Standing Committee on Legislation
Hearing on the Review of Nunavut's
Language Legislation, the Official
Languages Act and the Inuit Language
Protection Act
Iqaluit, Nunavut
September 27, 2023

#### **Members Present**:

Bobby Anavilok
Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Co-Chair
George Hickes
Mary Killiktee
Adam Lightstone
Solomon Malliki
Karen Nutarak
Daniel Qavvik
Joseph Inagayuk Quqqiaq
Alexander Sammurtok
Joe Savikataaq, Chair

# **Staff Members:**

Craig Simailak

Siobhan Moss

### **Interpreters**:

Eva Ayalik Andrew Dialla Attima Hadlari Millie Hikok Jacopoosie Peter Abraham Tagalik Blandina Tulugarjuk

### Witnesses:

Goump Djalogue, President of the
Francophone Association of Nunavut
Christian Osaka, Executive Director of the
Francophone Association of Nunavut
Francois Oullette, Vice-president of the
Francophone Association of Nunavut
Salomie Qitsualik, Board Member of the Inuit
Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit
Mary Thompson, Chairperson of the Inuit
Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

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## >>Committee commenced at 8:58

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): Good morning. I would like to welcome everyone to our hearing on the *Official Languages Act* and the Inuit Protection Act.

To start off this beautiful day that has been given to us, I'll ask Mr. Anavilok if you could open this in a prayer.

## >>Prayer

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anavilok. (interpretation ends) We will start our hearing here. Just for the viewing audience here, the Standing Committee on Legislation's televised hearing on the review of the official language legislation. Today we're going to have the honour of having the Francophone Association of Nunavut. President Djalogue, if you can introduce your officials, please, and proceed with opening comments.

Mr. Djalogue: Thank you. *Nakurmiik*. (interpretation) Good morning. Mr. Chairman of the Standing Committee, Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, and to the government officials, good morning. My name is Goump Djalogue, and I am the President of the Francophone Association of Nunavut. Today, I am here with Mr. Francois Oullette, the vice-chairman of the association and Mr. Christian Osaka, the director of the association.

Before I go any further, please allow me to respectfully, and with humility, acknowledge that we are in Inuit territory. I would like to emphasize that this acknowledgement is not simply a formality but rather it is made as a sincere reflection that guides us on a daily basis. We are very grateful for the welcome that has been given to us here, on Inuit territory. We acknowledge the generosity of

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Inuit on this generosity and this welcoming spirit of diversity.

We would like to thank you for having given us the opportunity to appear before you today, in order to speak to you on behalf of the association and present our recommendations. We come here in a positive spirit to share with you our recommendations about the application and the implementation of the Official Languages Act, as well as recommendations and proposals to improve it. Our presence here today testifies to the importance that we attach to the Official Languages Act as well as to the Inuit Language Protection Act and the importance that this represents for language diversity and cultural diversity in this territory.

It also testifies to your commitment, our elected officials, to work for language promotion and as you know, section 37 of the Official Languages Act, provides for a fiveyear review of this Act and it is in this context that we submit our observations and recommendations today. I would like to emphasize that this submission is the outcome of exhaustive consultations with the francophone community of Nunavut, including with community organizations such as the Association des Francophones du Nunavut, the Carrefour Nunavut, the francophone school board of Nunavut, the early childhood centre called Les petits Nanooks, the Uiviit theatre, and the French health network in Nunavut, le Réseau de santé en français au Nunavut.

Ladies and gentlemen. We are pleased to see that a review of the *Official Languages Act* is finally taking place fifteen years after it was passed in 2008. This *Act* represents the crucial stage in the acknowledgement of the existence and equal status of the three languages in Nunavut. However, if one observes how it has applied over the years, the AFN has identified

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some inconsistencies that could, in the medium term, make the status of French in Nunavut more vulnerable over time as an official language.

In response to the Standing Committee of Official Languages of the Legislative Assembly's request, the AFN is putting forth recommendations including three essential points. First, we recommend that language clauses in any agreements between Canada and the Nunavut Government be reviewed and systematically included as well as those in any government services. This is essential in order to guarantee the respect and the promotion of our official languages.

Second, we feel that regulations need to be adopted, regulations under the *Official Languages Act*, in order to ensure full follow-up of its application. This is absolutely necessary in order to make sure that the *Act* is consistent and effective. Third, we would like to emphasize the need to create a legislative framework that would allow for a signed agreement between the AFN and the Nunavut Government. The purpose of this agreement would be to provide for a single window for services in French, which would guarantee the provision of services and communications in French, to Nunavummiut.

Allow me to go further into detail about what we are proposing. With respect to the preamble, we would like to express our support to the clauses that acknowledge the need to sustain and revitalize the Inuit language that would guarantee that it would be used in all facets of life in Nunavut. It is undeniable that Inuktitut requires specific support in order to be able to prosper and we agree with this acknowledgement.

Now, if one were to follow the same logic, I would like to emphasize the minority situation of the French language in our territory. French

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is a minority language in Canada as well as in Nunavut, and also requires revitalization and promotion in order to ensure its survival. Thus, we feel that the preamble also recognize and state clearly that Inuktut and French require supplementary support and revitalization equally. In the preamble, there is reference to the francophone community in paragraph B. We would like to propose that the community be identified as the franco-Nunavummiut community.

This would more clearly reflect our francophone community being an integral part of Nunavut. We are above all, Nunavummiut. Our specific characteristic is that we speak French. We would like to see this amendment recognized in the preamble. Furthermore, In paragraph C, there is a reference to both the Inuit community and the needs of the francophone community in Nunavut. We would like that term to be the franco-Nunavummiut community. Moreover, paragraph C recognizes that these two communities are in great need of the resources required to safeguard and strengthen their cultural expression and their collective life.

The AFN believes that the Government of Nunavut must consult with our association in order to provide a framework for action to achieve these goals. Such a framework is currently lacking, and we will come back to this. With respect to the quasi-constitutional legal status of the *Official Languages Act*, we support this principle as the recognition of the three official languages of Nunavut as an objective that must be above all other laws of a general nature, and we unreservedly support this objective.

The AFN supports the fact that the *Act* creates the position of Minister of Languages responsible for the promotion of official languages in Nunavut. This is an important political guarantee that must be maintained in

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the legislation, and it confirms the importance of official languages in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The primacy of the *Official Languages Act* is specifically recognized in section 2.2.

Dear Members, as the legislation sets out, everyone can use one of the three official languages in the legislative Assembly. We feel that there should be simultaneous interpretation in French on a permanent basis as well as translation that should be part of the work of the legislative Assembly. Section 5 stipulates that the laws must be in French and English and that a version in Inuktut is possible. AFN supports this position but asks that the laws be systematically translated into each of Nunavut's three official languages, including Inuktut. This is absolutely essential to ensure that there is equal access to the legislation, and it also reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity of our territory.

We firmly believe that it is important to maintain these parts of the Act in order to ensure the protection and the promotion of our three official languages. Working together, we can create a future where all languages in Nunavut can prosper and co-exist harmoniously. The same applies to section 7 of the Nunavut Gazette. Under section 6, there are regulations to help implement the provisions of the Act. However, it is important to note that since 2008, no regulations have been adopted. Instead, the government has chosen to use policies, guidelines, plans and directives for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the Act.

The use of these documents can be changed more quickly. However, using them instead of regulations makes the legislative framework less transparent, and it also makes it more difficult to hold elected representatives accountable. We are aware that it is true the policies and guidelines are easier to change, however, what happens is that there is less consultation with the francophone community and it is not necessarily as transparent.

We therefore suggest that it would be preferrable to make regulations to ensure the implementation of linguistic obligations. Furthermore, we recommend that the power to make regulations should extend to all provisions of the Act, not just sections 4, 5, 11, and 12.

This would allow for more consistency in the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and its application. We believe that the adoption of regulations is absolutely essential to ensure the full implementation of the Act and to strengthen protection for our official languages. This would strengthen transparency, accountability, as well as consultation with the communities; all crucial elements in order to ensure the respect of our commitment to languages in Nunavut.

Section 8 of the *Official Languages Act* is crucial in order to ensure access to justice. It acknowledges the ability of individuals to use the official language of their choice before a judicial or quasi-judicial body. This includes the right to be able to speak in Inuktut, English or French in civil litigation through an interpreter and the right to be advised of their rights.

Furthermore, when the issue at hand is of public interest, there must also be interpretation for the public in French and English; simultaneous interpretation. We recommend that the *Official Languages Act* include the same provisions as the federal *Official Languages Act* in order to ensure that there is this trilingual aspect of quasi-judicial and judicial bodies.

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Judicial organizations would have to have a bilingual judge and this would have to do with the judicial system, generally, and it would not be necessarily dependent on one individual. In other words, the judicial body would have to be institutionally trilingual, without neglecting the fact the judges can be bilingual or trilingual.

We recognize that Nunavut does not have a large number of bilingual judges. We must ensure that Nunavut appoints bilingual and trilingual judges on an as needed basis. These bilingual judges could be called upon to sit on bilingual civil cases, and this new obligation would not be onerous because the criminal code already guarantees to have a bilingual judge and a bilingual prosecutor. The same is true is under the *Divorce Act*. These bilingual judges and bilingual prosecutors can be there when there is a request from the accused for a trial in French, and as stated, this already exists in the federal Official Languages Act, which says that every federal court, other than the Supreme Court has the duty to ensure that the parties can choose the official language of their choice.

If there is a court action against the Legislative Assembly or the Government of Nunavut, we recommend that the government would also have to plead in French if the other party pleads in French or Inuktut. This would be similar to section 18 of the federal *Official Languages Act*, which includes similar provisions for proceedings. Section 9 of the *Official Languages Act* allows that any person may request and receive a printed or audio translation of the final version of a judicial or quasi-judicial body.

This is absolutely essential to guarantee access to equal rights, and it also guarantees the status of languages in the judicial system. This should not just have to depend on an individual request. The final decision of

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courts plays a crucial role in its understanding of access to official languages in the judicial system. Therefore, any decision must automatically be published in French, English, and Inuktitut.

It would be appropriate to have specific regulations or develop a policy for publications in consultation with the francophones of Nunavut for French, and other parties involved. This would mean that all services would be available in official languages as soon as they are published and this would provide for equal access to rights and language in Nunavut.

The AFN supports the fact that section 10 of the *Official Languages Act* allows judicial bodies to adopt the court's rules to ensure respect for the official languages in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

With respect to communications with the public and provision of services, the AFN fully supports the wording of section 11 of the *Official Languages Act* that guarantees that all signs be visible in all three official languages and that this be fully visible and apparent. This provision is absolutely essential because it would guarantee active offer of services in all territorial institutions, not only in one central office.

However, the AFN would also like to emphasize the importance of designating bilingual and trilingual positions in order to ensure that these signs truly reflect the commitment to provide services and communications in each of the three official languages. This designation of positions is absolutely crucial in order to make sure the reality reflects the promise.

Furthermore, the AFN recommends an order in these signs. We propose that Inuktut be on the first line, followed by French and English ά<sup>1</sup>Làςh<sup>1</sup>h<sup>2</sup>h Lcu<sup>1</sup>h<sup>2</sup>h<sup>2</sup>h Chaland Chaland Child Chaland Child Chaland Child Chaland Child Chi

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on the third line. This would symbolize the importance of Inuktut in our culture and territory, and it would also reflect the commitment on the part of the government to revitalize minority languages.

Section 10 of the *Official Languages Act* provides that members of the public have the right to communicate with the head office or central administration of the government in the official language of their choice. However, there are no regulations defining the headquarters or central administration for each department and each government entity. This may already be defined in policies or directives, but it is difficult to find these policies and directives and it makes the process less transparent.

In order to remedy this situation, it would be preferable for these definitions to be contained in regulations. Furthermore, it is essential that the AFN be consulted before such regulations are drafted, in order to ensure that the needs of the francophones are taken in to account.

Furthermore, there should be bilingual or trilingual positions in each department and agency in order to ensure good frontline service in French. This designation would ensure that quality services in French are accessible at first point of contact, and it would strengthen this commitment to equality of status in official languages.

