Start a working group for Nunavut stakeholders and representatives to discuss and collaboratively work on advancing Nunavut's access to its fair share of adjacent water allocations [and to] actively work towards repatriating fishing quota and buying new quota, where possible, including advocating to acquire Government of Canada financial investments for these purchases." The potential cost of such quota purchases is unclear, and the standing committee notes that the department's budget does not include any specific funding allocated towards this activity.

On June 4, 2019 copies of the Memoranda of Understanding between the Government of Nunavut, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, and Agnico Eagle Mines were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of these memoranda of understanding. The department's draft 2022-23 main estimates indicate that its budget for the Community Engagement Support Program will increase by 111.1 percent from \$900,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to \$1.9 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year. The department's draft 2022-26 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Create an exploration incentive program to help offset the high costs of exploration to support the junior exploration sector." The standing committee supports

incentives that encourage mining companies to hire Nunavut residents and purchase goods and services from Nunavut businesses during the exploration process.

Members of the Legislative Assembly have been raising concerns for a number of years regarding the significant delays that residents of smaller communities experience in obtaining driver's licences and general identification cards. The department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Strengthen regional operations in support of improved community examination and services delivery." The standing committee will be closely monitoring progress in this area.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Not seeing any, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Economic Development and Transportation. Corporate Management. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 214 of the business plan, the fifth bullet, it says, "Lead government efforts to investigate the potential for alternative building technologies to be used and manufactured in Nunavut, with an emphasis on energy-efficient and climate-friendly construction." Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister why it appears that the department seems to be taking a lead role in what appears to be the Nunavut Housing Corporation's role. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is leading to getting to hoping that they will start getting the manufacturing. Is that good? Yes.

As a part of our *Katujjiluta* mandate, one of the things is that we need to diversify our economy and as a part of that, we were looking to see if we can start manufacturing within the territory.

We don't manufacture anything at this point and what Economic Development and Transportation is leading is to see if there is any private interest and we will be working very closely with the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister tell us where they are in this? Are they talking to investors, is there potential

business that wants to set up manufacturing facilities in Nunavut, or is this at the very infant stage? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is at a very infancy stage. We haven't even started that work and we need to have the discussions. This is the part of a brand new priority for us, so it is one that we need to develop some work around it and this is at their point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The next bullet says "Lead the development of a plan to repatriate fisheries licences and purchase more fishing quota."

It doesn't state it here, but I'm assuming that this is what the minister talked about in his opening comments. What kind of money are we talking here? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have what kind of money that we are talking about. This work of trying to repatriate, one of the good work that is taking place right now is we are working very closely with Qikiqtani Inuit Association to try and see if we can repatriate what was part of Clearwater's quota.

A majority of that is there. Since the recent purchase of Clearwater, we have seen this as an opportunity when we asked Qikiqtani Inuit Association to help lead this. Our discussions are with them, and see how we can approach the federal government. Through federal funding, as a part of how Clearwater was bought, was through federal money to an Indigenous group and we are a part of the Indigenous group and that is how we are trying to find money.

There is no money set aside under our budget to try and repatriate those licenses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm correct, Clearwater was a whole company and all of its fishing quota sold for almost a billion dollars. I think it was close to that.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans used to have a policy where they would not fund Indigenous organizations that already had a settled land claims.

Does the minister know if the Department of Fisheries and Oceans position has changed? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That policy has discriminated [against] those that have settled land claims and it's an ongoing discussion that we have with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We continue to stress this. That's an ongoing discussion we're having with the department.

They have other parts. Through this collaborative work we are starting to see that there are more varieties of funding that the federal government uses as their support to Indigenous groups. Those are the avenues that we are exploring, but that particular policy has not necessarily changed. The federal government has also released their blue economy, and through that there is some towards indigenous groups, and that is something we are closely exploring and is one of the reasons why we are working very closely with the regional Inuit associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the department is successful in getting federal funding to purchase these fishing quotas adjacent to Nunavut. If they become successful, who would own the fishing quotas that the government is pursuing? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. The work that we are working with is with the concept that it would be owned by the Inuit association, in particular, Qikiqtani Inuit Association; but that would still open because we are trying to find avenues in terms of how best that could be done. If there are other avenues, such as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board or any other entity, those options are still open. At this point, it's leaning on the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister confirm if Qikiqtani Inuit Association has any financial interest in any of the current fishing companies that are fishing off of Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, under their development corporation [Qikiqtaaluk] Corporation has fishing vessels and they do fish off OA and OB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the minister's position now, if they are successful and the government turns the quota over to an organization that has a business interest and potential for awarding all of the quota to their own businesses there? What is the minister's position on awarding the quota to, in a sense, a private company? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut there are four major fishing companies that Nunavut Inuit own in various forms. The QC is owned by QIA, Baffin Fisheries Coalition is owned by the majority of the Hunters and Trappers in south Baffin and part of the north, Arctic Fisheries Alliance is owned by the north, so all by Inuit. That is something that QIA, if they become owners, those are the things they would have take in to factor. Through the association that's formed by all the fishing industry, Pangnirtung, etc., and all those, they go through some of the quota in terms of how they are going to go about it.

I am very comfortable that there is a safety net within that, that allows for, if they are Inuit owned, that they would be able to distribute in a fair way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister agree with me that it would be a much more transparent and fair system if the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was allocated the quota and they distribute it, then the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board distributes it to the fishing companies? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are existing licences that could be potentially for sale if there is a willing buyer and a willing seller. That's the difference in this.

For the NWMB, they have developed a very good policy that allows for if any new quota comes on how they're going to distribute it. A lot of that is the fishing industry knows how those will be distributed and that's a fair process through the NWMB and something that our government has helped shape that policy and we're going to continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. I'll just comment before I go on to my next. I just think that if the government is successful, then it has to be the quota which is in the

millions and millions would have to be given to a non-partisan, fair organization that would distribute the fishing quota in an appropriate manner.

Going on and leaving that, in another bullet there it says on the same page, 214, “Ensure departmental support in incentivizing the use of Inuit labour in housing construction and maintenance.” Mr. Chairman, it appears to be a Nunavut Housing Corporation mandate again. Can the minister explain why the department seems to be encroaching on the duties of the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With my colleague’s comment about the fishery, I’m thankful for putting your views in as this is a very active file and something that I’ll definitely help deliver in terms of to make sure that there’s some fairness in all this, whatever shape it’s going to come into.

For these, the bullet that you just mentioned, it’s one of the work that our NNI, Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti, one of their roles is to ensure that there is Inuit content and Inuit labour towards any of the construction, housing or maintenance. That work still is there and there have been some good pilot projects that have been done on other projects.

I think this is an advance forward with the work that we’re trying to do to ensure that there is more Inuit content on the construction side. We’re not the housing corporation, but this is leading and helping and assisting and supporting those through our Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My point to this is that it specifically spells out “housing construction and maintenance” for incentivizing the use of the labour force. Does it matter if there is enough Inuit employment if they’re building a school? Does it matter if there is enough Inuit employment if they’re building a hamlet office? Is there enough employment if they’re building any other construction? This line, one of the priorities is to prioritize only on housing construction and maintenance. Can the minister explain why they are targeting one sector of the construction industry but not any other in terms of trying to incentivize Inuit employment? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti focuses on...they try to focus on all projects and work towards that. I think with our pilot project on the Aqqigiarvik it was one of the major projects and the success in terms of having Inuit training plans and the Inuit content. It needs to spill over. As part of our work that we are doing in terms of prioritizing the housing construction now. It does not stop and we do not forget the Inuit content that is required under any of our projects.

Those priorities are still there. This is a focused effort in terms of prioritization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to hear that they are prioritizing all construction because this priority just mentions housing construction and maintenance. That is why I brought it up.

Going back to the same line, incentivize. Is the Department of Economic Development and Transportation going to throw in extra money for bonuses for any employment if the Inuit employment is higher than a certain percentage? Are there going to be subsidies? Are there going to be tax breaks? Can the minister tell us a bit more on what the incentives are for the Inuit labour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the contracts, there is a bonus component to it that would be the intensive (interpretation) I cannot pronounce it, I apologize. (interpretation ends) That would be the focus for this particular one from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

We have partners with family services who are looking at the apprenticeship side and helping the companies as part of that. So, there is good work that is taking place. For that word which I cannot pronounce, I do apologize, that one would be toward our bonus system through our Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman. Another bullet on the same page of 214 says, “Ensure departmental support in government efforts to prepare a multi-year training strategy with Inuit organizations and other partners to enable the development of Nunavut’s labour force and economy.

Is that just talking about government contracts or Nunavut-wide on everything? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That one is under Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti, which has zeroed in on the government projects. For that particular one that we are focusing it does not stop us if there is labour force of having to support some of the work that is going through the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. Just for clarification, did the minister say that this has nothing to do with the government? I did not hear clearly. Can you repeat that portion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry if I was not clear about that. If there is bigger government work that is going towards the labour, we have the expertise to help offer that.

I wanted to say is if there is something that is going bigger than what are currently in terms of the labour. We are a willing department to help support that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last bullet on page 214 says, “begin the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti comprehensive review as mandated by section 12.7 of Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti regulations.

Does the minister have an idea of what potential changes might be coming so that it is a better program or a better incentive? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to go ahead of myself in terms of what I would envision is comprehensive review under this particular section is that we need to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in terms of how that review is going to take place. Those discussions have yet to be finalized so I do not have a firm vision in terms of what I would like to see and it is going to go through that review that will allow us to provide our points of view, but at this point in time when the review has not taken place yet, I do not want to preamble the actual comprehensive review yet to take place. There are major changes. I suspect that with what we have learned so far there more than likely will be changes. It is an ever-evolving policy that is under our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma’na*, Mr. Chairman. I should have had my question a bit more specific. I’ll rephrase it because I don’t want the minister.... I know they’re just starting on it. I’ll ask the minister: what is not working as well, in the minister’s position, that could be in the current Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti? What’s not working as well that could work better that might be changed to make it better both for the government and for the private contractors? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recent years there have been very limited contractors that are bidding on our contracts and it's becoming worrisome. Is this policy part of that? I'm not sure, but it's something that we definitely need to look at. We need to bring more construction companies into Nunavut and I'm hoping that they're from Nunavut that are created. The whole intent of this incentive was to ensure that more companies are built in and from Nunavut. We haven't seen that in its fulsome yet and I'm hoping that as part of the review, we need to figure that out and increase the bids for construction work that's throughout this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on 215, the first bullet on top it says, "Explore market-based solutions to land and lot development in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet to support the whole-of-government response to Nunavut's housing crisis." This appears to be stepping on the mandate of Community and Government Services and the hamlets. Can the minister just explain why it's a priority for the department when there's another department that is totally responsible for land development? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me and having this pointed out in terms of our business plan. Yes, it is multifaceted. It's the city, Community and Government Services, the housing corporation. There are a lot of factors that are being taken into consideration to stimulate the economic development of the territory. This is one that we wanted to explore and in this, we wanted to explore it. If it's CGS strictly where municipalities can do that, then it's better for everybody.