Under section 12(3) of the *Official Languages Act*, the government has the obligation to provide services and communications in French and regional or local offices, only if there is significant demand. This may be based on the proportion of the population served by the office, or the volume of communications or services in French in the past. There may also be an obligation to provide services in French depending on the

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nature of the office because it takes into account the importance of the services for the health, safety, or protection of the public.

However, the AFN believes that it would be important to adopt a regulation defining what constitutes significant demand. This would take into account factors such as the proportion of the population served and the volume of communications and services in the past.

Furthermore, the purpose of an office must be defined, of the office that requires services in French. Using these regulations is essential in guaranteeing transparency and consultation for the francophone community. Without this type of community participation, there is the risk of missing an opportunity to truly reflect the needs and the rights of all language communities in Nunavut.

Ladies and gentlemen, section 12(5) of the *Official Languages Act* allows for regulations to be made where there is a particular concern such as a high rate of assimilation. What this means is that an office may be required to provide services in languages that could therefore support the revitalization of indigenous languages. However, the AFN notes that the assimilation rate is very high in Nunavut.

Furthermore, it is absolutely essential to find an alternative mechanism in order to ensure that all government services are available in French, regardless of their source, regardless of whether they come from a central, regional, or local office, which would not be dependent on demand or purpose of that office. That is why the AFN proposes that the Nunavut government and the AFN sign an agreement that would provide for a single window that would provide services and communications in French. What this means and what it testifies too is that these services are lacking

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Nunavut currently has 37,000 individuals in 25 communities and there has been an increase of about 1,000 individuals since 2016. In this time of technology, most communications from the Nunavut government are done electronically. In that context, the AFN is proposing an innovative solution. We want to be a part of the solution and therefore, the AFN feels that there should be this one-stop shop in Iqaluit whose purpose would be to provide services and communications in French on behalf of the Nunavut government from its headquarters. This one-stop shop would provide information and it would also provide orientation so that citizens may be able to be directed towards the appropriate site in order to find the information that they require in French. The public would also have the possibility to go in person to this one-stop shop if they would like to obtain services in French.

I would like to emphasize that these services and communications could be provided in French by a third party acting on behalf of the Nunavut government. However, it is important to note that the government ultimately would be the one responsible and accountable for providing services in French to the public. This initiative would not mean that the government is released from its constitutional obligations and quasiconstitutional obligations in terms of services in French, but what it would do is provide for a practical solution that would meet the needs of the francophone population. This would be a solution that would guarantee that French

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services would be long-lasting and stable in Nunavut and it would meet the needs of our francophone community and ensure a sustainable preservation of our language and our culture. Providing for this one-stop shop between the AFN and the Nunavut government could be included in a framework in order to ensure that it will be long-lasting.

Under section 12(8), if there is a significant demand for French within a municipality, the municipality would be obliged to ensure that the public can receive services and communications from the municipality in French. Doing that would require regulation. To date, no regulations have been drafted for this since 2008 and it is for that reason that there is no obligation on the part of the municipality to provide services and communications in French.

Under section 24 of the Official Languages Act, there must be an annual report from the Languages Commissioner. However, a reading of the annual reports leads to the conclusion that there is very little information in them. For example, the report for 2020-21 does not provide any details on the number and type of applications and requests made under the OLA and the *Inuit Language* Protection Act, nor for the status of applications or requests or their conclusion for applications, or requests in progress during the previous fiscal year, or information on cases where recommendations made by the Languages Commissioner following an investigation were not followed. The AFN is calling for the creation of a regulation under the Official Languages Act that would set out the content to be included in the commissioner's annual report and that would present all of the commissioners work to ensure respect for official languages.

With regard to the complaints, she receives information on investigations, their nature,

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The AFN notes that under section 26, a person may ask the commissioner to investigate concerns about the use of French by a territorial institution or municipality alleging a breach of the *Official Languages Act*. The AFN also notes that the commissioner, on their own initiative, may conduct an investigation if they believe that there has been a violation of the *Official Languages Act*. This is an important power in the AFN's view, and we support this provision. Section 28 allows the Languages Commissioner to refuse to open an investigation or to terminate an investigation for a number of reasons. We also support this provision.

The AFN notes section 29, which requires the commissioner to file a notice with the Minister, territorial institution, or municipality affected before initiating an investigation. It can also consult the entity that is subject to that request for an investigation if possible to resolve the concerns raised. The AFN agrees that the *Act* gives the Languages Commissioner the power to open a formal investigation. We will support any amendment that will better define the powers to settle a complaint, rather than take it to court. The AFN proposes that a regulation be developed in this regard.

Section 30 provides for the resolution of concerns without an inquiry. The commissioner may use mediation and any other means consistent with Inuit principles.

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The AFN believes that the commissioner's report should provide full information on the number of cases resolved through other means.

The AFN supports the provisions of section 31 of the *Official Languages Act*. The commissioner may enter and inspect premises occupied by a territorial or municipal institution and may also interview employees and request to examine information and documents. This ensures that the commissioner can obtain the information necessary for a proper investigation. The commissioner can even compel a person to appear to testify under oath and to file an affidavit. They can also compel a person to disclose documents, see section 31(2).

Section 31(3) also grants the commissioner the same powers and duties as a court in civil matters with respect to entering premises, interviewing employees, ensuring the disclosure of relevant documents, and compelling persons to appear before them or to give evidence under oath. According to the association, these powers are important to ensure a rigorous investigation.

Section 32 obliges the commissioner to submit a recent report following an investigation and to send it to the persons concerned. The commissioner may make recommendations and may also ask the territorial institution or the municipality to inform them within a period, set by the commissioner, of the measures taken or planned to follow up on the commissioner's recommendations, and if no measures have been taken or planned, the reasons for not following up on the commissioner's recommendations.

Furthermore, as suggested by the new federal *Official Languages Act*, we believe that the commissioner should have financial penalty

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Section 33 requires that the commissioner keep the person who filed the complaint or requested an investigation informed and we support that provision. Under section 35, a person who has requested an investigation by the Languages Commissioner to apply to the Nunavut Court of Justice, it allows them to apply to the Court of Justice for such remedy as the commissioner considers appropriate in the circumstances. This can be done if the commissioner has refused to initiate an investigation or has terminated an investigation.

They may also file an ongoing application if more than six months have elapsed since the application was made and they have not received a finding. We support that provision because it obliges the commissioner to deal seriously with the request for an inquiry within six months. According to our association, it is acceptable to impose time limits for filing an application with the Nunavut Court of Justice to enforce the *Official Languages Act*. Undue delays must be avoided. We therefore support that provision.

Section 36 also allows the Languages Commissioner to apply to the Court of Justice for a remedy to ensure compliance with the *Official Languages Act*. The commissioner may do this on their own initiative, or with the consent of the applicant. The commissioner may also obtain leave of the court to appear as 'ΡΓ'?>>>\α'6'\(\) Δ ) - " ( Δ ) - " ( Δ ) - " ( Δ ) - " ( Δ ) - " ( Δ ) - (

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a party in proceedings brought by an individual, though the commissioner may also apply for leave to intervene in proceedings brought by an individual, and as stated, the commissioner may also apply for leave to intervene in those proceedings.

In our view, it is very important for the commissioner to be able to apply to the court for redress themselves. All to often, the laws leave the burden on the complainant, we therefore support that provision. On the other hand, AFN recommends that a regulation be created to govern the complaints process received by the commissioner, and the use of their powers to determine the nature of the complaints, the follow-up, and the conclusions.

The association supports section 37, which requires a five-year review of the *Official Languages Act*. There is a need to review the provisions and operations of the *Official Languages Act*, as well as any other legislation, policies, guidelines, plans, or directives that legislative assembly or any of its committees may specify. Unfortunately, the association has not been able to find all these documents on the government website.

Without being able to obtain all of these documents, it is difficult for us to assess and comment on the application and implementation of the *Official Languages Act*. It is also difficult to comment on the effectiveness of the provisions of the *Official Languages Act* in terms of whether the *Act* has achieved its objectives. Reading these documents may lead to further recommendations from the AFN.

Section 38 provides for the making of regulations, and the duty to consult before making a regulation. According to the AFN's research, no regulations have been made in relation to the *Official Languages Act*. It

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should be noted that there is obligatory consultation with the francophone community before adopting regulations, and this guarantees better accountability and transparency.

Dear Members, above and beyond the proposals that we have presented, the association would like to put forward additional proposals for solutions to crucial issues when it comes to the sustainability and vitality of the francophone community. First of all, we recommend that the Nunavut Government consider adopting regulations that would create a francophone immigration policy, even though immigration falls under federal jurisdiction, some provinces like Quebec have shared jurisdiction when it comes to immigration.

Our association proposes that the Nunavut government use the francophone immigration policy brought forward by the Federation of the Francophone and Acadian communities in order to develop its policy in that spirit. By 2030, we would like to see that there would be 20 percent of the immigration to Nunavut made up of francophones. This would contribute substantially to strengthening our community, and it would also ensure its sustainability.

Furthermore, we believe that a regulation should be adopted that would systematically guarantee language clauses in all agreements between Canada and the Nunavut government. These language clauses would apply to all services in Nunavut, and it would ensure that the francophone community benefits in all sectors. For example, if Canada were to transfer funds for early childhood programs. The language clause would ensure that part of those funds would go to the franco-Nunavummiut community, which would guarantee its access to essential services.

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The 2021 census shows that there are about 530 children who are eligible for instruction of the French minority language in Nunavut. It is therefore urgent that Nunavut provide the necessary resources to the francophone community and stakeholders working in education.

Furthermore, we also propose that Nunavut give priority to the development and expansion of French language daycare centres, because that is where French language education begins for our youth.

With respect to the French language health sector, we feel that it is crucial that there be designated bilingual or trilingual positions in the hospital and in the medical clinic in Iqaluit, as well as in other Nunavut communities. French speaking Nunavummiut, who so wish, must have access to a doctor who speaks French, and this will guarantee equal status and equal access to medical needs in our community. We would also say that this would promote and sustain our language and our culture.

In conclusion, we would like to propose another last measure that will promote and celebrate the franco-Nunavummiut community. We recommend that the ▷'b▷√⊂∿σ'Jε V.qp>ሩ, Δη∇ε ▷·ρο√γηος Υ>τς, Δονε ▷.ρογηηος Υ>τς, Δονε ▷.ρογησίος ΑΓ Δονε Α.βονησίος ΑΓ Α.βονε Α.

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Government of Nunavut adopt a regulation in order to have a symbolic day dedicated to the Franco-Nunavummiut, a day that would be dedicated to the Franco-Nunavummiut, a day that would be dedicated to the acknowledgement and celebration of our culture and our language. This day would be an opportunity to showcase the contribution of Franco-Nunavummiut in our territory and our society generally.

It would also serve to raise awareness amongst the public of the rich cultural heritage of our community. Furthermore, we would like to propose that the Nunavut government officially recognize a symbolic franco-Nunavummiut flag that is a symbol of our identity and our pride. Recognizing the Franco-Nunavummiut would be a way to reinforce our feeling of belonging, and it would also testify to the commitment on the part of the Nunavut government to preserving and promoting the French language and culture in our territory.

In doing so, the Nunavut government would be expressing its unwavering support for the francophone community, and it would strengthen the ties that unite us all as Franco-Nunavummiut.

Dear colleagues. On behalf of the association, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the legislative assembly for having asked us to submit our proposals to amend the *Official Languages Act*. This is rather an opportunity to closely review how the official languages are applied, implemented, how effective its provisions are, and whether or not its objectives have been reached. However, it is essential to underscore the fact that in order to be able to undertake this assessment, the association must have access to the policies, guidelines, implementation plans, and directives under the *Official Languages Act*. Access to these documents is essential in

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order to be able to fully understand how the Act is being applied and to identify areas that require improvement. We are convinced that this transparency will only strengthen our ability to fully collaborate with the Government of Nunavut in order to fully protect and promote official languages within our communities.

Thank you very much for your attention today.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll just make a short statement here.

For future reference, it is our protocol that copies of your opening comments be provided to Members of the Committee in a manner that enables them to follow along. This is especially important if your opening comments are different from your submission, which they are in this case. (interpretation) It's regretful that the opening comments were not provided in Inuktut and English to Members of the Committee.

I now open the floor for general comments, as we will get into questions later. I now open the floor for general comments. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing before the Committee today and I would also like to thank you for your efforts in reviewing the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and providing your detailed comments and recommendations.

I would also like to thank you for providing detailed opening comments. That is a great benefit to those watching the proceedings today who have not had an opportunity to read your submission. I just wanted to thank

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you and highlight those key areas. You have put forward a number of interesting recommendations and I look forward to our deliberations today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does anyone else have general comments? I have no more names on my list for general comments, so I now open the floor for questions. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a number of questions today, but I'll just start off with a few and allow other Members some time to ask questions as well.

Before we get into any specific details of your submission, I would like to ask if you would be able to provide us with a brief overview of some of the most significant language issues facing the francophone community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, *petit* Adam Lightstone, for your question.

Just a quick note that during this question period, it will go between *français*, our vice-president, me, and occasionally our executive director, Christian Osaka, will be responding to the questions.

As for your question regarding.... I'll speak in French as I'm more at ease in French. (interpretation) So if I understood your question properly, it is with regard to the some of the challenges that francophones might encounter here concerning implementation of the French language here in Nunavut.

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In this regard, what franco-Nunavummiut tell us within the association is that essentially, the challenges they face when they requiring essential services, like when they go to the hospital, for example, or require services at a health centre, when they are unable to access a doctor or a nurse who is able to provide services in their first language, we know that at times when we are facing health challenges, we need to understand the information that is provided to us by the health care provider in our language, and to able to understand clearly the information. When there is a language barrier and we don't properly understand, it adds another layer of stress to our health issue, which at times may create undue difficulties.

Also, with regard to other services, similarly in a general way, if communication is not in French and therefore the francophones who have difficulty understanding information, or even at times, accessing information when such information is only conveyed in English, it is problematic.

There are several examples like this. There are also services such as daycare. We are happy to say we are in the process of being able to provide access francophone daycare services, with more spaces for daycare services and early childhood service providers tell us though they might not be enough spots available for new clients, they are saying the centres are growing, and that growth will continue this year and the coming years.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Djalogue, for your response. The first issue that you had highlighted is the need to receive medical care in a language that the patient can understand. I absolutely agree with that statement. However, in your

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opening remarks you had highlighted a number of francophone organizations in the territory and one of them that I was unfamiliar with was the Franco-Nunavut Health Network, if I recall that name correctly.

I was wondering if you would be able to further elaborate on what this organization is and what they do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue: Yes, thank you so much. (interpretation) Thank you. The health network of Nunavut is a community organization that is active in promoting health services in French in Nunavut. This network works in collaboration with the Minister of Health to support undertakings aimed at providing health care services in French in hospitals. They bring francophone interns here to do their internship at the hospital and this is to encourage them to practise here as doctors in Nunavut so they can offer their services here. This is a network.

Francois is drawing my attention to another aspect that they bring interns to our schools as well with services within the provision of support to special needs children and the interns offer those types of services as well. They work with partners throughout this network that is also a national network. The Nunavut branch works with the national network within their work that aims at promoting the services.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Djalogue, for that very interesting response. Like I had previously mentioned, I was not aware of the Franco-Nunavut health network, but as you indicated,

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**ታ**ል亡 (ጋጎትበJና): የሀት ይርኮ  $\Delta$  ጎረ የ  $\Delta$ ር።.

LΓ⊲₾%. LΓ⊲⁰bσ%>%U. ₾ፚጘኆ®ФОС™ВРО⊐⊲ҀС РФФСЭФ. СГ₽Ф the work that that organization does in bringing recent graduates in the medical field to come and practise their residency here interritory with the goal of having those doctors sign on and stay on long term, I think that's a great benefit for all Nunavummiut. I just wanted to thank you for that.

I guess I'll move on to my next line of questioning. In a few areas in your submission, you indicate that no regulations have been adopted since the Act was passed in 2008 and instead, the use of policies, guidelines, and directives has been utilized. You also note that rather than this approach of using these alternatives, rather than regulations, makes the legislative framework less transparent and makes it more difficult to hold elected representatives responsible or accountable.

I was wondering if you would be able to elaborate a bit further on that area and if you would be able to give specific examples of where policies, guidelines, and directives have been utilized as opposed to regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. In general, from a legislative viewpoint, regulations support Acts to ensure their tangible application. In the *Official Languages Act*, it is said that the regulations are to be adopted to ensure that the law is enacted.

What happens is that when there are no regulations, given that regulations require consultations with communities and lead to a more transparent process within the application of the legislation and for its usage. Let's say that this clarifies the test that the law

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**ΗΔ<sup>6</sup>** (ϽʹͱληͿς): 'dϧʹʹαͺΓ΄<sup>6</sup>, Δ<sup>6</sup>/«Ϸʹϲʹ<sup>6</sup>. 'dϧʹʹαͺΓ΄<sup>6</sup>

PΡϟʹʹαϚϐʹ. L<sup>6</sup>Λ<sup>6</sup>νϽͿ<sup>6</sup> 6, Ρdασ

Πηςʹ<sup>6</sup>CΡ/Lϟσ<sup>6</sup>, <sup>γί</sup><sup>2</sup><sup>6</sup>ΡΔ ϤCΡγʹΓ<sup>6</sup> ΡΔά<sup>6</sup>

Ρʹ<sup>6</sup>Ρλ<sup>6</sup><sup>6</sup> CL<sup>6</sup>d 10.2 αμαΔ<sup>6</sup>CΡ/L<sup>4</sup>LC.

Δ<sup>4</sup>L<sup>6</sup> C<sup>6</sup> α 'δΔ<sup>6</sup>dϧΡ/Lϟ<sup>6</sup> αμαΔ<sup>6</sup>γϟ<sup>6</sup>α<sup>6</sup>ς

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Δ<sup>6</sup>γ<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>ς<sup>6</sup>.

**Δ•/ペレር•**: L'a. Γ<sup>ւ</sup>C հΔċ<sup>ι</sup>.

**γΔċ•** (ϽጎληͿ): 'dϧ°αϳ·, Δ•ν<βνϲ·. ϤͰͻ 'dϧ°αϳ·, ΓʹϹ ΗΔ<sup>ι</sup>΄. Ϲʹα 'bϫ·Ͻ;ηʹ៶ϚϹ ΔϲʹϞͿ Λ<sup>ν</sup>ΗηΓ΄ ΔΓ΄ ϹΔ<sup>ι</sup>δα Δωσα<sup>Δ</sup>ϧ<sup>ν</sup>Γ<sup>ς</sup> CLϽLσ Δ<sup>ι</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup> ΔϽ<sup>ι</sup><sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup> Ο<sup>ν</sup> Ασ<sup>ν</sup> Ελασ<sup>ν</sup> Ελασ<sup>ν</sup>

is submitted to within the daily usage, but when we're talking about guidelines or internal memos, when there are no guidelines, we see that there is no transparency when one is to rely only on departmental guidelines.

The general population is not aware of these types of guidelines because they circulate only within the civil service and are not accessible to the citizens at large. Therefore, we recommend in line with the legislative requirement to uphold regulation, such as the posting in three languages, the ones pertaining communications or displays in three languages. I have no tangible example of guidelines here at hand, but we could certainly follow up to give you tangible guidelines that might have been used instead of broader guidelines as required per the Act itself.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just follow up with Mr. Lightstone's question regarding the regulations. When we were speaking to the Languages Commissioner yesterday, one of the questions that I had asked her was, as in the *Official Languages Act* in section 28, like Mr. Lightstone mentioned, it provides that regulations may be made with respect to the implementation of the *Official Languages Act*. I was wondering if maybe you could describe some priorities that the Government of Nunavut should be focusing on when they do the first round of regulation drafting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you. In our submission, we underscored certain regulations, but we do

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ▷C<sup>6</sup>**: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup>C ϧΔċ<sup>1</sup>.

understand that not all can be done at the same time. We need to prioritize certain regulations. For us, the priority should be some language clauses that deal with territorial transfers. There are regulations that are in line with the application.

This deals with all governmental communications with the public and also communications with municipalities that there be clear regulations so that these communications are made accessible in all three languages, that there be a framework to ensure this. An example that I gave was one that dealt with postings and signage, but this is also within the scope of access to justice in all three official languages. I would say that among all, maybe these would be a priority.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, in section 44, it provides the same support to provide implementation regulations for the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. I'll ask the same question: when it comes to drafting of the regulations, what should the Government of Nunavut focus on as priorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Yes, thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With regard to this, we have noted the prerogative of the Languages Commissioner that would certainly underscore a regulation that would confer more powers while putting this power in a clear framework. I have alluded to a regulation for community service provision and of.... (interpretation ends) My apologies.

**ንጎ**ትበሀና): የ<mark>ዕ</mark>ታ<sub>°</sub> ሲኮ, Δ<sup>6</sup>ነላየኦር<sup>6</sup>, ላ<sup>1</sup>L ጋ የዕታ<sub>°</sub> ሲኮ Γ<sup>1</sup>C ΗΔ<sup>6</sup> ር<sup>6</sup> ሲ ላለ<sup>6</sup>ዕበቦታየው<sup>6</sup>. ዎና<sup>6</sup>ረላ የኦዛ ልና?

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**Ρἡb** (Ͻቫት∩Jና): 'dϧ·αΓ˙, ΔϧϥϘϦϹʹͼ. Ϲʹα

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ΗΔ<sup>6</sup> (Ͻʹͱλησ): ʹϭͰϧͺ ΔͼͰʹϘ, ΔͼͰϘϘϹʹͼ.
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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ▷C<sup>6</sup>**: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup>C ϧΔċ<sup>1</sup>.

**϶Δċ**ν (Ͻ<sup>ϳ</sup>៶ϟႶͿና): <sup>ና</sup>dϧ<sup>ϼ</sup>αΓ˙<sup>6</sup>, Δ<sup>6</sup>ν
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(interpretation) Mainly, on this exact point, we believe that there should be regulations that support the Office of the Languages Commissioner's power to ensure the provision of services in languages in French and Inuktut, and that to ensure the community services are provided in those languages within the scope of the promotion and revitalization of those languages. There should be a provision and support to revitalize further, these languages.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the comments in the submission regarding the preamble to the *Official Languages Act*, it was indicated that a framework for action to achieve the goals of the legislation itself is lacking. I was wondering if one of the witnesses can provide some examples of what is felt that some of the components of such a framework could be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Yes, thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hickes. In the preamble, we noted a few things. We did note the necessity.... I'm just conferring with my vice-president.

(interpretation) My apologies once again. We had some difficulties in finding this point in the preamble. These are a few points that we have underscored.

For us, it is essential that it be stated clearly in the preamble that franco-Nunavummiut or a minority community and that the French language is also a minority language that requires revitalizing and this is the case for us

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペኦር<sup>66</sup>**: L'a. (Ͻ<sup> $\dot{\dot{c}}$ </sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ**\dot{c}** Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ**\dot{c}** Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ**\dot{c}** Δ<sup>6</sup>/ $\dot{c}$  Δ<sup>6</sup>/ $\dot$ 

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ>C**%: L'α. Γ'C ϧΔċ<sup>ι</sup>.

here and it is the same reality federally. The French language is being used less because there is an issue of assimilation and we require the same measures as is set for Inuktitut because French also is in a situation where it requires revitalization. We believe that if the legislation mentions this, it would ensure that the legislation takes that into account because this is quite important.