As part of that, we need to have our economic development activated, like we need more economic development opportunities, and we have seen these two communities as probably one of the best places to start that. We also need to find what the cause is. I think, with Rankin Inlet, they have the water concerns. They can't build any; they're almost at the maximum. The city just got their water done, but there are no lots to build here.

How can we approach this in a different way is sort of the reason why we're trying to explore and so our department has to stimulate the economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation):** Thank you. (interpretation ends) What kinds of funds will be earmarked to that project? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that with me in terms of what kinds of funds we're looking at, but it's something that as part of the exploration is

to find out how much money this is going to cost. We know it's going to cost money. If we wanted to have a whole subdivision being built in different ways, then definitely there's money that will be required, but we don't have that level yet.

We need to first explore and we also need to talk to both the city and the municipality in Rankin Inlet in terms of how this would work, along with our partners from Community and Government Services, the housing corporation, and the Department of Justice. We have started the work in terms of talking about it, but we haven't gone to the point of what it's going to cost.

For the purpose of this budget, I don't have any money earmarked towards this at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before I go to Mr. Savikataaq, I have a question. With this being this year's budget, this year's priority, is this priority subject to not being actioned unless there's a supplementary appropriation to be decided upon by this House? Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. That's something that we're going to need to flesh out, but right now, for this fiscal year, we need to explore and we need to figure out where this is going to go. In terms of trying to find market-based solutions, those solutions are being fleshed out and if it requires funding, definitely I would come back to this House and seek for it if it's going to come from the territorial government; if not, how we can do this. Those are the very things that my department is leading discussions with our government agencies and departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. When Nunavut was created, it was created to be all equal, all the communities equal, and have equal access and equal chances to prosper. This one priority is the department is willing to spend money on just two communities, just Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. They're not willing to spend money on any other communities that have the gravel problem or they might have a water drainage problem. They may have other issues where they can't develop land either. I ask the minister: why are the two communities being singled out, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, when there are 25 communities in Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. That is a very valid concern and for singling out a couple of communities, but from the perspective of developed in terms of moving to be developed, if we put anything into these two communities, it's going to free up more to the other communities. Once we know how this works, then we need to go to the other communities.

I don't think it would be fair if we tried to do all communities right away. What this priority is trying to do is so we can start it, but the whole aim is to go through the whole territory. I know that the whole territory needs a lot of things and there are a lot of water woes, a lot of municipal limitations in terms of lots, and very limited in terms of businesses coming into the communities, but I see this and I view this that if we start there, then we will have the expertise and the know-how to move forward to the next level.

I think what we're doing right now is something that I think is causing what...it is very limited. We're spread out through a huge landmass and trying to do everything for everybody becomes challenging, especially for something major like this, but this does not stop. I see this as a beginning, not as just focusing on two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment and then I'm done on this section.

The minister's explanation sort of had merit but sort of doesn't. These are the two communities that the department has chosen to help with their land development. There are lots of other communities. I agree with the minister; you can't do it all, all at once, but you can't always pick the most prosperous communities and use them to help them out. It would make more sense to help communities that are less prosperous, that are having a harder time. That's just a comment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just as I was quickly trying to send you a note.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) I have a cough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard two very good questions. (interpretation ends) The two questions that were raised, I find, were very interesting that I had the interest to ask about, but thank goodness to Joe. He did, again, all the hard work for me to ask these questions.

I may have questions later on, but for now, looking at the business plan, I just want to point out, maybe we could take it as a question. (interpretation) In Inuktitut, these funds (interpretation ends) under Directorate and Responsible Development, Policy and Planning, Communications, and Finance and Administration, (interpretation) looking at those areas, the (interpretation ends) Corporate Management budget (interpretation) has decreased, (interpretation ends) but then turning the page, looking at the priorities for 2022-23, from all the other departments that have come to the witness table had not a lot of priorities in the business plan and with your department, it shows that there are many priorities that I counted out as 15.

Maybe there are more that are not listed here, but the question that I have is, (interpretation) I wanted to say in Inuktitut that the (interpretation ends) priorities (interpretation) that you have identified (interpretation ends) under the business plan, (interpretation) have they not progressed much in 2021-22? Is it because they have not progressed much that there are so many priorities listed here? Let me ask that first and then I'll comment further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many priorities due to the fact that we are the Department of Economic Development. We would really like to create economic development. We have different areas that we want to work on and we have different responsibilities. Some of them are just supporting things and some of them are things that we will initiate and do on our own. I believe we can accomplish them and that's why we are presenting them to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that funding, maybe I didn't hear it properly. I would like to ask: why are you requesting less money than previously? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. The money was moved around in the budget and the compensation and benefits section. There were 344 that were moved over here instead to Economic Development. The money was moved to another budget item. If I remember correctly, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation was included here, but we have moved that to a different page, to K-6. That's one of the changes that we have made. We have been moving them to different divisions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that clarification. Let me go back to the first question I asked before I end. I'm just trying to have a short question because other MLAs have questions too and I know I do long preambles and I want to do it quicker.

This one, (interpretation ends) your department, Economic Development and Transportation, (interpretation) can you explain...you have been the minister for a while now and I don't think this is your first time sitting here as a minister. Were some programs not running well? Is that why you have many priorities for this year? I know what you stated earlier. How did things go in the previous fiscal year? Was there any development or improvement? Maybe I'll stop here for now. I'll understand more as you explain things, but I would just like to hear that (interpretation ends) to show, your

department did well from your duties to meet the needs for Nunavummiut.  
(interpretation) Perhaps I'll put it that way. Thank you. I'll stop there for now.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation does a lot of work and I'm very proud of that fact. We suddenly had to turn to different matters that we did not expect and then suddenly had to deal with them. We want to make sure that there is development and growth. That's why there are many priorities.

Through the *Katujjiluta* mandate, after it was announced, that's when we started putting up the priorities because we want to do them and after that mandate that we created, it would be really good to go with that and to diversify the economy. Different ideas came and also including things that we're not used to doing and there is manufacturing. We don't have any manufacturers in Nunavut, so we want to start something like that. There are things like that for Nunavut businesses. The Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti is still there and we still need to use it. We are initiating things that will make improvements.

I know it looks like there are many priorities and we believe that we can accomplish them and that's why we have put them all there. Many things come up all the time, many different things. There are fisheries as well. It will help Nunavut a great deal; it will benefit it a great deal. We won't run it, but we will support it. Once we get improvements coming to Nunavut, a lot of it will be coming from the help of the government. I can talk all day about them because I'm very happy about all our accomplishments and as a minister of this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me another opportunity because I just thought of another question. With the work that you do and initiating things, maybe you probably noticed that the smaller communities are way behind. You know what things need to get started and you need to grab and accomplish new things. Are you aware of that? I'll stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. The minister doesn't have to speak all day. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that warning. (interpretation) In your community, what's happening in Qikiqtarjuaq with fisheries, we know that there are five companies in Nunavut and only one company goes to Pangnirtung. Other companies go to Greenland or Newfoundland to offload. It would be great if they start offloading in Nunavut. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your deputy minister. In the (interpretation ends) Priorities (2022-23), bullet 4, “Explore options to identify opportunities for new local businesses and services to create more jobs and local businesses in Nunavut communities.” (interpretation) Can you elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For all the communities, each one has a community economic development officer and we want them to initiate things in the communities. We have directed them to help create new businesses anywhere in Nunavut and if they can do that, we can give them further support. We have always had that available, to make sure that they initiate new things or new businesses in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Are the employees properly trained so they can provide services and if they have contacts or provide contacts to their clients? Are the economic development officers properly supported? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, they’re provided support by the regional offices. For the last two years, I would like to touch upon an issue that I’m very proud of. Usually there are duties assigned to each division and when COVID came around, we had to change what we do. The regional Inuit associations, the federal government; CanNor, and the Government of Nunavut work together so that they can provide better support and the federal government provided funding for infrastructure programs. We provided contacts. We made the information available and told our clients who would provide the funding for a particular project. We each had different roles and responsibilities, but I was very glad to see that we could all work together so that proper support is given to the people out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister. Under Priorities for 2023-24, it states (interpretation ends) “Explore market-based solutions to land and lot development in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet to support the whole-of-government response to Nunavut’s housing crisis.”

(interpretation ends) Are those the only two communities that need housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, all communities require additional housing, but what we see here in Iqaluit, for example, is if we wanted to build 1,000 houses in Iqaluit, we do need the housing, but we don't have the land to build those properties.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation can then focus on the smaller communities once we have the land to build the houses on. We will have to do that as all communities are growing and the population is growing.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation can't do it alone. We have to work together to provide the requirements. If we can build houses, then the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Government of Nunavut and the federal government can focus on the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we had our retreat we focused on all of Nunavut. It seems like we are not focusing on our mandate anymore when we are just focusing on two communities. They are smaller communities that need programs and services and I'm sure that our constituents will want information and will ask us why the government is only focusing on the larger communities. There are other communities that need economic development. That is more of a comment. I'll ask my question now.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy was released in June 2003, and reached the end its 10-year life in the spring of 2013. Your department's plan indicates that work to finalize a new Economic Development Strategy was not completed. Your department's draft 2023-26 business plan indicates on page 214 that one of its priorities is to "...begin work on refreshing strategies with stakeholders and partners to ensure effective sustainable economic development and diversification in all sectors."

How many different strategy plans and strategies are planned for review? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to your comment, I would like to respond. Our priorities, and let's keep in mind that we are market based. Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet (interpretation ends) are two communities that have a very high potential of market based housing or buildings. So that is what we are exploring and once we do this there are other communities that are heading into [becoming] market based. Our communities are growing and we need to figure out how to help solve this.

From my perspective, focusing on the market base frees up the government based, which is public housing and affordable housing. That should go to the communities. My

communities that I represent have not seen a single house being built for a long time and I want to see that, but the way we are doing it now, it's all going to Iqaluit, it's all going to the top 10 communities. We need to get self-reliant communities and I thought this would be the way to do it, which frees up for those that are not market based yet. I wanted to mention that I share my colleague's concern. It is for the market based. I just wanted to stress that.

For the number of strategies, I believe there are four that are outdated and work has been trying to amalgamate a lot of those. I think this year will be the year that we will get started on those strategies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for that explanation toward my comment and my question.

(interpretation ends) How realistic is this goal to reach? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. If it is for the strategies it is real. We have been working in terms of the getting the Nunavut economic strategy, so that work is progressing. Through this business plan we hope to get some progress into this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon minister and officials.

In your opening comments regarding the department's proposed operations and maintenance budget, there has been an increase of \$3,350,000, and you had indicated that there are four business cases: Motor Vehicles Division reorganization; marine infrastructure operations and maintenance; operational funding for the RV Nulijuk; and the Discover, Invest, Grow (DIG) Program. Your total proposed budget for those four projects is \$95,146,000.