Also, we have indicated the need to reinforce collaboration with the association. We believe it is important for us to be able to support the government in applying the legislation and with these essential elements in the legislation, we will ensure a better collaboration with the franco-Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. On page 6 of the submission, the concept of a one-stop shop or single window of providing services and communications in the French language is addressed with some detail under 10.2 of the submission. I was wondering if the witness can elaborate further on what measures would need to be in place to ensure government accountability for the delivery of services and communications if a separate francophone entity assumes the responsibility for frontline service delivery *en français*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hickes. This is part of our solution for what pertains to the details as to the implementation of this point. I believe that we ought to work together but we are to see that in communities that are in the position of being in a minority, we see that it

**϶Δċ**ν (ϽϤϒΛͿϲ): ʹϭͿϧ϶ͼͺϳʹͽ, ΔϧϒͺϘϦϹʹͼϧ. ʹϭͿϧ϶ͼͺϳʹϧ, ϤͰϹϽ ΓʹϹ LCΡ ϤΛͽϭͿϦͼ<sub>·</sub>ϼϲ.

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6  $^{\circ}$   $^{\circ}$ LCUCDIONORIO DIBONO DI LO DA LO DE L LCUCP®NDA°aP°rLC PA&ND°  $\triangleright$ 56°C $\land$ 4°6° $\sigma$ 50 $\rightarrow$ 6°.  $\triangle$ 7 $\vdash$  $\rightarrow$ 6°5 $\land$ 7°5 $\rightarrow$ 7°6°C $\rightarrow$ 8°6°C $\rightarrow$ 8°C $\rightarrow$ 8  $P^b D^c C^c C^c A^c A^c C^{4b} A^{4b} C^{5b} C^{5b} C^{4b}$ ᠈᠂ᡃᡋᠪ᠘ᡃᢛᢗᡏᠦ᠍᠂ᠳᢓᡏ᠘ᢣᠮᠦ᠍᠂ᡏ᠘ ₽%₽₽%₽₽₽₽₽ «DPLJG. CL°Q  $a \rightarrow a \Delta^b dC P D \Delta^a a^{5b} >^{5b}$ . 

**ϧΔċ**<sup>1</sup> (ϽʹͱϒΛͿʹ): ʹϭͿϧʹʹͼͺͰͼ, ΔͼϒϘϷϹʹͼ. ϹʹͰͺͼͼϒͰʹͰϹʹʹʹϐʹʹ϶ͼͺΛʹͽʹͰϭͼʹͰϲ. ϷʹϐϲϷͼ϶ϽͿϲ ϷΔάΛϽϚ, ΛϲʹͺϤʹͼϲͺϹϗͼ ϤϽʹͺϤʹϐ·ϲʹϲͼͼͺʹϲͼϲ, ϹͿͼͼ, ϤͼͼϷϒϤʹͼϲϤͼϲϘͼ ϤʹͰͺ϶ͼͼ϶ͺϹͼͼͼ ϹʹͰͺͼͼϒͰͺͰͼʹͼͼϧͺϹͼʹϘͼ ΛΩϛͼͼϒͰͺ ʹϭͿϧͼͺϹͼͺͺ

 $\Delta$ <sup>6</sup>/C<sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\Delta$ <sup>6</sup>/C<sup>6</sup>  $\Delta$ <sup>6</sup>  $\Delta$ <sup>6</sup>/C<sup>6</sup>. T'C LCP.

is important, not to be always in the position of presenting complaints, rather we would think that we should bring about solutions, and that is taking into account, the skills we have and the ability to provide services in French to our franco-Nunavummiut community. We believe that these francophones would be key partners in the provision of services, in French, to franco-Nunavummiut.

We believe that there should be a framework, an understanding, so the government recognizes the association as a spokesperson or the partner in service provision in Nunavut. We recognize that the government and all public institutions might have a difficulty in accessing resources among those human resources in the provision of services, but as far as the French language is concerned, we believe that we have some skills and assets that enable us to support the provision of these services and we believe that the government can lean on us to share these skills or offering of services and, of course, respecting the legislation and being accountable. Of course, there is a legal framework that could be set, but we are of the belief that we could be part of the solution rather than being of those that would only complain.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 7 in part 11 of the submission, it addressed the concept of significant demand. In the federal context, significant demand is most often determined by demographic context or the size of the language-speaking population. Yesterday, I had some questions for the Commissioner of Languages on the fact that the federal legislation has not yet provided a description or parameters of significant demand and neither has Nunavut's

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**Δ•/ペレርና•**: L'a. Γ<sup>ւ</sup>C հΔċ<sup>ι</sup>.

**γΔċ**<sup>1</sup> (Ͻʹ៶ληυς): ʹͼͿϧ·αͺΓ<sup>1</sup>, Δ<sup>1</sup>/«ΡϹʹ<sup>1</sup>.
ʹͼͿϧ·αͺΓ<sup>1</sup>, Γ<sup>1</sup>C LCΡ. /Ρ<sup>1</sup>Γὑ<sup>1</sup>υ
〈Ϳϸρ·<sup>1</sup>η-Ρρη<sup>1</sup>6ςϹ<sup>1</sup>L<sup>2</sup>. LΓ〈Ια<sup>1</sup>,
ϽΡ/ϚϹ<sup>1</sup>ηα<sup>1</sup>ν 〈Ικα<sup>1</sup>ν (Ικα<sup>1</sup>ν).
Ρ<sup>1</sup>6<sup>1</sup>6<sup>1</sup>σ γ<sup>2</sup>α<sup>1</sup>ν Λρ<sup>1</sup>ς ΄Ιγ<sup>2</sup>α Γ<sup>1</sup>ν.

**Δ৬/ペレር%**: L'a. Γ'C LCP, Ċ°a ላለ%dႶ<sup>c</sup> ላለ%/b°σϽʻ\_J<fob ጋ\ናበላ<sup>®</sup>ՐኒL<sup>c</sup>. Γ'C LCP.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペレC<sup>66</sup>**: L'a. Γ<sup>1</sup>C ϧΔċ<sup>1</sup>.

**γΔċ**<sup>1</sup> (ϽϞληJ<sup>2</sup>): የdϧ<sup>2</sup>αΓ<sup>1</sup>, Δεγ<βΕ<sup>2</sup>6.

የdϧ<sup>2</sup>αΓ<sup>1</sup>, Γ<sup>1</sup>C LCP. Δċ<sup>1</sup>, Ρ<sup>2</sup>Λλλ<sup>1</sup>bε<sup>1</sup>C Λ<sup>4</sup>υλ<sup>1</sup>

Ρ<sup>1</sup>βΡλ<sup>1</sup> Δαλλ<sup>1</sup> Αρ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>1</sup> Αρ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup> Δρ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup>.

ΔΟρλ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>1</sup> Ρ<sup>1</sup>βΡλ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>1</sup> γρ<sup>2</sup> αρ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup>λ<sup>1</sup>.

CΔLΔ<sup>1</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup>, LCυΔ<sup>2</sup> Δ<sup>1</sup>Γ LCυΔ<sup>2</sup>,

ΔΔ<sup>2</sup>ΠϽC<sup>1</sup>βηCρ<sup>4</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup>αΛΔ<sup>1</sup>β<sup>1</sup>δ<sup>2</sup> Λ<sup>4</sup>υλ<sup>1</sup>σ<sup>1</sup>

Ρ<sup>1</sup>βΡλ<sup>2</sup>σ<sup>1</sup>, ΔϽΔ<sup>2</sup>αΡηCρ<sup>2</sup>ΛΔ<sup>2</sup> Γ<sup>2</sup>βΟλ<sup>2</sup>α<sup>2</sup>Ω<sup>2</sup>

Λ<sup>4</sup>υλ<sup>2</sup> Δαλλ<sup>2</sup>Λλρλ<sup>2</sup>Γ<sup>2</sup> Ε<sup>1</sup>βΡλ<sup>2</sup> ΔΟ<sup>3</sup>ΩΓ<sup>2</sup>.

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<br/><br/>/ Δ<sup>6</sup>/<b** 

**LCP**: 'db°a广', Δυγορός. Διι 'db°a广' ό°a PD°Γι°σ. Το C°οσ ()ήλη, συνον) Lυγωνονος 3, Δου 6 Δογηνογιτώ D'bdγιτω D'b°ας 1 μουσραφορώ όυσα μουσρογορηματώνου Δουσυσιώνος 'bdασρορορηματώνου Δουσυσιώνος μουσραφορονος Δουσυσιώνος Δου σωρογορηματώνος 1 μονορος. Δου σωρογορηματώνος ()ήλη, Δυγορος.

**Δ•/ペレርጭ**: L'a. Γ\C ϧΔċ<sup>ι</sup>.

legislation. Either of these *Acts* do reference it but again, it doesn't define it.

When I look at different communities, Iqaluit was an example that was used yesterday; there is a French school here, there is a French daycare, the *Association des Francophones du Nunavut* is very active in the community, yet you go to smaller communities and there may be two or three francophones in the community. When you are looking at defining significant demand in the provision of services, my question is: what is the description that you would like to see or recommendations to the government on defining significant demand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for this question. Francois, would you want to answer?

**Chairman**: Mr. François [Oullette]. (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Osaka.

Mr. Osaka (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the question with significant demand, well, it is true that this important presence is more here, but there are other communities where you would have a francophone presence. We do not aim here at targeting all 25 communities in the territory. We are talking about communities where you have more demand in Cambridge Bay or even here in Iqaluit where there could be a central office that would support other communities. This is more of you.

As per the question asked to the commissioner, indeed, there is no clear definition that would allude to significant demand. Usually we might look at 5 percent, but we could certainly look at our reality here

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ>C**<sup>56</sup>: L'α. Γ<sup>5</sup>C LC<sup>6</sup>.

**Δ•/<>>(•**: L'a. Γ'C հΔċ<sup>ι</sup>.

**γΔċ・** (ϽϞληυ): 'dϧ°αϳ·, Δυν≪ρϲʹ·.
'dϧ°αϳ·, ΓʹϹ Lcp ϤΛλυδς CΔϳ·. Ϲ·dϤϲ ϤʹϲϪͰΓ ϤϷϲϹϷϭʹʹϒ Δʹ·ϧ·Ϸʹ·ϽΔϞϲλϷ·ͼ υペLϽʹ·ϧͰͼʹ Lcυ<sup>۳</sup> Γ΄ α...α Δ<sup>\*</sup>νγνι<sup>\*</sup>L<sup>\*</sup>LC Δʹ·ϧͰ<sup>\*</sup>Θ<sup>\*</sup> ϤϽλϤϲ<sup>\*</sup> ϷΔάηϽς 'ϧʹ·϶ͼ ϷʹϧϷΫʹϭͼ<sup>\*</sup> ϤϽλϤϲ<sup>\*</sup> ϷΔάηϽς 'ϧʹ·϶ͼηϽʹ·ω. Φα<sup>9</sup><sup>\*</sup>Γ ϤΛλανι Λ<sup>\*</sup>υν<sup>\*</sup> Δα<sup>\*</sup>λα<sup>\*</sup>ννννννννννν ϤϽʹ<sup>\*</sup><sup>\*</sup>CϷʹͰϧϹʹͼͿʹ·ωΓ<sup>\*</sup>. ΛΑςηςϷή΄<sup>\*</sup>ω ϤϽΔ<sup>\*</sup>α Ϸ<sup>\*</sup>Υ<sup>\*</sup>αλα<sup>†</sup> Λ<sup>\*</sup>υν<sup>†</sup> Δα<sup>\*</sup>Γ. Ρνασ Καλλ<sup>\*</sup> Εναμης Α<sup>\*</sup>νης Δ<sup>\*</sup>νης Δ<sup>\*</sup>

 $C\Delta\dot{L}^b$   $DP^bb^*\Gamma^cD^b$ ,  $ADCDDD^*b$   $A^cCA^l\Gamma$   $A^cCA^cD^c$   $A^bb^b^bC^c$ ,  $A^bC^b^bC^bC^b$   $A^bC^bC^bC^bC^bC^b$   $A^bC^bC^bC^bC^b$   $A^bC^bC^bC^bC^b$   $A^bC^bC^bC^bC^bC^b$ 

in Nunavut and determine what is the percentage that we can all agree upon and that would allow us to say that there is a significant demand after such a threshold.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that response. Also on page 7, the submission notes that section 12(8) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that municipalities would be obligated to provide communications and services in an official language if there was significant demand. There's that term again. Has the Association des francophones du Nunavut had any discussion or agreements with any municipalities and specifically with the City of Iqaluit to address the provision of communications and services *en François*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) Since I was in this position, we haven't done this. We had cooperation on other topics, but I haven't found a specific request for communications in French that would have been submitted to the City of Iqaluit or whether discussions have happened, but we will continue in this line. It's a good point.