Mr. Chairman, in your priorities for 2022-23 on page 214, in the second last bullet, you would like to "Review all departmental strategic plans and begin work on refreshing strategies with stakeholders and partners to ensure effective sustainable economic development and diversification in all sectors."

When I say "diversification" that would be diversification that you will be focusing on. In your priorities, why are you only focusing on these four when you're saying that you're looking at all of Nunavut? I used to talk about economic development in both of my

ridings. Can you elaborate further on looking at the whole of Nunavut and ensuring effective sustainable economic development and diversification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could talk about this all day and economic development in general. In my opening I indicated four and I was only focusing on the four. They are already here within the department. There are other programs, but they are already within the department.

We will be working on them and we will focus on all of Nunavut with these four business cases that I covered. This \$3 million is for new programs, and we will be working on the strategic plans and the Chair of the standing committee indicated that the policies need revamping as they are coming to an end. So we urgently need to work on those and focus on all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that you will be looking at all of Nunavut, and not only focusing on one community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, when it comes to priorities for Economic Development and Transportation, when the department talks about the diversification in all sectors in terms of incentivizing the use of Inuit labourers, not just in housing, but also with the development with the capital projects. I apologize for saying capital projects, but I'm trying to stick with the operations and maintenance here, Mr. Chairman.

In saying that, how will the department be able to incentivize when it comes to diversification in terms of Inuit labourers with operations and maintenance in the upcoming fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerk. It's in the business plan so it's fair game. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, through the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti, which is one of the main priorities to see where we can get more Inuit labourers. Not just that, and we have been working on it in terms of specific projects, so this falls in line.

Also, it's not a part of this, but it is engrained in every part of our work, so with the memorandum of understanding that we have with our mining sector, Inuit content is also there; the need for more Inuit. When we are talking about construction, or any new mines that are coming, or any new development that is coming, we encourage companies to have strong Inuit content. That is ingrained in our department, and ingrained in the work that I'm trying to advance for this territory. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the department is at least looking into this; incentivising the Inuit labour force when it comes to these economic developments.

Now Mr. Chairman, I would like to go to my next question within the priorities of the same page. That there will be an effort in leading government to increase training for employment in mining, arts and crafts, tourism and small businesses in partnership with Inuit organizations and private sectors. As the minister knows, Igloolik and Sanirajak are two affected communities when it comes to the mining sector. For instance, if there is a lay-off within Baffinland, how will the department be able to make adjustments, just in terms of mining? I'll touch base on the arts and crafts later on, if the minister could stick with the mining sector there, on what efforts will be increased for instance, if it's affected due to layoffs. Is there a strategic plan when it comes to this sector? Thank you Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the short term with the layoffs that are very potential right now, Baffinland has already indicated that there could be mass layoffs, and they have served notice to that effect. In the short term in our department, we are working very closely with Family Services, Service Canada, and any other entity that can help out in terms of how we can help the immediate layoffs that are going to happen. In the long term, there are potential mining explorations that are coming and that we hope would get approved. Those would be part of our efforts for the department. As a department, our long term has always been through a Memorandum of Understandings with any operating mines, and I wouldn't hesitate to bring that up to any new companies that show up and make sure that the Inuit content is forefront. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see that the department would take a lead role in this sector, as I'm sure that there are Nunavut employees that are concerned, "what am I going to do?" How will, at least these small communities, like where I'm from be able to be hired by the private sector or the municipality? Saying that Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch base on the arts and crafts; for these carvers and these other crafters, how would the department be able to assist or at least support the arts and crafts people in terms of selling their crafts or their arts? Is the department looking into advertising them to online, to help them to get them to online sales? How would the department be able to support this sector with the arts and crafts Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that the member just answered my question; and I appreciate that, because that is the work that we are doing with the arts and crafts side. We are exploring on the...online, and how to improve that, and how to help arts and crafts people to sell their products, and sell them properly. It's undervalued, that is one sector that is undervalued and is something that we definitely need to work on.

We have dedicated staff that are helping out in terms of trying to promote and figure out how best to do that. Through this budget we have grants and contributions that any arts and crafts folks are working on, so if they need tools or sewing materials; those products, we can help out as a department, and that's something that we're going to communicate with your community economic development officers, and our folks that do travel to the communities in terms of promoting that.

A lot of work needs to be done in the arts and crafts centre. That's one sector that really needs help in terms of getting the promotion and the work because we do have very beautiful arts and crafts in every community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you on that, and I'll try not to answer myself with this next question.

Mr. Chairman, I was looking at these priorities here. When it comes to providing country food, and on yesterday's Family Services, they had the same strategy to enable elders to access more food. Is the department planning to at least have trades within these communities? For instance, most communities like igunaq from Sanirajak and Igloolik. Is that one of the strategies that the department is planning to, at least make the strategy work within these communities? How is the plan going to be laid out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the neat things through Katujjiluta priorities is that three departments have the exact same wording for the supports for the country food. That's Family Services leading that, Culture and Heritage, and ourselves, and to some extent, the Department of Environment. We each have different things that are helping toward the distribution of country food.

In our department, and in this budget I'm asking for, it's geared towards community freezers and the products that go in them. Through those, I'm hoping that we work out a good working relationship with the three departments, and if there's more, because it's part of the poverty reduction efforts, there could be more stakeholders out there, that we do it in a coordinated way as a government, not in silos, necessarily. That's one of the good things about this priority, is that we're acknowledging that we're going to have support.

We have infrastructure and we have programs geared towards it, and we also have a company called the Nunavut Development Corporation that buys country food. We need to figure out how to utilize all these in a group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as the minister just stated, yes, there are three departments that have the same priorities when it comes to accessing and support the access to country food.

Now, in the minister's opening statement, they wanted to have a pilot project when it comes to motor vehicles, and as we all know, correct me if I am mistaken here; I think one of the divisions is located in Gjoa Haven under the Motor Vehicles Division, and they want to add four more PYs. Where are these going to be located, and what pilot project will be looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those four positions will be located in Rankin Inlet and one in Iqaluit. Those four will be located in those two communities, but Gjoa Haven will continue to have those three.

As part of this restructuring, what we're doing is putting the strength on regional strength, so at least the focus can make sure that those that are asking for licences and examinations are responded a lot faster. Right now our examinations had been one and it's for the whole territory, but if we change the titles to have examiners for the three regions, it's going to help relieve a lot of the work that's taking place.

In terms of the pilot project that's mentioned on 215, the work started last year of putting our applications on a webpage for people to renew their licences. That allows a person to do it in the comfort of their homes. That's the pilot project that is being discussed in these priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister please clarify? I heard five when there were going to be four new PYs. Can the minister clarify on the five, where's the one coming from again? If he can clarify on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you for clarifying for the five. The one that I did not mention was the marine operations and planning staff that's being treated as part of the ports and docks. Thank you. The other four are, three are in Rankin Inlet and one is in Iqaluit. Those are the movements that are taking place as part of the restructuring for the Motor Vehicles Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Now that you have mentioned this marine operations manager position and I'm sure it's going to be located in one of the regional hubs, so since Igloolik is one of the regional hubs too, is the department thinking to create a new position in my riding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the marine one would be located here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to see at least these positions being created in the non-decentralized or non-regional hub because it would create an opportunity within those communities in terms of economic development. Because jobs are hard to get and people have to move out, that can be put into consideration to create a new position.

Now, with my last question here, Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch base with these priorities from 2022 all the way up to 2026. Was this just a copy-and-paste all the way from 2022 all the way to 2026? Looking at these priorities, it's like it has been copied and pasted. Was this properly planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was properly planned. With the elections being here, followed by our mandate, the next step would have been getting the business plan.

From a departmental perspective, it is a very difficult time to do a lot of planning and put out a lot of priorities. It's not cut-and-paste. When you have a five-year business plan, you need to flesh that out through the five years and that's what this has attempted. I think, for the short time span that has taken place as a result of major events like elections and the development of the mandate and putting it into the business plan, I applaud the folks that have done this in a very short time. It is very difficult.

I think one of the things that you're going to see as time progresses is through the *Katujiluta* priorities. Those implementation plans will then start getting into more of our business plans. As you can see, there is less and less when you're looking at the years. Those need to get fleshed in as part of the business plan.

I applaud those folks that have the very difficult task of trying to get the priorities and the mandate and the budget in all within this time frame and now we're here in June trying to

get that approved. I appreciate your time here too for thoroughly reviewing our priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Akeeagok and team.

To begin, minister, can you please remind me how many youth are expected to enter the labour force in the next decade or so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. As of last year, the numbers that we had were 10,000 and growing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what stood out to me for the priorities for 2022-23 was the goal to “Ensure departmental support in government efforts to prepare a multi-year training strategy with Inuit organizations and other partners to enable development of Nunavut’s labour force and economy.” I wonder if you can just talk about how you’re planning to address the impact of those 10,000 youth coming into the labour force and in relation to all of the strategic plans in the Economic Development Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question and a very difficult question to answer because we need to find employment for a lot of people in that way.

I think, through this number of priorities, as one of our colleagues mentioned, we have a lot of priorities within this branch. It is because of that. We need to make sure that there is room for mining, there is room for fisheries, and there is room for arts and crafts and tourism. I think we need to combat all those.

One of good things is the second bullet there is that we’re refreshing our strategies. We really need to do that with the lens of what reality is now. I’m excited about it and I’m hoping to report on it to this House in terms of what has taken place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that response, Minister Akeeagok. I wonder if you could expand a little bit more about that last bullet on 2022-23 and the work that’s going to be put into exploring those market-based

solutions to land and lot development in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, of course, to support the whole government's response to Nunavut's housing crisis in relation to the need and the knowledge that Iqaluit is a place where we can expect to employ a lot of these 10,000 youth and what it means to be able to have the opportunity for people to go into the market and buy their own homes as well as the creation of more rentable properties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been having wonderful discussions with the housing corporation minister on this and why we are focused on these two communities. It doesn't seem to help the other communities at all and if you look at it from that lens, it does not look like it, but if you do it here.... .

I'm going to be very open because I haven't talked to the city nor have I talked to the Municipality of Rankin Inlet on this particular; I needed to get this budget passed through because the way I see this is for the market base is that if we can put a lot of units from the private sector to go to Iqaluit for either rental or to own, so if you put a hundred new houses right now in Iqaluit, chances are that you're going to have full rent public house renters move into those, which frees up the public house that's here, which then those who want to go to public housing start converting true public housing here versus if there are a lot with hardly any housing, you can't really move. I think it is very compounded that way and this is why I think what Economic Development is trying to do is to stimulate the private sector side and give more options, which will then reduce the need for more to build here for public housing.

Those public housings should go to the very people that really need public housing, which is outside of these two market-based communities. Those that are the have-not communities really need those public housings, and I represent three communities that they haven't seen public housing being built because a majority of them are here in Iqaluit, but Iqaluit needs and it shows through our data that they need more private housing, which frees up the very public housing that those potential tenants that need to be there to be there. That's the long-term vision for those communities that are market based that can do that. The way it is happening now, it's not working. We need to find that solution and I'm very eager to explore that with the city, the municipality, and my counterparts in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, does that long-term vision include working with the appropriate departments in the creation or the possibility of a creation for a youth-specific housing incentive program that will allow young people to be able to purchase affordable housing?

I know that many young people that are in their '20s and '30s are having trouble even finding places to rent and live and want to be able to invest in their own home. The

impact on the economy, the stimulus impact of homeownership, I think, is really important. Does that vision include working with those other departments who would have authority over that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short, that's the reason why we're trying to do this. It is one of the main reasons is that we need to free it up so things can get built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to page 214, the last bullet under 2022-23, to "Begin the *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti* Comprehensive review, as mandated by section 12.7 of the *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti* Regulations." In 2023-24 the second goal is to "Establish final priorities and proposed objectives" in relation to that review, but what really caught my eye was the last sentence, which is "Targets will be enhanced opportunities for Inuit employment and the growth of genuine Inuit owned and controlled firms."

As I read that, what popped out was "genuine Inuit owned and controlled firms. I think, over many years, many people have been concerned about companies and organizations that are able to get projects and contracts related to being an Inuit owned and controlled firm and some may come across as questionable in terms of being genuinely owned by Inuit and controlled by Inuit. Can you elaborate a little bit on that for me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back, as this will be reviewed, but I just want to go back to the last review which resulted in Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated providing an Inuit Registry and they basically put it in different categories of what is deemed as an Inuit company. That work has led to very good, I would say, data to find out if they are genuine Inuit companies or whether they're basically companies that are created to advance others.

With the work that is done, I think more work can get done and I think this review is going to flesh that out. This is a regulation for an incentive program that's always revolving. We work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in terms of getting this and that's why we're confident that when we start off, we will get the comprehensive review started and then work on the '23-24 to start establishing those priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, to your knowledge, with the current regulations, is there an opportunity anywhere for an individual to report or a process for somebody to report even a company that is registered, if they want to challenge the validity of that registry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to point out that when it comes to the Inuit Registry, it's strictly Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. They define which category it is that companies are being recognized. That's the entity that if anybody needs to complain about whether or not, it would go through Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I think part of this and through this, we also have the tribunal, *mamianaq*, translators, we have the NNI Tribunal that can review this, but a review within the regulation. I just want to make it clear that the Inuit Registry is out of the government's control. It's not ours to say whether the company is an Inuit company or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the (interpretation ends) priorities 2022-23, bullet 9, (interpretation) which you spoke to, what stood out to me was, (interpretation ends) "Ensure departmental support in government efforts to enable elders to access more country food." (interpretation) You mentioned (interpretation ends) community freezers. (interpretation) My first question is: how many communities have new community freezers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** You're very close. I'm Deputy Speaker anyway. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): We're trying to get the exact figures at this time because there are different communities that have new community freezers and once I have the information, I can provide it to you, Mr. Chairman, on which communities have new community freezers and which community freezers are being built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be interested in hearing if there are differences in the community freezers, such as the brand name. Some of the freezers malfunction even if they are new. The community freezer in Pond Inlet is already malfunctioning even though it's new. In addition, there is a lack of community freezers in Nunavut. Would you include this in your review? We need proper community freezers in Nunavut. Thank you. That's what I wanted to say.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community freezers being created are all different. As she asked if they are different, they are all different. Some of them are similar, but others are different. That's what I can say and when they break down, the communities can request funding through this budget we are trying to get approved for the operations and maintenance of the community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak. I have no more names on my list. Just before I close this out, I just want to get clarification from one of Mr. Kaernek's questions when the minister mentioned that he's speaking about mining specifically and about the potential for layoffs and the discussions with Service Canada. As we all know, for employment insurance, you have to accumulate a certain amount of hours. With the closures and I know a lot of the mine workers were being paid by being away, but they weren't working or accumulating hours, so I'm not sure if that would qualify. Has that been a part of that discussion with Service Canada? Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all those are a part of the discussions. Also, when there were layoffs, some of the clients went straight to income support when they had benefits. I want to make sure that Service Canada is there telling them what kinds of benefits are available if and when that layoff does take place because they just need to make sure that people get the right benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. Chairman, Deputy Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Economic Development and Transportation. Corporate Management. \$6,290,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go to page K-5 and just before we do that, I would like to get clarification from your opening comments. On Friday the MLA for Manirajak had asked a question on the opening of the port and the minister had stated, according to *Hansard*, knock on wood, in the hopes of getting it done by the end of the fall season, yet in the opening comments today... . I wasn't a party to the committee that met on this, so I'm assuming typically that the opening comments are the same. It's stating August 22, which is potentially a two- or three-month difference and a lot sooner than what the minister had alluded to on Friday, which raises additional concerns. Can I just clarification on when the planned opening of the port here in Iqaluit is? Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the sharp eye there. The ones I referenced in my opening comments are for the project to be completed by August. It's something else for the operations and that's the two distinct, as I was planning for and I am planning it ambitiously to be in the fall for operations, so that's something that I think we're going to need to figure out as those two of the members asked me in this House about and that work is still progressing for the operations and

maintenance work and part of the funding request is a part of this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. I hope that when that project is complete, it is available to be open and utilized as soon as possible after completion. I wouldn't want to have infrastructure such as that sitting for any length of time before it's operational.

Transportation. Page K-5. Oh, sorry. My apologies. I'm going to recognize the clock just before we get into this page and we will take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:03 and resumed at 18:26*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order. We're on page K-5. Transportation. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now back. (interpretation ends) Priorities (2022-23), first bullet, "Implement automated reminders from the Motor Vehicles Information System to clients before Driver's Licence, General Identification, and Vehicle Registration expiry." (interpretation) Where is this work done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, when the licences are about to expire, the licence holders are not informed that their licence is going to expire and needs to be renewed. This will now remind our people that when their licence is about to expire, they will receive a letter notification to renew their licence. That's the way it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. He didn't indicate where the work is being done. Can he indicate that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. They would go to our office and it would be done through computer, for example, if a licence in Naujaat is about to expire, the licence holder or the government liaison officer would be informed. I'm not sure exactly who would be informed, but the reminder would be sent through the computer system that the licence is about to expire. That's the intended purpose. It is for all communities, but we refer all communities to the government liaison officers to prepare for those expiry dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That work would be done by the GLOs. Do I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, (interpretation ends) Priorities (2022-23), "Conduct a five-year review of the Division's performance in implementing the *Traffic Safety Act*." (interpretation) Is there such legislation in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is our legislation. It is in its fifth year, so we will be starting our review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you are doing the review, can the minister indicate if there will be any additions or deletions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure of the details of the review. Looking at the current Act, there are probably some minor adjustments required, but once we do the actual review, we will know whether changes are needed. For example, in order to get a class 1 driver's licence, there are training requirements. We can make some changes there and there may be other minor amendments needed, but we want to do a thorough review of the legislation in this fiscal year, 2022-23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki, just a moment; I just want to clarify something. One of the issues that have been brought up in the past here is that even somebody with their full licence but doesn't have the graduated one after a year, they can't even use that as a beginner anywhere else in the country, so this will remedy that. Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. Through you, could I ask our very trusted Assistant Deputy Minister Hawkins. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Go ahead, Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are moving away from the restricted to Nunavut licence and it has created those issues that you just identified. In the lower classes of licence, we will be going away from a restricted licence and we will keep that in the professional driving class, which is the highest one, which is class 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps your department can have (interpretation ends) restricted to Nunavut *amma* restricted, (interpretation) which I'm asking about, because you can only get the unrestricted licence in the larger communities in Nunavut. The smaller communities are not able to offer that type of licence. Are they reviewing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there have been issues cropping up there and the Chairman mentioned it as well that the licence can only be used in Nunavut. If we want to move away from that, we will have to amend the legislation. It will be included in the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me see it in this document here. (interpretation ends) Priorities (2022-23) (interpretation) under (interpretation ends) Nunavut Airports, "Support the construction of new air terminal buildings in Kugluktuk, Kimmirut, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat and Rankin Inlet." (interpretation) Are these projects going to proceed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the tendering process, Rankin Inlet has been completed and we have committed to proceed with the project. For Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove, we will have to provide a response by July 4. The tender has closed, but we're in discussions with (interpretation ends) Transport Canada. (interpretation) For Kugluktuk and Kimmirut, the tenders have yet to be issued. That's the current status of those projects, according to what's written in the notes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Just below the bullet I asked about is (interpretation ends) "Conduct independent quality assurance audits at eight Nunavut airports, review findings and address deficiencies. Undertake Emergency Response Plan tests at all Nunavut airports in accordance with the

regulations.” (interpretation) What’s the status of those audits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before I go to the minister, I just want to remind members to please let the Chair know if you want to be added to the list. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s our annual priority to review all airports in the communities. We can’t do all 25 airports, so we do eight at a time. It would take three to four years to complete them all. We are constantly monitoring the condition of the airports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Are we looking at the maintenance of the airports in my communities? Are my communities included in that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is a need to change the lights, for example, we set up a plan and at the capital planning, I can inform you about which communities will need upgrading. It goes through the capital planning process. I can’t tell you which communities we’re going to be maintaining as we haven’t gotten to the capital stage yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) Priorities (2024-25), “Review the effectiveness of the Motor Vehicles Information System in advance of the contract expiration in November 2024.” (interpretation) I would like to know if those are the only plans you have at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. There are schedules through contract and before it expires, we will do a thorough review in 2024-25. That’s what it reports there. We are required to do a review following the policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question on the (interpretation ends) 2023-24 priorities, bullet 1, “Develop two major rehabilitation priorities for submission to Transport Canada Airports Capital Assistance Program.” (interpretation) If you get approved, would it include the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Every year we try to do two using Transport Canada's funding. There is \$9 million. It's almost concluded in Sanirajak and once we get approval, we make a report to the House and I will be tabling a 20-year assessment that will outline which airports or landing strips will be maintained. We select two per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki. Next person on my list: Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 216 in the third bullet, one of the objectives is to "Implement the recommendations of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy." You only indicated seven communities. How does it work? Do you look at the age of the airstrips or do you look at the air terminal building or do you follow the plans on a yearly basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): We have discussions with Transport Canada on which communities need assessment and we try to divide it up into three and we do eight every year and by three years, all airports have been assessed. There are eight the first year and so on until we reach 24 communities. When the three years are over, we have to look at all the communities and make sure that all the federal regulations are followed by each of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for clearly indicating that the federal government is the decision-maker and you also stated that there is \$9 million for the operations and maintenance of our airstrips, including the lighting, which was announced. What about my other constituency community? Has the Department of Economic Development done an assessment on Igloolik's airstrip? I believe it needs repairs. Do you have any plans and in which year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps when we are dealing with the capital estimates in the fall sitting, I will be able to make a better report about what needs to be done in each of the communities. I will be able to give you a proper answer at that time and it will outline where Igloolik is at. I can't respond to your question at this time because I don't have the information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would appreciate that information, perhaps through correspondence with our Chairman.