We will submit those requests to have better cooperation with the City of Iqaluit because there is a larger number of francophones in Iqaluit. We will do it and we believe that through regulations, these items will be further clarified and it will enable us to better consult our community on the specific issue of French communications, but to date, we had a generic consultation.

**∆<sup>6</sup>/<>▷ር¹º**: L'a. ⊲∩¹d∩⁰b L⊂⁴⊃ቦ<sup>c</sup>. Γ<sup>l</sup> የ₽⊂⁰n.

**Δ⁰/ペ▷ር⁰**: L'a. Γ\C ♭∆ċ\.

However, on the specific issue, once regulations are available, we will have a further consultation with our community, for example, what would be the percentage to define significant demand for services in French. We will have a more detailed consultation to establish this level.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I will now use my discretion as the Chairman to take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 10:34 and resumed at 10:58

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Our meeting will now resume. Following my list of names, Mr. Malliki.

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

I have a question on page 3. You note that section 4 of the Official Languages Act, and I'll say this in English, (interpretation ends) provides that everyone has the right to use any official language in the debates and other proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. You stated that your organization "believes that MLAs should use French when making presentations to the Legislative Assembly." If the law were amended to require MLAs to use French in the Legislative Assembly, then they would lose their right to speak whichever official language they prefer. Why do you feel that MLAs should not have the right to speak the language of their choice during their work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Λ'd५'⊀<%. ▷ΔάΠϽ<sup>c</sup> ΛΑ<sup>c</sup>Πς<sup>c</sup>C▷Γ<br/>
Ο'b▷Υ▷¬<br/>
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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«>C<sup>56</sup>**: L'α. Γ<sup>5</sup> <sup>5</sup>PC<sup>56</sup>Π.

**'የር-ጐበ**: 'dሃትଘቮኑ, Δካረዋኦርጐ. ርጐዉ ለንፈበጐሀ ኦቴኦፖሊታልና ጋየረዉጭጋጐ. ርLጐዉናርኦጐ Δሷጔጐሀ ውዉቦንጐው ርቪው ΔሷልቦፖLአትው ለንናልቦፖLሁዕ, 'ቴጐጔሷጋና bLቦንኦቦባንL Δርጐውላልነር, ፈጐውላልነር, ፈተር ውኦልናልነር, ርLቴላ ላርኦፖነጋና ኦቴኦፖናኮ ላጋጐጋልና ኦቴኦፖናቴሎንና, ኦቴጋቦቦጋህ, 'ቴጐጔሷጋና. ርLጐዉ ለዖናልቦፖLጐጋህ ጋየፖታና ኦቴኦፖሊታልና, ለትናበናጐርኦውጐ ኦናቴኦፖጐ ኦዲሀና Δሷጐጋር ኦሏልጐህጐጋበ 'ቴጐጋሷናጋ ዮሀጋጐርኦንሊፈናቴዮሙህ. ርጐዉ ለትሊላጋጚሀጋላጐ ርሏLΔቴይጋላጭበጐጋህ ΔፖLቦንናበጐው አጭሶፖህሀናር.

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**γΔċ** (ϽϳϡΛΟͿ): ʹͼͿϧͼͺϲͼ, ΔͼϒϾϷϾͼ. ϤΛΛΙΔͼ ʹϽͺʹͼͿϧͼͺϲͼ. ΔͼϧͼͺΔϧͼϧϹͼϧ. ϷϽ;ϟͼϧϹͼ, ΔͼϧͼͺΔϧͼϧͺͼ Ͱα Γ. CΔͼͿϤ ΑϽ;ϟͼϧϹͼ, Δͼ, Γει Αι Εα Ελσε ΦΩΡΕ΄ σα Θ΄ Τος Α΄ Τος Α΄

Thank you for the question. It's a rather symbolic question. It's not an obligation that we are asking for. We do recognize that it's not reasonable to ask that of every MLA,

It is along the same line when we are asking for recognition of our flag, or a special day. We would be very proud and very happy if some MLAs could say a few words in French. It would make us very, very happy, but sincerely, this is not at all an obligation for the MLAs to speak French, not at all. Everyone is free to speak the language of his or her choice, and ideally, in his or her first language. It's a rather symbolic issue, it's not at all an obligation to speak French.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, I would just like a clarification, if you don't mind, because in the submission, AFN believes that MLAs should, it's not may, it's not could, should use French when making a presentation to the legislative assembly. Can you clarify whether your views are the same as the submission? Mr. Djalogue.

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you. It's a mistake in the English translation. What we said in the French version is that our intent is not at all to make it an obligation. We will correct and clarify this point in our submission, so we'll correct the submission in this paragraph. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. This is now clearly understood. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of using the *Official Languages Act*, the three official languages in Nunavut are Inuktitut, English, and French. (interpretation ends) Do you feel that this should be a priority for all laws passed by the legislative assembly in the future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Djalogue: Merci. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Malliki. (interpretation) I had a problem with my earphones and I didn't get your question. I'm sorry. Could you repeat it, please?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, can you ensure you rephrase your question so he understands? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. (interpretation ends) On page 3 in your submission in the section on "Laws" of your submission, you ask that the laws of Nunavut be translated into each of Nunavut's three official languages. Do you feel that this should be a priority for all laws passed by the Legislative Assembly in the future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Malliki. Indeed, we do believe that the three official languages must, they're all on the same footing. There is no priority for one language, so laws and regulations must always be translated in the three languages or must be made available to the pubic in the three official languages.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. On page 3, section 6 (interpretation ends) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that the Speaker may make regulations to ensure that the Legislative Assembly is compliant with specific sections of the legislation. Can you

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ፈቴ▷<sup>®</sup>ዮር-▷ትበ<sup>©</sup>ቦና ፈና<sup>©</sup>ዮ<sup>®</sup>LC. Γ<sup>©</sup>C አ∆ċ<sup>©</sup>J<sup>©</sup>
▷በና<sub>©</sub>ፈር<sup>©</sup>ጋሀና.

**γΔċ**<sup>•</sup> (Ͻἱϟ⋂ͿϚ): ʹͼͿϧ·α፫<sup>•</sup>, ΔϧϒϘϦϹʹ·ͽ. ʹͼͿϧ·α፫<sup>•</sup>. ϹΔ<sup>•</sup>α ϤΛ<sup>•</sup>ͼͿΠΓϧϷϟ<sup>•</sup> ϷΠʹͼΝΓ<sub>϶</sub>Ϳ, α፫Ϥ<sup>•</sup> ϒϧ·ϲϷʹϧϷͰ<sup>•</sup>ι<sup>-</sup> LͼϤ ΠΠ<sup>•</sup>ϧϷϒΔ<sup>c</sup> ϒϲ፫<sup>•</sup>ϲ϶ ϤΛ<sup>•</sup>ͼͿΠΓϧϷ<sup>•</sup>ϧϷϷ<sup>\*</sup>Ͱ<sup>-</sup>. ϷΔ<sup>•</sup>ΠϤ<sup>•</sup> Ϸʹϧ<sup>•</sup>ϧϷͰ ΔͰΔϲ<sup>\*</sup>υϟͰϟͿ<sup>-</sup>, ϒϧ·ϲ<sup>-</sup>ͼ<sup>-</sup>ͼ<sup>-</sup> Δ<sub>Φ</sub><sup>•</sup>Π<sup>-</sup> ϷʹϧϷϒ<sup>\*</sup>υΩͿ ΠΩς<sup>\*</sup> τσ. ϷΛάς Λ<sup>\*</sup>υϟΓϧϷ τΩ<sup>\*</sup>

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clarify why you feel that this section needs to be amended? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This item 6 in the Nunavut Gazette.... Thank you for the question. Indeed, what the AFN is proposing, or would prefer is that regulations be adopted to ensure implementation on language obligations rather than using guidelines or policies, which are issued at the administrative level. When regulations are implemented at the legislative level, they include consultation with the community.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 4 and 5, your submission includes a discussion on the "Administration of Justice" and the requirement for a bilingual judge in the case of litigation in the French language. Can you elaborate further on how the federal *Official Languages Act* addresses this issue and why you feel it could be a model for amending Nunavut's language legislation? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Thank you for your question. For the administration of justice, the federal legislation stipulates that the judicial system itself at the federal level, is bilingual French and English, but at the territorial level, we are asking for the three official languages to be used. The service should always be available in the three official

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So the system must be as such that if an individual makes a choice to have a procedure in Inuktitut, the administration of justice will have to do everything to ensure that the individual is served in Inuktitut.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Next name on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question, first of all, perhaps your reason for coming here. The submission about the three official languages in Nunavut, and I have some questions about it. In the past years, what you talked about in the beginning of your presentation here, you stated that French has been put at risk because of the language legislation, and that's why I'm asking this question to you. What exactly do you mean? Can you explain more clearly so that we will understand it better? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, Madame. To answer this question more efficiently, I'll speak in English. For several French speakers, if we have access to services in French, but if the services are not available, we won't use the language, and eventually, we will lose the language. If you don't use it, you'll lose it.

I went to take my driving test for a motorcycle. I studied in French, but the test was in English, so I was somewhat surprised to have to take the test in English, but the most important point in this regard, is that

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/<6>**: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>PC<sup>16</sup>Π.

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To encourage the use of the French language, we need regulations and *Acts* that are really implemented, and this is by the means of regulations so that the language is used. Currently, the use of the French language is compromised because we don't have a standardized implementation of the *Act* to ensure that French in Nunavut are served in the French language. *Merci. Qujannamiik*.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our witness for explaining the reasoning behind this, and your commentary makes sense and is clearly understandable. This too, applies to me as an Inuk, living in my homeland where I was born, and having grown to adulthood and English was the only language of service, regardless if I wanted service at our school, our health centre and even at the stores.

These are never amenable to any unilingual person, especially for those with only a single language like English. In having grown to adulthood, I have experienced the issues you were speaking to, especially being served in a language other than your own, irrespective if your sole language is Inuktitut, French and English who all expect services.

They need representation, and although this is a difficult situation, even with the present situation we find ourselves in, initiatives are developed from ideas we express. Now, although this may be a barrier, would the fact that this would require higher funding, and **Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ>C**<sup>6</sup>: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup> Þ̄<sup>C</sup>.

**>--** (ϽʹϛϒΛͿʹ): ʹϭͰϧ·αͺΓʹϧ. CLϧϤϤ α\_αΔΛͺϤʹϧʹΓͰϧͼ· ϤΓϲʹϧʹΓͼʹϭͼϧϒΡΛʹ϶Ͻ ϤʹϧʹΓͼϧ· ϲʹʹ϶ͺ ααφ-Γ ΔαΔͼ ϤΓϲʹͼʹϧϧͺϹ ϷʹϧϷϒͼ ϤϽ;ͰͰϒ ΛλεγςʹͼΝϷϥͰͰϒ. ϲʹͼ Δʹϧϧͼ ʹϧͼʹ϶άΛϽʹͼϧϽͼ Ραϧϥϧϧʹϲϲ, ʹϧͼʹ϶άΛϽʹͼϧϲʹϧϲϹͼϧϹϗͼ ϹϹͼα ΔϧϧϽϲ· ʹϧͼʹ϶ϥϽϽͼʹ϶ʹͼ ϤϥʹασͼϧϒϷϲʹϧϲϹͼϧϽͼ ϤϽΛͺϤϧʹϧ.

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due to the additional resources needed, this third language recognized here in Nunavut is embedded in the *Official Languages Act*, there will need to be additional funds to hire additional employees, including the need for trilingual linguists.