With that being said, I was asking about airstrips, but now I'll go to air terminal buildings. Sanirajak and Igloolik require maintenance at their airports, but I didn't see anything about the air terminal buildings. You indicated that you will know what needs repairing and so on in the fall capital, and here I am responding to myself.

>>*Laughter*

Perhaps you can indicate whether or not they are in the planning stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It is a question; in the business plan it talks about the division "works with transportation users to plan for transportation-related infrastructure." Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): All airports are assessed and reported through our department, and we include the air terminal buildings. If you have ever gone to Igloolik, the flooring definitely needs some repair. We include those items in the capital estimates for air terminals, if the floor needs fixing, or wheelchair ramps that have to be built in some of the terminals. We look at all that and they go through the capital estimates. I can't give you the information, but we will have it all when we're dealing with the capital estimates. I agree that there are definitely some that need emergency repair and usually we use our funds to do all that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought it up is because it is in the business plan under transportation. Fall is almost here already and I would like your department to look at my two communities and to place them on the priority list.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to turn to road maintenance. We hear that in the Kivalliq region you would like to build a road from Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake. Are you making plans to connect the communities in the Baffin region? For example, Sanirajak and Igloolik are very close together, but Igloolik is an island. Are you looking at also connecting communities by road? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's on page 217 and I'm very pleased that the tender has been completed and we will start initiating the work in the Kivalliq region and connecting those communities. We don't have any plans for Baffin Island and we haven't made any plans. We will see how it works in the

Kivalliq region and then look at the other regions. We will focus on those network connections in the Kivalliq first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have a long-term plan, for example, to 2024-25? How many years are you looking at to connect the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is your question regarding the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerk, can you clarify, please?

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at page 217, one of your priorities is to build an intercommunity road in the Kivalliq. What I was trying to ask is if you have a long-term plan to connect communities and how far ahead you are planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. In 2024-25 we are anticipating that further considerations will have to be made for the road in the Kivalliq after plans are developed and where we may be able to access funds. That's where it is at the moment for the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for indicating that it will be looked at.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on with my question here. On the budget part for division operations of last fiscal year of 2021-22, the budget was slated to \$1,148,000 and for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year, it's budgeted to \$1,348,000. In stating that, when will the department be able to publish the comprehensive marine infrastructure scoping studies in the final report? I'm just asking on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That work has finally restarted again, so I don't want to be too ambitious, but hopefully by the end of the year that we should have something. Right now the work that we have been anticipating and the work that we really wanted has finally started. I'm glad that we

are getting back to regular work and this work is really needed, especially for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's really needed in my riding with both communities I represent, but Sanirajak and Igloolik have decided to act on the comprehensive marine infrastructure with the scoping study report and since the minister didn't give me a time frame, when is the report going to be submitted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok, you're trying to get it done by the end of the year, but maybe you could be a little bit more precise. Thank you.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's by the end of the year that I'm hoping that that scoping project would be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Maybe just to clarify for the member, do you mean the end of the fiscal year or the calendar year? Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be expecting that marine study report.

Speaking of marine infrastructure, what does it take for the community to get some marine infrastructure projects in accordance with this operations and maintenance? What kind of business plan would the department be willing to see? Since there was a study last year, an engineering company went to Sanirajak to study the marine infrastructure and there were four options given.

My first question is: Has the department received the final report of that study that happened in Sanirajak last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're delving very close to capital here; if the minister has that information with him would he be able to provide a response to the member?

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Municipality of Sanirajak was very proactive and applied through the grants and contributions under this program for the marine infrastructure needs assessment. They asked for the money and we provided it to them.

To date they have not reported back in terms their financial reporting. Also, as part of that we would want what the consultant had done up for what's needed in Sanirajak. That is

going to be a very useful document that I am anxiously waiting for because it's part and parcel of the scoping.

But the municipality was very proactive and had applied through the grants and contributions under this branch. I applaud them and I am waiting for the results. It's not our results, so I can't say when we would expect that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. Yes, the hamlet's been very proactive in trying to get some kind of a project in my two communities.

In saying that, the department has a priority in corresponding with the completion of the Pond Inlet and Iqaluit marine infrastructure projects. The minister has just stated that when it comes to marine infrastructure that the department is going to create a position of marine operations manager.

If this runs well will there be creation of any more positions across Nunavut when it comes to economic development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go ahead, minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ports and docks are brand new for us. These are the first two that we've built and now we're figuring out what we need on the operations and maintenance side.

What we're doing through scoping is trying to add more ports and docks throughout our territory. Once those are being built, then we'll know whether we'd need person-years or contract dollars.

Those are coming but until those are built it's very difficult to answer.... . It's almost a hypothetical question because first we need those much-needed infrastructure.

The breakwaters that have been built throughout the territory never really needed any person-years to help with the operations and maintenance of them. But as time progresses those are the very things that we are going to need to identify. If we need it, we will come to this House and ask for funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was hypothetical, but I appreciate your answer on that.

When it comes to the priorities for 2023-24, it's that the department is monitoring changes in federal infrastructure programs and to identify priority transportation projects for submission to future calls for proposals.

What is the department expecting when it comes to changes to federal infrastructure programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last few years we have really benefitted from the National Trade Corridors Fund, both from the arctic call and from the national call. We await any federal major infrastructure to bring. We need to look at what the scopes are and what criteria they have, and try and get as much through those, especially for the ports and docks because those are federal responsibilities.

The federal government has built ports and docks throughout this country except for here. Now we finally got three and we're hoping to get more. Those are the very foundations that I argue and present to my federal counterparts, because we need those.

The communities identify.... My colleague that's questioning me continually asks for those projects and it's always on my forefront. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll still continue to advocate for my communities. It's a much-needed project and that's why I've been trying to push the Economic Development and Transportation to get some projects going in those two communities that I represent.

In saying that, I'd just like to make a recommendation for the future of these calls for proposals. I'd just like to get clarification.... The minister just mentioned the three, what three was it? Was it call for proposal or some kind of infrastructure program that has been put in place? What three programs was he actually talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week I rose in this House and I was advising that the Community Transportation Initiative Program, the call for proposals are happening now. I don't know if they closed, they would probably close by Friday. It's closed in terms of that. That's one of the calls that I've mentioned.

For the federal ask that we anticipate, the big three has been on the National Transportation Trade Corridor, they have two streams. One is the national one and the other one is the arctic one. We hope they will continue that.

The third one that I haven't mentioned is the Oceans Protection Plan. That falls under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and those are very good funding sources that we try and tap into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you for allowing me, Mr. Chairman. There is an additional comment that I would like to make.

I would like to make a further recommendation to the minister and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation that I would like to see, within my four year term, there should be some kind of.... Not just on the operations and maintenance part, but also to make a recommendation if there can be projects that.... And I would like the minister to agree with me that yes, there will be some in the future.

Can the minister at least say yes to my recommendation? That's my last one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I doubt if the minister can say yes right now, it's not in the capital plan, but go ahead minister.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've communicated with my member colleague and I've shared with him documentation very similar to what Arviat has, which is the roll-in, roll-out. It's not a major cost, and it falls under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program that's currently open. I encouraged your hamlet to put that proposal in and those who get reviewed and get merit on.

Other communities have benefitted through those proposals and that's something that your community has that opportunity right now. Every one of you, encourage your communities to submit under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program.

Unless this doesn't get passed, those proposals can't proceed, but I'm hoping and anticipating this project passes so those projects can be funded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Pretty sure that part of the budget is safe, minister.

Ms. Killiktee, you're the next name on my list.

**Ms. Killiktee (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the transportation...the working relationship or collaborating comment there, in English (interpretation ends) ongoing funding agreements with federal government.

(interpretation) My question is: During the planning stages and the planning in collaboration with the hamlets, it mentions here if I go to objectives, it says on bullet four

(interpretation ends) “Work with the federal government to advance projects to build or improve roads, airports, and marine infrastructure.”

Talking about airports for improvements, (interpretation) does that say to improve airports? If that’s the case, recently I had a question concerning airports and the upgrades required, especially for people with disabilities who have to access terminals.

Can you give me a picture or if you can further clarify (interpretation ends) for improvements (interpretation) not just to have the wording improvement.... . If you clearly identify those in areas of capital and whether infrastructure has been recently built or not. That is my question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are different pockets of funding available that are approved through the House and when you look at access for people in wheelchairs, or the floors require that we deal with it through small capital.

If the airport lights require changing through the Airport Capital Assistance Program we access funds annually through this process. If we require repairs or if it’s an emergency, we try to do the work right away. It’s been a few years now that the ones that don’t have wheelchair access, when we try a contract to improve the floor will also include the accessibility as part of the package. That’s part of what we have been doing through the capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. My next question for health and through the hamlet. As communities we are all different and some have more people with disabilities in communities and through the health centre the support, do you get... if the airport needs access for handicapped, or elders, do you try to use that data? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we construct new ones include them at the planning and design stage which are critical. It is regrettable that the access for the disabled was not included and now we realize there is a need. We don’t readily have capital funding. If there are renovation projects, we include the ramps for new airports. That is already included in the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, communities require ramps and as do all communities in Nunavut. This has particularly been requested in

Clyde River for an elder where there is no access. That is a concern and should be a priority for this.

My question, under the (interpretation ends) Community Transportation Initiative Program, it states that “This program supports communities to develop local transportation facilities and infrastructure...”. When the airports are far from the community, and the airports are different in the two communities I represent. Clyde River’s airport is quite far. They struggle. Based on that, is it included to be a priority or can you provide assistance if they submit a proposal to provide transportation patients who are travelling? Would you entertain a proposal to access a vehicle in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you talking about those that need transportation to the airport? I think that is what you’re asking. I would say no, we don’t do that, but due to the distance of the airport, the equipment for capital projects and for graters for communities are laid out on a 20 year cycle. I will table what the airports have as equipment and what they require.

For patients that need to travel, that is not our duty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad you clarified that. With regard to mobile equipment that is available to communities, if I understand, it is \$30,000, whether it is for making roads, whether it is \$10,000; I’m not sure. I want to ask when this funding has been the same, the funding goes very fast for community roads and yes, we do try and support all communities. That is understandable. My question: when did this funding formula start being used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is run by Community and Government Services for hamlets for heavy equipment for the hamlets. I was glad that when I was here before, \$4 million was set aside for capital for communities based on priorities. Whether in Qikiqtaruaq, the grater might be broken. We purchase and get one to their airport. We are approved for \$4 million; \$250,000 equipment, I’m glad the House approves these programs and they are widely use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Killiktee. That’s good. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard “Sammurtok.”