Currently, we do not have many residents who are fluent in these three official languages, and it may require more training for our employees to acquire those language fluencies. Not very many staff have that capability.

So, how do you figure, or have you heard or asked questions if more funding can be made available to do that? We always face challenges in funding our current operations and maintenance funding. That's my question: have you looked to see if you could get proper financing to do that in Inuit Nunangat. Funding set aside for languages in Nunavut are usually limited. Hopefully, my question came through clearly, so that is my question. Has any review been commenced for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue: (interpretation): We work regularly with our partners at Heritage Canada, one of our partners, and every time we are asking for a budget, because we are aware of the costs that would be involved to ensure the revitalization and respect of our language. We are asking for constant support from the Government of Canada, and we do believe that with a stronger *Act*, as it is the case, we know that the Government of Canada committed in this regard with this new federal legislation on official languages and the fund for revitalization of native languages.

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペレC<sup>66</sup>**: L'a. Γ<sup>1</sup>C ϧΔċ<sup>1</sup>.

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We always stress this thing, correct? Of Nunavut, the budgets that are granted elsewhere don't apply here. We need more, and transfers from the federal government to the Government of Nunavut should respect or take into consideration our needs in order to revitalize official languages here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some tasks ahead and some things to be considered. I would then like to move on to another subject. We have the Inuktitut language, English and French as the official languages. Maybe I'll take a step backwards for a minute.

Looking at the official languages, and looking at the whole of Nunavut, and looking at the percentages of English, Inuktitut, or French speakers, I believe it was 85% Inuit, and then there's the English sector and the French sector, and that's how I see it in my mind's eye. Why is it that? You might have a longer vision, but we're looking at years ahead when it comes to languages and the Inuktitut language.

It's very nice to have different languages being spoken in a community. We look at the signage outside, around the community and inside the buildings and on the buildings, and especially on the roads. We look at the three official languages being used on the signage all over town. Are you looking at the French language being second because of your small population, and are you looking at putting the English on top of the signage, or how do you see the order of those three languages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Thank you. What we would like to say, apologies from the interpreter. Thank you. Okay, better now? There seems to be interference.

**Chairman**: We are having technical difficulties. The technician is walking here. Let's try again. Mr. Djalogue.

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

**Chairman**: We will just take a five-minute break to try to figure out our technical difficulties.

>>Committee recessed at 11:22 and resumed at 11:29

Chairman: Good morning again, Members and officials. I would like to call the Committee meeting back to order. Hopefully all the technical difficulties are gone and I'll go back to Mr. Djalogue.

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. I am going back to the question pertaining to the order of the signage. As we proposed in our submission, I had said that our proposal was that first, we would have Inuktitut, then French and in third, we would have English. The logic being to underscore the necessity to revitalize these languages, underscoring languages that really need revitalizing, but then we would like to say that it is first Inuktitut. We need to focus on this language. The signage would therefore show Inuktitut first, following that would be French, and the language that requires no attention would be the third language in this signage. This is to symbolize the government's commitment to promote and to revitalize languages that need this undertaking.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that clarification. We understand where you're coming from. We expect when we have an opportunity to speak about the Acts we are dealing with.

I want to change direction to a question that was asked earlier. The question was related to the Acts that have been enacted related to the official languages and the requirement to recognize these languages. The Acts that have been created or new legislation or amendments, which one do you see as a complete change or addition to the Acts? Hopefully I'm understandable.

(interpretation ends) My colleague earlier asked his question, asking about the laws of Nunavut be translated into each of Nunavut's official languages. The question was: do you feel that this should be a priority for all laws passed by the Legislative Assembly in the future? Adding to that, my question that I'm trying to say is: are you aiming at only new laws that were passed or are you asking for all, like old and new? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Ms. Killiktee, indeed, this proposal is within the framework of the review to be provided to the legislation. When we talk about review, it's aiming for the future application of the law, but we are all in agreement here that all the legislation should be accessible to all citizens in all three languages of the territory and amongst those, Inuktitut, of course. It could be for reasons of resources that the Inuktitut

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ÞC<sup>6</sup>** (ጋጎ,ትበJ<sup>6</sup>): <sup>6</sup>dታ<sup>6</sup>α Γ<sup>6</sup>
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 Καθημα

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was not viewed as essential, but we believe that all three languages have to be reflected in all legislation. Of course, we would say that if such a thing could be done, taking into account previous legislation, we believe that would be very important as all citizens of Nunavut would be more aware of the laws that are important to our daily lives here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying your response. To another area. On page 6, in English, (interpretation ends) in section 10.2 of your submission, you stated that according to L'Association des francophones du Nunavut, the rate of assimilation is very high in Nunavut. Can you clarify what you mean by this comment? Also, to add in how you see it and why this is important. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. This is a very good question. I would ask my colleague, Mr. François Oullette to answer this. François did allude to a certain story.

What we are told often is that our youth find themselves in a position where the environment leads them to abandon the French language and speak or us the English language more frequently. This happens to us adults. When we often go to services and we realize that the offer in the French language is unavailable, one tends to switch immediately to English and express oneself in this language, which leads to assimilation. This is seen also in francophone families when you see siblings playing together, they start

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playing together in English because in all other contexts/, they are led to believe that this is the only language they can live their lives in.

In all other environments, they cannot see access to French language in their daily lives. At times, they don't have the opportunity to express themselves in French. These are all the reasons why, throughout time, these young people abandon the French language. The same happens to adults. It is due to the fact that they are unable to express themselves in this language or they are unable to access services in the French language and therefore tend to switch to the English language. Francois.

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

Mr. Oullette: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam Killiktee. Thank you, Mr. Djalogue. One of the points that is really important is that when you are a minority and arguably here, even in Nunavut, the majority of Inuit have to make this choice too. Your language is a choice, right? All the services are, especially in a city like Iqaluit, offered in English and the expectation is, yes, everybody understands English and we're just going to go along with that. It becomes a choice to speak in a language other than English. That choice is more than simply communication, it is also identity.

I come from New Brunswick, and I was a minority all my life. I visited Quebec once in a while. I'm not from Quebec. Every day, I had to choose to speak French, so if you create a situation where speaking French is not attractive, not valued, and not recognized, you will choose other languages. That is clearly what happens with some youth. It's also, in a wider sense to with the community, if again, you don't use your language in

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various contexts, your language becomes impoverished, whether it be professional, personally, and in all regards, so there is that.

The rate of assimilation goes beyond this conversation. It is also very logistical. Apart from Iqaluit, there is pretty much no French language services elsewhere or a francophone community that is well developed in other Nunavut communities. We are aware of francophones being present in other communities. There too, as a francophone in a smaller community, you are put in a situation where to be francophone, it is an uphill struggle for yourself and probably for your family.

There is also the fact that for, and I cannot speak for Inuit that I have known who speak French or francophone Inuit. They often have to choose between one language over the next. The rate of assimilation there means there would be a loss of one aspect of their culture as well, so I think the idea here is to ensure that we provide Nunavummiut of any language, the opportunity to find their place in the territory by speaking their language according to the three choices that we have. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can just remind all the participants here, both those asking the questions and those answering the questions, to be brief. This is not to be disrespectful, but the clock doesn't stop. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. I feel what you are going through, trying to use my language in the house and that my language is my base and my strength in Inuktitut. I totally don't know all of the Inuktitut language but the loss of language and recovery of language, I understand, and I feel where you are coming

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from. I know Inuit going through this struggle as well. I know there are others that want to ask, so my last question is (interpretation ends) *L'Association des Francophones du Nunavut* supports the power of Languages Commissioners in conducting investigations. Do you feel that the commissioner's power is strong enough or should the *Act* be amended to enhance those powers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Indeed, we have underscored that we support the Commissioner of Official Languages power. The amendment that we support here is her ability to sanction, monetarily, when there is no compliance with the legislation. This is following an investigation she might have carried out, so that measures be taken to correct and when the measures are not upheld, that she be in a position to have monetary fines or other financial measures. We are of the opinion that this is an important measure to support the powers invested in her and we would also say that there should be a regulation set so that the content of the Official Languages Commissioner's report be made public, so that we could know what are the different investigations she carried out and what have been the conclusions so that we can be more informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the three key issues mentioned in your submission is the establishment of a one-stop shop for French language services. Can you elaborate further on what is it that this one-stop-shop service would include and how you envision it operating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That question was answered but if you could just elaborate a little bit more on it, Mr. Djalogue.

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. What we are saying here is that the one-stop service would be a partnership between our association and the Government of Nunavut, because our association has some expertise in delivering services in French. It is a solution-oriented strategy that we are proposing. We want to help the government to provide services in French. As I said, the legal framework is a more technical issue. We'll have to define the operational aspect through more legislative work and co-operation.

Those services could include translation services, orientation towards French services, and access to information in French. We could offer those services, and the purpose is to improve the daily life of French-speaking Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 12 of your submission, you suggested that the francophone community identified in the preamble of the *Official Languages Act*. You referred to and I quote, "Les franco-Nunavummiut," and I quote again, "Les franco-nunavoix," end quote. Can you clarify how this term was developed and how you feel it should be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We mentioned it and answered

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briefly to a similar question, but François will elaborate.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Oullette.

Mr. Oullette: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To explain briefly, franco-nunavoix is how we refer to people who speak French here in Nunavut. That term was developed a while back and there were debates on whether or not that is appropriate because how would you distinguish someone from Nunavut versus Nunavik. Right? Nunavutoix would be more correct linguistically speaking, but a lot of franco-Nunavummiut here don't like that term because they are used to the old one.

There was a significant debate that was actually created by *Radio Canada* by posting something on Facebook a couple of years back and everybody in the community was up in arms about it. Finally we just said that we are Nunavummiut first, so we recognize the language here, just like we say "Iqalungmiut," we would do the same, so we simply added the 'franco' to the front of it, which we think is more appropriate and creates a stronger identity for us as francophones as Nunavummiut. *Qujannamiik*.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a follow-up. You suggest using the term 'franco-Nunavummiut' instead of franco-nunavoix. What consideration was given to using the Inuktitut word "Uiviit?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Oullette**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Personally, I really like that word. I understand the origin

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of it means oui oui, because we often say 'yes,' which is very accurate. But again, the term 'Uiviit' is more kind of like generic, whereas Nunavummiut make the point of being here in Nunavut. The term 'Uiviit' would be just as applicable elsewhere in *Inuit* Nunangat, right? It could be used in Greenland if there are any francophones there, I don't know. Also, there are other terms that we heard being used to refer to francophones in Nunavut. I think it is Pond Inlet that they use a term, I forget what it is Inuktitut, but the word seagull. Francophones are very loud, and we sound like seagulls, so I heard they use the Inuktitut term for francophones is that term for seagull.

Uiviit is very interesting, and we like it. We will use it but officially, franco-Nunavummiut we deemed as most appropriate. *Qujannamiik*.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Thanks for the smile. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question to allow my colleagues to ask questions too. Page 9, with respect to post-investigative procedures as provided for under sections 32 and 32.1 of the *Official Languages Act*. Your submission recommends that the commissioner be given the power to impose financial penalties. Can you elaborate further on why you feel that financial penalties would help to enforce compliance with the *Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my last question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I know Mr. Djalogue elaborated on this in another question earlier, but if you can just clarify your position. Mr. Djalogue.

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. What we are saying is that no organizations want to be imposed upon with another financial

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burden. We have tight budgets, so we think that an additional financial penalty would have the same thing as included in the new *Official Languages Act* at the federal level. This idea of fines for non-compliance would be a strong incentive for individuals to comply with the law, especially those who don't follow recommendations made by the commissioner, so that the commissioner has the power to impose finds in order to support compliance and to get the organization to make the changes required. If the fines are more expensive, then the changes that are required, I'm pretty sure, will be introduced.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the sake of the time there, I will allow one last question before we will break the hearing and closing comments have been done. Mr. Arreak, one...sorry, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 12 of the submission under section 26, the very first paragraph indicates that Nunavut should consider adopting a regulation to create a francophone immigration policy and, by 2030, aim to have 20 percent of immigration to Nunavut as francophone. I was wondering if you would be able to elaborate further on these comments. I found that to be very intriguing. I'm not very familiar with Nunavut's current immigration statistics and I was wondering if you've had an opportunity to take a look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Djalogue (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. The Government of Nunavut doesn't have its own immigration policy, so no statistics are available on numbers of immigrants. This proposal is part of a national

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framework. The roadmap for the Canadian Francophone Association has published figures for immigration to Canada in order to support the francophone immigration in Canada.