>>*Laughter*

I should have my hearing piece on. I have a few questions here. This was asked earlier about one of the priorities on page 217, “Manage the procurement and execution of the Kivalliq inter-community road study...”. I would just like to get an update from the minister. He says the contract has been awarded.

The amount of work that is expected for this; will it be completed in one summer, this coming summer? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Through you, could I ask the Assistant Deputy Minister Hawkins to respond that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I haven’t looked at the schedule for that project. It just closed and the first meeting with the consultant was this week and I have been tied up with this, and unfortunately I don’ know that. I believe that the work is intended to be done in about a year. I apologize; I don’t have to the answer to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** If the minister could include a response when he replies in writing. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipate it will be done this summer too because in the priorities for 2023-24 it says, “Based on the outcome of the Kivalliq inter-community road study, identify the project’s next steps.” If it’s favourable and feasible to have the roads done, will there be some kind of proposal written to either the federal government or asking for funds from this House to start the project of an actual shovel digging the dirt and making the roads? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. As it was dealing with Mr. Hawkins, did you want me to go directly to him again, minister? Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would certainly require an additional proposal to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma’na*, Mr. Chairman. On to the driver’s licence, one of the bullets on 218, “Expand the availability for Nunavummiut to access Motor Vehicle services...” Is the ten-year driver’s licence available to Nunavummiut right now as we speak? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After ten years, I am happy to report yes, it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Keeping with driver's licences here, priorities for 2023-24, it says, "Review Demerit Point assignment," is that what it means? Is it what I think it means where drivers in Nunavut now, if they get tickets or get demeanours, then that could affect their renewal rates for a driver's licence or lose their driver's licence if they get too many speeding tickets or parking tickets? Is that what that means? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant deputy minister confirmed that yes, that's what it's intended to do and it should be doing that. From what I understand, it has started and this is the review portion of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If I can just interject for one moment, Mr. Savikataaq, is the demerit system looking at tying into other jurisdictions as well? If I get a speeding ticket in Alberta, would I be losing demerits here in Nunavut? Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you would. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to and still sticking with the driver's licence, on page 219, 2024-25 priorities, "Review the effectiveness of the Motor Vehicles Information System in advance of the contract expiration in November 2024." This Motor Vehicles Information System has spanned three governments and I thought it was a system that we owned and operate. Is this telling me that it's something that we have just been contracting? An explanation, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a contract for the Motor Vehicles Information System. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the review, I stand to be corrected, but I believe we spent about \$12 million or close to there on it now. If the review comes back that it's non-effective, are we looking at a new type of system again? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what the reviews are there for and I don't want to predetermine what's going to happen, but the Motor Vehicles Information System is up and running. Right now, when it comes to 2024-25, we're going to need to initiate a review on that and that's the time to determine what the effectiveness is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister would have this information, but what's the difference in timeline for a renewal of a driver's licence now and, let's say, eight years ago when the system first started? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through a number of things, including this Motor Vehicles Information System, compared to eight years ago, a lot of improvements have taken place. Right now the wait time, for example, the difference between two years ago and this year is it has improved significantly in terms of getting your driver's licence renewed and delivered to your place. That part has improved quite significantly and that's part of the Motor Vehicles Information System and through the fine work of our fibre connections within the communities that have allowed the government liaison officers to sort of do the actual input and sending them off and having somebody review them in one of our regional centres or in our headquarters. That's a huge improvement that I have seen compared to two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Words like "substantial" and "significant" are all subjective. Can the minister clarify, for example, two years ago to six months and now it takes two months? Can he quantify the difference? Thank you.

**Chairman:** I was expecting that. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the 60 days now. From the time you apply, you should have your licence in [less than] 60 days. Last year in this House or in the Fifth Assembly, this was a constant question by regular members to me because some of the constituents didn't get their licences for two months, three months, and sometimes a year.

I want to thank my member for giving me this opportunity. If any of your constituents have been waiting for over 60 days, I would encourage them to go to the Government Liaison Office and enquire about their licence renewal or licence application or if they have gone to our offices, but please enquire if you have been waiting for longer than 60 days because it should not take that long now. It has improved significantly, but there are some that fall through the cracks.

If you are getting any complaints from your constituents, please encourage them to ask about their application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to airports, on page 220 of the business plan there, this was asked about, “Develop two major rehabilitation” projects under the Canada Airports Capital Assistance Program. The minister did say that one of the reasons this could be used is for safety of the runways and stuff. Is Arviat on the list of the two rehabilitation priorities for extensions due to safety reasons to make it longer? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Through you, could I ask our transportation ADM? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Airports Capital Assistance Program is that it's very difficult to get an extension of a runway of an existing facility. Once the facility is suited for the traffic that's flying in and out of that community, ACAP generally won't go for extensions. They will go for other safety-related improvements, but typically it's on a runway overlay, a new lighting system, or a replacement of an existing component to the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear that it's not impossible and the department will keep trying to get Arviat's runway extension. It's difficult, but it's not impossible. I commend you for the work that you are going to do.

If I can go on to the next subject here, going to the business plan on K-5, I'm just curious here on compensation and benefits why it has gone up almost \$1 million from \$4.7 million to \$5.7 million. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the five motor vehicles under the restructuring/reorganization that we're asking for as the four. The operations and maintenance of the docks is the other one and the final one is the transportation planning. Those five bring that price to that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying with the airports on page 225 of the business plan, the first bullet, “Undertake structural repairs of the Old Terminal

Building.” I believe that’s in Iqaluit. If it needs structural repairs, is it still being used? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just describe a bit what’s structurally wrong with it? Whenever something needs structural repairs, it seems like it is safety issues and it is still being used. Can the minister just elaborate on what is structural unsound about the building? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of them that I’ll just point out is the concrete piles are part of the structure and that’s the one that we’re concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 217, the first bullet, regarding the intercommunity road study, I’m wondering if part of that study is a plan to designate any of those roads as part of the Trans-Canada Highway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s the long-term plan. That’s one that if any of our Nunavut communities will get connected, that would be part of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that the new port in Iqaluit will connect Iqaluit to many places and that Iqaluit is connected to another community, Apex, has any thought been put into designating the road from Apex to the port as part of the Trans-Canada Highway, which would aid in the development of those roads as well as the maintenance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not thought of that, so I thank you for putting that idea in. Those are the very things that sometimes we need to put arguments when we’re going to the federal government in terms of how it connects to Canada because the majority of our territory is islands and it’s very difficult to try to

connect nationally. Those are some of the ideas and I applaud you for putting that and something that I'll take into consideration, but at this point it has not been in any of our radars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy to hear that you will take that into account. One of the big questions that are floating around is once that work is complete, we know that right now the contractor is responsible for maintaining and grading that road to ensure that the safety of the people travelling that road with their very important and very expensive boats and other equipment, and once the work is complete, can the minister tell me: who will be responsible for maintaining that stretch of the road to the port? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a city road that goes to those. It would be the responsibility of the city. As part of this project, we have reached an agreement with the city on the development side of putting the improvements on the Akilliq Road that's going to help with the city to be able to start maintaining it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that in the 2021-24 business plan, one of the priorities for last year, '21-22, was to "Monitor impacts of the Canadian North airline merger and provide analysis and advice." I also understand that one of your department's employees sits on the oversight board by way of a federal Order of Council. I'm just wondering if you can update us on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The oversight wasn't meeting on a regular basis, but they have started and I believe they're having a meeting sometime soon. This board reports to the federal minister in terms of what is transpiring. I'm not privy to being provided that information on what sort of discussions they have for this because they do report to the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names...oh. Mr. Qavvik, go ahead, please.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

The member from Arviat South asked this a couple of minutes ago in regard to the priorities within the next four years, "Develop two major rehabilitation priorities," and I did not hear which communities will be prioritized. Do you have those two communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we were getting ready for capital on those two, but for the immediate one that I'm currently aware of that we're putting in the submission is with Cambridge Bay. I don't have the other community, but I would be very pleased to provide that through you, Mr. Chairman, in writing once I have the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is fair game to say that Sanikiluaq can be one of the communities to be prioritized. In saying that, within the decade there have been a couple of plane crashes within our community due to the fact that the runway is oriented towards east and west. Our community municipal council, within their community integrated sustainability plan, has prioritized to have the runway oriented with a north and south orientation due to the fact that we have prevailing winds that mostly come through north and south. I'll just leave that as a comment, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That's all.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that. I just want to make the members aware and I believe Mr. Hawkins mentioned it too that for extensions or relocations, those don't fall under the particular one on the Airports Capital Assistance Program.

For realignment or if we're going to build something northwest, we would have to go either here or apply from different federal funds and there are a number of communities that have been waiting for a relocation of their airports. We haven't been successful in finding any federal funding or any territorial funding. It is a very costly project and something that would go through the capital.

I just want to make clear that on the Airports Capital Assistance Program that's referenced in this business plan, those are for existing things such as lightings and overlays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Are you done? (interpretation ends) Transportation. Economic Development and Transportation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$52,110,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Last page. Economic Development. \$36,746,000. I'll give members a quick moment to get to that page. Minister Akeeagok, you had a comment to make?

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. While you are doing this, with your permission, can I switch witnesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to allow the minister to switch witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please.

Thank you. You introduced Mr. Karlik earlier, so welcome to the committee proceedings, Mr. Karlik. Ms. Brewster, go ahead.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get an update on the status of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, please? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't funded that board and we're waiting on them to come to us to report on the contribution. At this point we're not engaged with the board and from what I understand, it has been inactive, therefore we haven't even pursued making contact with them at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that update. Minister, your department's 2021-24 business plan indicated that "A Cultural Industry (Arts and Creative Industry) Strategy is in progress. A draft will be completed by December 2020." Your department's draft '22-26 business plan indicates on page 228 that one of its priorities for the '22-23 fiscal year is to "Review the proposed Arts and Creative Industries Strategy." What are the major elements of the strategy and when will it be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? I guess specifically, as well, in the absence of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, how does that impact that strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, through you, could I ask our acting assistant deputy-minister, Mr. Karlik. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Karlik:** Thank you. Regarding the strategy at this moment right now, the TCI Division has been low-staffed and currently, we just recently added a new acting director for now. So that's been the main delay of the Act. We're working on looking at improvements on what we have done so far. Also, with the issues with NACA, who also

had some significant roles as to how the strategy would roll out, so those are the main reasons as to why it has been delayed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the issue of vacancies, your department's draft 2022-2023 main estimate indicate that there are 17 positions in the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, so can you let us know how many of those positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me try and get that information as soon as possible. I don't have the actual breakdowns, but with the headquarters it has been very limited. I believe their acting director is in place now and one or two staff. At the regional level, it is a little better. We have staff in those [offices], but I don't have the exact breakdowns of the 17 positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taking into account that there has been some turnover and vacancies, I will understand if there is some difficulty in answering this question, as well.