In this proposal, if 100 immigrants are coming to Canada, 20 must be francophones to adjust or to readjust the demographic balance. We are asking that the same ratio that has been decided at the federal level by the francophone association also be included in the territorial immigration policy. Once the Government of Nunavut is ready to issue an immigration policy, we would like this ratio to be implemented. If 100 immigrants come to Nunavut, 20 should be francophones. That's what we meant in our submission.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank everyone for their interest and engagement in the hearing that we had this morning. It has been very fruitful and a lot of exchanges of information.

I'll just invite Mr. Djalogue, if you have closing comments. Mr. Djalogue.

**Mr. Djalogue** (interpretation): Very briefly, I want to express our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all MLAs and Members of the Committee for giving us this opportunity to present our recommendations.

We are sorry for our opening comments that were not translated, but we will send the English translation very quickly.

Thank you very much again for your welcome and for welcoming us here to your Assembly. It's greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We will break for lunch

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now and we will be back at 1:30 for the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. Everyone have a good lunch.

>>Committee recessed at 11:59 and resumed at 13:32

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome, everyone in Nunavut that's watching and listening. We will start with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, whose chairperson I believe is Ms. Thompson. You can commence with your opening comments, and introduce your fellow witnesses, and the opening comments are in front of the Members. Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson, so you'll be aware, when the little light goes on, it means you're on TV and you're ready to talk, so the audio video technicians will know where to point the camera to, and please finish your comments with thanks, so they can follow the speakers. Ms. Thompson.

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, thank you. My hearing device is not very comfortable. Hold on. I cannot hear the interpretation. Yes, this ear device hurts.

**Chairman** (interpretation): People watching and listening in Nunavut, please just wait a moment.

Okay, we are ready to proceed. I would ask the Chairperson of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. Ms. Thompson, you can start with your opening comments.

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes. Can you hear me? Thank you. We are extremely grateful for this invitation to this hearing, albeit I am unsure how I should proceed since I am a bit confused with the process.

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Now that we are attending this hearing as members of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, as I was not publicly speaking of the issues, but today with the opening provided, I am overjoyed to present my report.

Yes, I would like to welcome you all, and we appreciate the warm welcome we received, and I am currently the Chairperson of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, and it almost seemed it was at a standstill due to the lack of employees to assist us as elders, although we are very committed to this mandate, and we are the holders of our cultural knowledge, both the Inuit language and Inuit culture.

Both of us here both grew up out on the land, and our board members, Mary Kanayok Voisey, will probably join us later. Our fellow board member as well, Salomonie Pootoogoo, had to go to Kinngait. They are dealing with ice terminology for that area, so he's at the community compiling the terminology for that subject. He was going to be part of this group.

For a while, we did not have any staff at all. Our staff would just quit. Our coordinators and (interpretation ends) executive directors (interpretation) would quit, and we've never been able to hire a competent financial administrator. It was not on purpose. Our group was seemingly stuck at a crossroad, standing still and we could not even hold proper meetings.

We would discuss these issues during our telephone conferences, although we were chomping at the bit to start working, but due to our inability to do administration work, and our lack of knowledge in working with computers and software to input the data required for our terminological work in our roles.

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Nevertheless, we are quite knowledgeable about Inuit culture. We are real Inuit, but apparently, we need *Qallunaat* to help us, and we understand more about administrative work due to our lack of administrative abilities as board members. We are all aged elders, as most of us are over 70 years of age.

Also, we are very appreciative to see this work commencing again, and our expectations are soaring once more. We now have an executive director, Rebecca Qulittalik, sitting behind us, who is now our (interpretation ends) executive director (interpretation), can you please rise?

## >>Applause

We also have our finance person here as well, Maggie.

## >>Applause

We are slowly standing as a body with Inuit employees, and I am quite ecstatic over these events. I am absolutely overjoyed, flabbergasted even. The Inuit language is once again the top priority for our group. Another factor is that we will commit to working to the best of our ability as we are the ones holding the mandate of knowing Inuit culture intimately.

Now, our organization is well respected and known throughout our land, as we try to create different initiatives, either through radio or other avenues to speak about Inuit language issues, and to keep propping up our language publicly.

We've heard about the governments and federal governments. They both thought that our language would die when I first became a board member, but I believe it is rising. Inuit language and culture is rising again, and we've never had this many Inuit on our board

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before. I am very proud of that. We use our authority, and we will work hard using our authority.

My name is Mary Thompson, I'm from Arviat. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I open the floor to Committee Members if they have any comments. I'll open it for questions in a little while. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to further welcome the elders here to their House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms.** Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very happy today and I wish to welcome them. One of my original constituents has succeeded in attaining that position, Rebecca Qulittalik and I wanted to voice my pride in her accomplishment.

They also have hired a financial administrator, and we know that this body will start to rise once more, and I wanted to voice my pride in them today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to see you here at the House, and it is good to see our representatives. It is hard when Inuit themselves give up trying to speak, and this is regretful.

Nonetheless, this is why it is good to see competent workers now working for your organization, both financial and managerial positions are filled, so I am grateful to see that CLbdd Cd'
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your organization will become visible once more. I am very glad to see you here and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that's it for general comments. I will open the floor for questions. The Members will be asking questions to the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* board members. The first person on my list is Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I am Inagayuk, the MLA for the Netsilik region, for both Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, and for clarity I will ask my question in English.

(interpretation ends) One of the key requirements of our committee's work to review Nunavut's language legislation, under section 43(2) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* is to review whether or not administrative independence is necessary for the work of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

My question is: can you clearly explain why you feel that administrative independence is necessary for your work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. We have been thinking about that for a long time, and I still am, as are my fellow board members. Perhaps, at the time, when we get real support from the government, maybe we should get more help from the government because we're at a standstill, but, my fellow board members and our staff, Jonah Kilabuk and them, they believe and they're very proud of about the Inuit culture and believe that it can run; they want to try and keep it running it on their own, and they keep saying that.

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(<sup>1</sup>0. Γ<sup>1</sup> C<sup>1</sup>**)

We need to be welcoming to our fellow Inuit, and that is our foundation where we will start things. There are many times where those of us on the board of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* don't agree on certain things. We have to carefully take into consideration the issues and have arguments. Louis Tapardjuk used to be part of us, and Elijah Erkloo used to be the Chairman.

Ever since those days, we've talked about this, and let's try and do it on our own. If we can't do it, we'll give administrative responsibility to someone else, but we're Inuit and we want to use the Inuit way of thinking. Our elders did their work on our behalf, but we can do it just as good as the elders did. We may not be as educated in the Inuit way and language as they were, but the way things are today, we try to keep up with developments that are happening. We still want to be independent if that's possible. I will get Salomonie to add to this.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. When you finish your comments, just thank the Chairman so the photographers will know when to move the camera. Ms. Qitsualik, you have the floor.

Ms. Qitsualik (interpretation): Thank you. I'm from Gjoa Haven, and I've been on the board for three years now, with this being my fourth year. I'm happy to be an an Inuk and I grew up with real traditional Inuit parents. We didn't move to Gjoa Haven for a long time, as I grew up somewhere else.

We relied on animals, and fish, and caribou and other animals. I grew up eating only those and I know my identity as an Inuk, as are my grandchildren and my great grandchildren. I'm thinking of them, so, I do this on their behalf and try to work hard for the Inuktitut language.

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CL°a aaadii, joo i C'rl airenthair, pero printing arrenthair, Aribiodac' joo. Cl°a aribiocioiii Arll' ju habihuaribicitili, prao pa prelys. Jirurinapiiroaiiiju uelai. I'm glad to be part of this group. Mary Thompson said earlier that us, in the Inuit language authority, we will always work hard on the work that we have to do. During COVID-19, which stopped our work for a while, I was even thinking, and I was worried about the board continuing because we were not meeting. I will always work hard on behalf of Inuit, Inuit culture, and also work hard the way my elders and parents told me how to keep up. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. It is true that we treasure our language, Inuktitut. (interpretation ends) To date, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has had difficulty in establishing administrative independence, and the Department of Culture and Heritage has stepped in to provide the necessary administrative support.

(interpretation) Do you feel that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit could better focus on its important work if its office's staffing and administrative functions were handled by an established system within the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. This issue surrounding our office stems from our previous office space, across from (interpretation ends) Arctic College (interpretation) where the facility is, so it was directly across on the second floor. I wasn't even made aware that our offices had been transferred to that other office.

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**'Pϲʹʹ•**Π: 'dϧʹͼͺϳʹ·, ΔϧʹϘϦͺϳʹ·. ʹdϧʹͼͺϳʹ· ϳʹ;ͰΓʹ·ͺ ϷʹϧϷϒͺϧʹͼ· ϽϼͰϤʹ·϶ʹͺ ϤϲϤͼΔΓʹΓϤͺϧϾ· ϤΛʹͽͰΓϤΓͼ ϷʹϧϷϒϚ ϤϽʹͼϽͿ. ϷʹϧϷϲʹʹ·϶ ϤϽʹͼϽͿ ϷʹϾʹ϶ϲʹʹͼͿϗϤΓϧϚ ϽʹͼͺͰϗͼͺϲͺϲͺϲͺϲ ϽʹͼͺͰϗͼͺϲ ͿʹͼͺͰϗͼͺϲ Ϸʹͼͺϲ Ϸʹϧϧϧͼͺͼͼͺͼϧϧͺ

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It turned out that the new office is quite spacious, and has all of the resources required, but the floor was damaged due to water spillage, and all of the windows suffered rock damage. It is situated in an area that is quite empty, compared to our previous site, closer to the Legislative Assembly, and we were on the upper floor.

At this time, there have been repairs undertaken to improve our current office, however, due to the lack of staff inhabiting the office, it was rarely occupied. Jonah Kilabuk would sometimes be all alone in that office, and he suffers a heart condition that keeps him from being too mobile.

Now, due to these reasons, our office has not functioned properly, and it is not properly insulated, so it gets cold during the winter. We are expecting this to be resolved soon or perhaps be moved to a smaller building, albeit, our board hasn't discussed this yet.

Nonetheless, in speaking to our staff or to Jonah Kilabuk, the longest serving employees, their assessment of the office space deems it as inadequate and it is no longer comparable to our previous office space. We may need to deliberate on our options, or to submit a request for assistance to improve our office situation. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Okay, you're good. I don't have any names on my list. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since 2011, many directors have been with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. What are the major issues that you face in your operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Δ<sup>6</sup>/ペ▷C<sup>6</sup>**<sup>6</sup>: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup> Ċ<sup>ί</sup>ነ<sup>α</sup>.

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«>C<sup>66</sup>**: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>PC<sup>16</sup>Π.

Λ⊂ሊσሲ≪ናረታ LC'ጋJ ጋየ/≪'፫⊲ሁናር Űα Λ'bበ'bሲÞናLሮ Δሮ'/°σ<sup>b</sup> Þ'b'ር'bበ'bበሲÞ'»ጋ°·LJ 'bdበ<sup>b</sup>d' Ͻጎ՜ነb'ር'<sup>®</sup>/LσḋUJ4<sup>®</sup>D°·U. CΔLሮ CL°α Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Yes, thank you. There are many challenges that we face, but in terms of the Inuktitut language and culture, although we treasure and value it and we also provide Inuktitut shows on radio regarding our language. It is very obvious that Inuit are speaking mainly English now, especially since most of the digital software is all in English and causing Inuit language deterioration.