Your department's 2021 to 2024 business plan indicated that it had collaborated with Inuit organizations, industry partners, and federal government agencies to establish a Tourism Taskforce, which is developing a tourism recovery and resiliency plan for Nunavut. Can you please tell us what the major elements of the plan are and when, and if, it will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to go back on the 17 positions, I want to confirm that seven are staffed out of the 17. As for the taskforce, as COVID hit, that taskforce was very hard hit in terms of meetings, and now with change of staff and turnover, we are going to need to revisit that and do a lot more work towards it.

The tourism and cultural side on this has been very hard hit, and some of the priorities here that we have, we are going to try and regain, and do the work as much as we can. Without warm bodies, it gets really difficult, but that's one of the priorities for my deputy-minister; to try and staff up those critical positions, so work at hand can take place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, and I'll remind members to please make sure any technological accessories are on mute. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several questions here, but I'll start off with this one. In your business plan on page 224, under Business Development, one of the priorities in the third bullet from the bottom says "Support the integration of social enterprise initiatives into existing economic development program management." I would like to know what that means. Thank you.

**Chairman:** So would we all, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Akeeagok.

>>*Laughter*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** I'll have my assistant deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Karlik.

**Mr. Karlik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to social enterprise it is Inuit orgs and different organizations that tend do a lot of the different programs similar to Ikurraq Food. They tend to have a lot of ways to apply for funding and one of those things is to work with those organizations to see how we can best suit for other communities.

**An Hon. Member:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Karlik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

**Chairman:** You had a little bird whispering in your ear. Mr. Savikataaq.

>>*Laughter*

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Social enterprise are mainly food banks, I take it then, from what the official has said. Can the minister or his officials explain to me how food bank types of organizations are going to fit into existing economic development program management? Thank you.

**Chairman:** As Mr. Karlik was already responding to the first part, I will go right to Mr. Karlik again. Thank you.

**Mr. Karlik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to a lot of the social program, they also give opportunities for education and also how to run businesses. Besides economic development, it also enhances the opportunities for these programs to see what they may be able to apply for beside the social enterprise on that section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, because I'm not quite understanding then; people that are using the services of for example, food banks, will be taught about how to run a business; economic development programming when they can't even get enough food to feed themselves. Am I understanding it correctly? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. Oh, sorry. It's for you. Oh. Thank you. Yes, that is what it is. It's for those that have, from the social side to the business, and we need more of those. So for those that haven't been able to find food, and be able to run a business, that is a great opportunity. That is what social enterprise does promote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the department is successful in getting people that are having trouble to even getting the food to feed themselves to run a business when some of the business that run a business are having a hard time getting by, but I wish them in their endeavours to get people that are marginal and barely making it, to become business people.

Onto the next step on the same page there, on the bottom of 224; priorities. "Increase collaboration with the Inuit organizations relative to program management and coordination." That is something else I would like to get an explanation on too on what that means. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each organization has been running different types of programs, but as I mentioned earlier, when we were reviewing the corporate side, this work has progressed quite well, while we as the department, and the Inuit organizations, and I hate the use acronyms, but, CANOR, taking those and collaborating with each other allows for more people that are applying for certain things to be directed or redirected into the next one. That is where our increased collaboration efforts are to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this for business and for social enterprise both then? Social enterprise might be able to get funding through the program the minister just meant too? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. Parts of that and there are a lot of programs that Inuit organizations are starting to do and they're very well positioned to do program management on a number of things. We are talking just so we don't do the same things over and over again. Making sure that if they have the funds and if they have got another stream of work, then we need to make sure. That way we can shift our focus in terms of helping our public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still have questions, but I would like to recognize the clock and report progress.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There is a motion to report progress on the floor. All those in agreement. It's non-debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those against. The motion is defeated. Please continue, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just let me open my books back. On page 226 of the business plan, I'm jumping up a bit to Community Operations, under Priorities 2022-2023, "Support the integration of renewable energy initiatives into existing economic development program management. Leveraging investment in renewable energy into community and business-based developments." Just an explanation on what that means too. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask my Deputy Minister Kunuk to respond? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome to the party, Mr. Kunuk.

*>>Laughter*

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. We promote economic development and renewable energy through wind and solar. Looking at these in a community to provide the capacity to do so, and businesses can attempt to do so, and they can try and access funds from Economic Development. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a minimum or a maximum in how much a business can apply for? Thank you.

**Chairman:** As Mr. Kunuk was responding, do you want me to go back to him? Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Yes, there is a limit of \$250,000 under grants and contributions, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this a new program or existing program? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is an existing program that we are putting in as part of our priorities to recognize that we would do the work now, as part of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister will have this information, but has any business taken advantage of this program and got up to the maximum amount of \$250,000 in renewable energy equipment? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think when we bring forward our grants and contributions, it should reflect what.... An example I want to use is: Arctic Haven Wilderness Lodge that we helped fund and this program has also been helping the community freezer program that we have launched as part of the overall department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. My memory is fairly good. I remember the Arctic Haven company got \$500,000 in grants. Was this program twice as generous in the past and it's been scaled back? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Going back to the mains here, I'm just curious: is this about compensation and benefits again? From 2021 to 2022, it's gone up by almost \$2 million. Just an explanation on why the increase in compensation and benefits. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I believe the minister responded. There are parts from the corporate management and then part from transportation moved over, but if there are any specifics the minister can provide, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you are correct Mr. Chairman. Those are parts of it. As part of this, the overall branch, the ones that are part of the increase, is under discover, invest, which is \$1 million and also the Nuliajuk core funding of \$1.5 million. Those are the two major ones. From what I explained earlier, some of the compensation that was over in corporate management side got moved here as a result because part of their economic development grants now include the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the corporate management compensation and benefits is almost the same between 2021 and now. The compensation and benefits for transportation has gone up by about \$1 million, like I said. Now, under economic development, compensation and benefits has gone up by almost \$2 million. I'm not getting it, and the expenses for Nuliajuk, I don't think that they'd be put under compensation and benefits. So just an explanation on the increase for compensation and benefits. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have my corporate services director here with us but if you compare from the main estimates of 2021, we had initially budgeted for \$8.86 million, but the revised estimate was \$6.5 million and now we are back to \$8.2 million. That all has the baring in the overall compensation, of you do my math, it is a variance of \$657,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq, let's check your math.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. My math is from last year, not two years ago.

*>>Laughter*

I don't know what the discrepancy is, but I was concerned about from last year to this year. Yes, I can see that it is very close to the same as it was two years ago. Then there was a drop of about \$2 million and then it came back. We'll just leave it at that. It's the inconsistencies there.

Going on down the page, still on A-6 there, service contracts. What is anticipated that service contracts are going up by almost \$2 million? They are almost doubling. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe for the compensation, I believe I've got the answer. The reason why it is \$2 million lower is because we used a lot of those funds to help with COVID for that, which then now, we are putting back into compensation for this year. That is the huge difference in terms of that.

For the increase on the service contracts, as my colleague indicated, it wouldn't fit in the compensation. That \$2 million increase is a result of the Discover, Invest, Grow Program and also the Nuliajuk core funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Skipping on over to the fisheries and sealing here, I know he has talked about this a little bit, but from 2021 to 2022, the budget has gone up substantially there too on the operations; \$1.9 million to \$3.8 million. Explanation on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. You said 234? Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the \$1.5 million that we're asking for, for the Nuliajuk core funding and that would be the increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. Just for the members' benefit here, what work is planned for the Nuliajuk this coming sailing season? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I had that as a minister's statement planned for today or yesterday. One of these days I was planning on making a big splash of what Nuliajuk is doing, so thank you. Since we are not having minister's statements, I really appreciate the member for asking that.

What Nuliajuk is going to do for this fiscal year is it is going to do a Greenland halibut survey and research near Mittimatalik, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Frobisher Bay. Also, it is for the first time, going to Grise Fiord to do bottom mapping and also the ecosystem baseline research in Steensby Inlet. That is what has been scheduled for this year. Thank you very much, for giving me that opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nuliajuk, at one point, I did call it the Baffin boat, and I'm curious as to why it doesn't do any fisheries research in the Kivalliq or Kitikmeot at all? We have waters and both of the other two regions. Just an explanation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's more that we have one boat and it is huge waters and I think we need to prioritize some of this work and that. I'm still contempt in getting into the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot in the future and through this core funding, I think it's going to allow us for more to allow us to plan on the longer term. I would be happy to share the long-term plans that we're going to try to cover all of our territory's waters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very subjective term again, "future." Can the minister be a little more specific? Are we talking two years, five years, 10 years, 20 years to fisheries exploration in the other two regions? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that with me, but it's something that I definitely need to look at. For areas like for Greenland halibut to do a sound fisheries test, it takes five years. I don't know if those three communities have been on the list, so I'm not sure what stage it is at now, but it's something that I'm definitely committed to providing to the House in terms of when we should be able to plan better for the other parts of our waters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be just a statement and I'll be done.

Nunavut means all of Nunavut. If there is a research vessel that has been, since its existence, pretty well concentrating on Baffin waters, there are waters in the Kivalliq and there are waters in the Kitikmeot that could be explored for potential for any kind of fisheries that may be there. If we don't explore and try to find other fishing sources in the other regions, then it won't be discovered. I encourage the minister to remember that Nunavut has three regions and to remember that all three regions are just as important as the one that the boat has been dedicated to for almost as the boat has been here. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you. Thank you, minister. I do know that and I will continue to keep that in mind, as we are dealing with one boat, one ship, and with the amount of water and in some cases, for fisheries research, it takes up to five years. You need five dedicated years to do those things in order for it to be viable. Those are the factors.

My staff has informed me that for next sailing for Nuliajuk, the one community that is not in the Baffin region is Naujaat and that's planned for the next season, and I know that down the road with this core funding that we get, it's going to help us plan longer and look at other waters within the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. I would like to start with page 223 and the budget for division operations. Last year in 2020-21, it was \$1,173,000 and this year and the following years, it is dropping down to \$760,000. What accounts for this decrease? When you say that you're looking for benefits for the communities, why is there such a huge drop in the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. I very much thank the member for that question. My colleague asked about why there was a huge decrease in compensation and benefits. It is because the financial support we received to deal with COVID was put into this division. That's why there was a large increase and now it is going back to the \$760,000 amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the following years, will it stay the same amount or would it increase? We don't know for certain that COVID will subside. Will it just stay the same at \$760,000 or would it go up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time yes, the \$760,000 we have in the plan is just going back to the \$760,000 figure that was always there. If it needs to be increased for next year, I would make a request in the House, but I am requesting \$760,000 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification, minister. On the same page...well, perhaps I'll turn over to tourism and cultural industries. In your business plan regarding tourism, the cruise ships do go and visit Nunavut, for example, Pond Inlet and you state that you want to hire more young people through the "*Nalunaiqsijit* training program." Are you planning this strictly for communities where there is cruise ship traffic or is it for the entire territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the training is delivered in communities where cruise ships arrive. There are learning resources available for the tourism sector, but this particular one is geared more toward communities that get cruise ship visits at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before we go back to Mr. Kaerner, we're going to take a two-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 20:18 and resumed at 20:20*

**Chairman:** Welcome back, everybody. Sorry for the little delay. Mr. Kaerner, you had another question?

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Can you put more consideration into this? Looking at our youth, if they wanted to take cruise ship training.... .

**Chairman:** Sorry, Mr. Kaerner, I'm just going to pause you for a moment. The interpreters were still on their break.

*>>Laughter*

**An Hon. Member:** Order.

**Chairman:** Sorry, I guess I should have made it a four-minute break. We're good to go again. Sorry, but can you start over again, please, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you for your apology to me.

*>>Laughter*

Okay, let me try again. Looking at our youth and when you're looking at one community, can you make further considerations as to the possible benefits? The Member for Arviat South mentioned the RV Nuliajuk. Can you look into this further so that nearby communities can benefit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, on page 228, third bullet, there is the (interpretation ends) Inuit tourism business mentorship program. (interpretation) I'm excited about this program as it will provide a lot of benefits. If your community doesn't have cruise ships arriving, it is still a worthwhile place to visit. All communities have different things to offer visitors, including hospitality. With that being the case, we will be trying to plan how Inuit can create tourism and hospitality businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, this can create a lot of benefits for the have-not communities.

Let me go back to the same section of your business plan regarding communities that have visitor centres. You are requesting \$89,000. What about the communities that don't have a visitor centre? How do you allocate the funds from this budget when those communities make requests? Do you also consider the communities that don't have a visitor centre? What happens with them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. This is for visitor centres, but in all communities we have (interpretation ends) community economic development officers (interpretation) and we provide them with funding to support economic development activities in the communities. The funds can be used for tourism or to provide further training in different areas. We leave it wide open for communities to come up with how they can develop their economy. When funds are inadequate, we can receive further funding proposals through Division Operations. We are very much in support of economic development. That's the way it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I encourage the people of Amittuq to apply for this funding.

In saying that, what stood out to me were the ecotourism businesses and sport hunting outfitters. How are you planning for those businesses? Using Amittuq for example, there are plenty of birds during springtime through to the fall. How are you able to support these businesses when they submit applications for funding and what limits do you put on the funding for them to showcase the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really understand the question. When the birds are migrating here, are you talking about attracting tourists or sport hunters? I would like to get clarification on which one he's referring to, through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me go to channel 2 for a bit.

(interpretation ends) When it comes to ecotourism, the department has budgeted for \$1 million and looking at the summary of grants and contributions, how is the contribution disbursed when it comes to these ecotourism? For instance, if this business is requesting for a contribution, how is it disbursed? (interpretation) I hope that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you very much. You came across very clearly. Yes, through application forms, requests can be made for funding either through (interpretation ends) Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program (interpretation) or (interpretation ends) Small Business. (interpretation) They can make requests through either program. We make funding available for businesses that want to grow in this sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the coming year, you're proposing to use \$1,328,000. Is there a maximum that can be requested or is there no limit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. We amended it last year or the year before and we put in a maximum limit of \$250,000. There are other programs where they can request for additional funds. That's the answer I can provide right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think people understand this, so make sure people request for that funding.

I would like to move on to mine training. You want to use \$200,000 for mine training. Now, as I stated, the two communities that I represent are going to be affected when it comes to employment. How do you look at this? Looking at the two communities that I represent, Igloolik and Sanirajak, what are the plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had a mining symposium recently and there was someone from the Amittuq in the mining symposium and that person is a prospector and is starting to find things. That's what I'm talking about.

I'm requesting \$1 million from the House for Discover, Invest, Grow (DIG). If someone wants to go prospecting and wants to get royalties at some point, they can request for up to \$250,000. The one in Amittuq is very busy prospecting and I am very proud of that person and there are other people who do that in Arviat. They are trying to improve themselves and we are trying to help them improve themselves.

It's kind of a critical situation right now with the Baffinland mine where they may get laid off and while that situation is happening, there are other opportunities out there. The request that we are making from you is for things like the Amittuq example, so we can provide funding for them, so they won't just be prospecting anymore, and they can confirm what they have found. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I know who you are talking about and I am very proud of that person too. That person is starting a mining company.

While I'm talking about this here, in your business plan, one of your priorities for 2022-23 on page 232 is to "Finalize the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Agnico Eagle Mines for the Hope Bay mine and continue to implement to existing MOUs with Baffinland..." What's going to happen with the existing MOU you signed with Baffinland if there was a big layoff like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. When mines open, we have agreements where training would be provided and make sure that Inuit are hired and they're all in it for operating mines and if a mine closes, then things will become impossible. All the things that we work towards would just stop. We always have a memorandum of understanding for new mines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that very clearly. It's kind of unfortunate that the mine would close and the people would get laid off.

I would like to move on to something else. There are a lot of things under Economic Development and trying to improve things. I would like to move to the Fisheries and Sealing Division. You're still planning for the year. There are communities that don't have fish plants, but you help them sell their fish through helping with the airfreight.

Looking at the fishing industry, not Iqaluit but fish, how are you looking to help improve fishing and the money that is available for fisheries so the communities with the fish

plant would get a bigger pot and communities that don't have a fishing plant would get a smaller pot? What sort of planning do you have for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, on page 235, about the freight subsidies, for example, Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay, if someone wants to purchase fish through the Nunavut Development Corporation, they get sent the fish. I believe some fish come from Igloolik and from different communities in the Kivalliq too. When they have fish and country food for sale, even though they don't have a meat plant, they can progress and they were getting orders of fish. I'm not sure how much they're doing, but if someone is interested in getting more training or more information about the fisheries and commercial fishing, then we would like to see proposals for training or improvements that we want to support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. As your time has expired, Mr. Kaernerk, I'll go to the next name on my list: Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question I would like to ask is: do all of the communities know about the Department of Economic Development's funding programs that are available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all communities have a community economic development officer. We use them to provide information on programs that the community needs to be informed of, and the community economic development officers are always available. Our regional offices are also directed to visit the communities every year. During the COVID-19 pandemic they didn't do much of that, but they are starting to do than again and they go and help businesses that are trying to get grow, as well as start-up businesses. Whenever we hear about people trying to do that, we try to help them and all of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. The Tourism and Cultural Industries priorities for 2024-25, I am going to ask a question about all of them, or two of them. (interpretation ends) "Implement the Tourism Strategy" and "Implement the Arts and Cultural Strategy." (interpretation) Do they exist now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. If you go to page 228, for 2022-23, we indicate that we are in the planning stages, as well as for tourism, and we will be

working on them, but it is going to be at a later date. This is the starting point with arts and tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister. Still in 2022-23, under the last bullet it says (interpretation ends) “Research options for an online marketplace for Nunavut arts and crafts.” (interpretation) Some of the people don’t know that there are programs available through the government departments because they don’t hear about them. I would like to urge the minister to keep Nunavummiut informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we try to make sure that all of the information is available, but we are still looking at options for online marketing, and once we have options, like Coral Harbour, for example, who have a company that sells nationwide and internationally. We have a lot of challenges, but we are trying to revamp it and we have found that within Nunavut, if you are going to be sending out t-shirts for example, from Naujaat to Grise Fiord, it is more expensive than someone sending a t-shirt from Saskatoon to Grise Fiord. So we are looking at all of the options that are available and the prices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank the minister. This was partially brought up, but I would like to ask a question about Nuliajuk. It seems like they are focusing on the Baffin region and not the other two. The minister indicated that they do five-year programs.

I would like to know if it is possible to have a research vessel in each of the three regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is the cost. Those research vessels are quite expensive. We haven’t bought another one because of the high cost. That is one of our major challenges.

We built Nuliajuk with federal funding, and I also indicated that next year, we will be going to Naujaat waters, on our way slowly to the Kivalliq region.

Last year, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation got a research vessel also where they will be doing research in different communities and that will free up Nuliajuk to roam around in other regions and look at Nunavut waters and opportunities that we might gain from it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. Again, going back to Tourism, Priorities, 2024-25, (interpretation ends) “Train, mentor, and promote Inuit tourism businesses.” (interpretation) Could we not fast track that so that we can start it earlier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is part of our programs and it goes to community economic development. We can do that. It is part of the planning stage for 2024, but it’s ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. The Kivalliq Inuit Association would like to open up a visitors centre. Are you aware that they are looking at cultural centres and such? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. They are working with our office and they’re also making requests, and I believe there is an agreement. We are not the only department that is getting funding requests. It goes to Cultural Industries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will make this brief and short. (interpretation) The question I want to ask, looking at the business plan, on page 234, under Fisheries and Sealing, and then further, on page 235 in the business plan; I haven’t read it yet, but your department supports fisheries and sealing. In the business plan on page 235, (interpretation ends) under Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy, it says “This program provides financial support to eligible commercial fishing businesses in Nunavut to offset the freight costs required to move their product to market and air charters for fly-in fisheries.”

There’s that and they are provided subsidies for those communities to have fish plants. Have you looked at fishermen? They travel far to catch the fish and it’s a very hard job to be a fisherman so that they can sell them commercially. Do you provide some kind of support for the fishermen, or is it only subsidies for freight? When the fish are sold, they are sold by kilo and they are paid for what they harvested.

There’s also the long haul. You have to go far to catch the fish and bring them back to the community. It seems it wouldn’t be right if the fishermen weren’t given some kind of financial support for all they do for travelling a long ways to a fishing lake and I think it

wouldn't be right if we only provided subsidies for freight. I hope I am making sense, Mr. Chairman. That's my question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, this is only a commercial fisheries freight subsidy and that is what it is used for. However, on page 234, in English (interpretation ends) the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program, (interpretation) this is financial support for the fishermen. Last year, people from Pangnirtung, who were halibut fishermen, were provided support. They can also apply and get funding through this program. You can get all this information from our office.

I'm going to make sure that the information gets out there on what funding is available for what. That's for commercial fisheries. There's also another pot that's available for the fisherman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you for that information. I don't believe that is known because in my home community, they go to a certain lake and there is a quota, I believe, that they can get for commercial fishing. They usually have to go very far to go get the fish in the middle of the winter and bring it back to town. So I would like to urge the hunters and fishermen to see if they can access funds to offset their costs.

They work very hard, their snowmobiles and *qamutiit* fall into disrepair and so on, and that is the reason why I wanted to ask that question, and I would like to get the information in writing to make sure that it gets to the fishermen. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. I agree with you wholeheartedly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Killiktee. Are you finished? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): I would like to recognize the time... or, are we almost done with this?

>>*Laughter*

I would like to report progress.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Malliki. There is a motion to report progress on the floor. Subject to Rule 82(2), I could deny it, but I will recognize the clock and allow the motion to proceed. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, by one.

>>*Laughter*

I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker:** Be seated. Report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering bill...I'm doing it again.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Savikataaq. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**Some Hon. Members** (interpretation): 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. *Orders of the Day* for June 10:

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 Friday, June 10, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:56*