There are some applications that do have Inuktitut fonts, but it is noticeable from cellphones and computers that the invasion of English into the Inuktitut language and culture has increased tremendously. Even with that, we will work hard towards the Inuit language and culture as we are still here as elders. I too want to work harder with others in terms of keeping the language alive.

The day before yesterday, our board made a decision to hold a language conference sometime in December, maybe in a (interpretation ends) workshop (interpretation) format, and our ideas on that revolve around the Inuit perceptions and mental views. This is what we want to look at, to delve into the Inuit mentality from time immemorial.

Today, Inuit no longer perceive their environment like our parents and grandparents did, especially in my case. I asked an elder once, in trying to establish a relationship by asking them how they were doing. They answered that they were in some discomfort as that question isn't an Inuit tradition to ask about their health.

When I heard that response, it made me deliberate on our traditional Inuit communication protocols, the way Inuit used to respond, Inuit experiences ought to be included in this linguistic approach, even though it may be more difficult, we have

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(<sup>1</sup>0. Γ<sup>1</sup> C<sup>1</sup>**)

**Ċ<sup>i</sup>\<sup>a</sup>**: 'dh<sup>a</sup>ai'. Lda<sup>a</sup>\bai<sup>b</sup> d<sup>i</sup>adiala<sup>a</sup>s α<sup>a</sup>ala<sup>a</sup>s Δ<sup>i</sup>baah<sup>i</sup>bhibhd<sup>a</sup>h<sup>a</sup>aii, Δ<sup>ib</sup>bah<sup>i</sup>bhibhd<sup>a</sup>h<sup>a</sup>aii Daibhc<sup>i</sup>hlaicc Δαα δ<sup>i</sup>bhh<sup>i</sup>ab Cailab<sup>i</sup>s bhla<sup>a</sup>r. Dahibhccic d<sup>i</sup>la d<sup>ia</sup>pbhhra<sup>a</sup>a<sup>a</sup>hdai<sup>a</sup>ah Ac<sup>a</sup>r. Λαα<sup>i</sup>bhi<sup>b</sup>ac, δ<sup>i</sup>bhhibc<sup>i</sup>hlibb bhlabibhb, "bdd ddihicibhbb βαβγα<sup>b</sup> ibβγα<sup>b</sup> dicilc ddidhly<sup>a</sup>r. Λησ<sup>i</sup>cba<sup>b</sup>αγρη<sup>i</sup>ba βαβγα<sup>b</sup> αγβγ<sup>i</sup>bc<sup>a</sup>ha<sup>b</sup>γα<sup>b</sup>λη<sup>i</sup>c."

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What we find is, with our students primarily receiving schooling in English, we wanted a more traditional method of teaching in the Inuit mentality and outlook, so that our students can eventually become the future leaders, with the right Inuit perspectives and outlook. This is what we have expected for many years, especially when facing these difficult challenges on the retention of our language.

We hope that eventually in Nunavut, that we will create a university based only on the Inuit world view and knowledge base to teach our students both the culture and language in order to ensure that we have an Arctic College style facility staffed by elders, and even with our current college system, we hope to see an Inuit education facility sometime down the road.

This is one of the ideas we bandy around, which we elders wish to see, but, due to the many facets or categories that must be taught are still not even researched or written down, and further, as Inuit, we have our own unique belief system. This is also something I used to teach others via local radio shows.

I spoke of traditional Inuit beliefs and methods such as our methods of listening, pride respect and honouring our elders. We often have long discussions around being proud to be an Inuk, that our beloved relatives should be able to walk with their head high and to be proud of their elders, so we should be teaching that. This is one of the most difficult challenges we have faced. I hope I answered the question. Thank you.

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

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4'ĠJCĹ<sup>6</sup><sup>6</sup>γ<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>4</sup>σ<sup>6</sup>γ<sup>4</sup>6'C<sup>6</sup><sup>2</sup>J <sup>4</sup><sup>4</sup>L<sup>2</sup> Ld<sup>4</sup>

P<sup>6</sup>bc<sup>†</sup>Lc<sup>4</sup>α<sup>4</sup>β<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>4</sup>σ<sup>6</sup>β<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>β<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>4</sup>σ<sup>6</sup>β<sup>6</sup>β<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>Lc<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>4</sup>σ<sup>6</sup>β<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>Lc<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>Lc<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Δ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>6</sup>C<sup>6</sup> Λ<sup>6</sup>C

**Δ•/ペレር•**: L'a. Γ<sup>\</sup> <sup>\</sup>Pር<sup>\</sup>

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(<sup>1</sup>0. Γ<sup>1</sup> C<sup>1</sup>**)

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d/bb°C~dosc b'bb/ch°o, Jp/dbsc. Cod

Abb°oadsb®JJ, Cod ACIbb°oadc°

br~U, Abrr~U, CALACD°~r°a®JJ.

dbr%hibcc Daslr Abrl». Abr%hohrb

Dasc CL°a 'dc'a°~rcA®J.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Thompson, for your response. It is a major issue talking about Inuit language and culture, as we are losing our language. We talk in Inuktitut and sometimes we lose our memories.

I keep trying to talk in Inuktitut and of the need to use our language, and even with just discussions amongst Inuit, you can sometimes get confused. Let me move to another question, based on the written report details. It is about your proposed revision under section 16(4) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it works to defend and support Inuktitut and are willing to work with other organizations, with Inuit, or with educational institutions related to Inuktitut language.

In terms of working with other organizations, are you working with other organizations? (interpretation ends) Are there any such collaboration projects underway? Organizations, individuals, or academic institutions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Yes, our desire is to continue our collaboration with our schools especially, along with the various boards representing Inuit. This could include boards that are specifically targeted towards Inuit.

We have agreed to be fully open, and as a matter of fact, during our last meeting we had a discussion which we spoke about yesterday, that we would want to send out invitations to specific bodies that can provide support to our work, perhaps by helping to find expert elders in the communities who can be part of our overall resource base.

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**Δ<sup>6</sup>/«ኦር%**: L'α. Γ<sup>1</sup> 'የ<sup>6</sup>/4c<sup>6</sup> σ<sup>2</sup>6-74<sup>6</sup>Λ<sup>6</sup>? Γ<sup>1</sup> 'የ<sup>6</sup>/4c<sup>6</sup>.

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C'dd Δcηdfb<C άlcfb<C p</li>
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C We would like to initiate this meeting perhaps as we approach December, and perhaps it will become clearer by then. We want to work with our experts on the Inuit language, our cultural experts or even by working with the regional Inuit organizations who we wish to also welcome.

This would be the first meeting, although in past years, we have hosted conferences on languages, funding for language work, terminology research so we are familiar with this approach. Currently, sea ice terminology work is commencing and it is being done in various communities, along with potential funding for glossaries in Inuktitut and English with bilingual speakers, or a letter of support for funding this work.

We have supported local businesses with the requirement to have Inuktitut services, and there's a lack of Inuktitut services. For example, we used to see the building 'Qamutiq,' now it's Qamutiik. There are improvements like this that we have worked on in terms of doing and speaking Inuktitut. We know, in the airplanes that, you know, there are no written services in Inuktitut.

These are issues on which we want to work with you, the language supporters, and those that work in the Inuktitut culture. There are many obstacles, but we have continued to be able to stand and work together.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Qitsualik, if you want to speak.

Ms. Qitsualik (interpretation): Thank you. The discussion that Mary has been commenting on, I'm grateful. We want to support the communities in the Inuktitut language support. In our community, I have seen and have worked as an Inuktitut teacher. The younger students, up to grade 4 have been

 $\Delta$ <sup>6</sup>/ $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'b.  $\mathcal{C}$ <sup>6</sup>: L'a.  $\mathcal{C}$ 

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Δ<sup>16</sup>ba Δλ<sup>16</sup>η Γος Α<sup>16</sup>η Τος Α<sup>16</sup>η Α<sup>16</sup>

**Ċι\Φ**: 'dbΦch. CΔLΔċ \ dda \ dbd\chech. CΔLΔċ \ \ dda \ dbd\chech. CΔLΔċ \ \ dda \ dbd\chech. Δc\chech. δc\chech.

taught or are supposed to have been taught in the Inuktitut stream, but they start being taught in English, and she's not agreeable to that. How can we get more support for teachers to have more direction in the Inuktitut language teaching? I would like to understand how we can get support.

We have been speaking, too, in English. It doesn't improve the Inuktitut, and the young people are aware that they start to speak more English. Those of us, as grandparents, great grandparents, are not understood anymore, and we know this. We feel and cry in our hearts about this. How can we make them better understand Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Qitsualik. Yes, I feel where you're coming from. We do not want to lose our language. This will be my last question. On page 2 of your submission, it indicates that it's very important to work with the youth and for the youth to work along with the Inuit language authority. Can you elaborate further on how you can include the youth in your work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. It is something that we've been talking about for quite a while. Even yesterday, it was in our discussions to include the youth, and we're looking at youth from 16 and on. We call ourselves here, even when we're older. We also have to remind ourselves that we can start from age 16 and on.

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When elders are travelling, they are provided escorts, and usually, it's a youth that escorts the elder. So that would be a good start. The youth would learn from travelling with an elder. I'm not exactly sure how we're going to make that work, but we have to include the youth so that they grow mentally and physically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for making an appearance to the Standing Committee. I welcome you to the House. I am very pleased that we are in dialogue using our Inuktitut language.

I think it was in 2017-2018, in your annual report, which is the only one in front of me, and I would like to ask a question on what I observed in your priorities. You indicated here, from 2016-2019, and from 2018-2019, that in your priorities, you indicated that you had public meetings or meetings with public entities and interpreters about the usage of the Inuktitut language and terminology that had been compiled and entered into the computer data.

You have been working and having dialogue with the government departments, including

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the Department Culture and Heritage, the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Environment, local governments, and hamlet councils. You have been collecting data on specific terminologies that relate to their department.

Could you give us an update on this program that you were working on? Is there something new that came up, or do you need further assistance from us or from the public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier on, I indicated that our board is in an ongoing dialogue about their priorities and programs that they would like to see. They are all covered under our annual report. We didn't have employees at that time, but we have been pushing to have programs be made available.

We do need help to work with administrative matters, and people who can compile the information that we gathered. We keep saying this has to be done, and we need to produce our annual reports. That is an administrative matter, and it is the only way that we can get funding through the government budget cycle. We need administrative help and get the proper support to make sure that all materials are produced. We now have an executive director, and our first priority is the production of the annual report. There are other administrative matters that we have to deal with, following the government budget cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Thompson. From

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Yes, we have different personalities, and there are different responses you get from different departments and entities. We have had responses in some part, and we've had responses from the Inuit organizations, from in Inuit working for the government who are bilingual, and from those working outside of the government. If they can write in Inuktitut and speak in Inuktitut, then there will be a bonus to cover that extra service.

We've also initiated the setup of a database, which we've been working very hard to get started. As elders, we talk, but because we don't have a secretary, it doesn't get noted. We would like to start a database so that it would be in written form, and we also want to setup a terminology list, produce it, and make it available to anyone who wants it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. We feel for the elders. We would like for you to be provided proper service by the government and by other entities. The government can decide whether they would like to provide support or not. What was the response from

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the Nunavut government when you asked for their assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As elders, we are always welcomed anywhere. A lot of our work halted when COVID-19 came around. That's part of the delay as well as the lack of resources at the administrative level. Elijah Erkloo was the chairperson of the Inuit language authority around the late 80s and 90s, and he was always complaining about the administrative portion of our organization. He couldn't move here because there was no housing available, and his term was too short.

I'm the chairperson currently. The ending of the term also causes delays in some of the programs and other services that we would like to see, including addressing the lack of housing. I want to say, "thank you" some more because we're always welcome everywhere, and we've never been asked to leave, as elders. No wonder you have all heard from your elders on how do to things properly. I am grateful for that, and I know that this will continue because the Inuit way of thinking will always be around. We will always talk about the way Inuit are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for saying what you said. We don't have the same dialect, but I completely understand you, and I can talk to you in my dialect, and you're talking to me in your dialect. I'm very happy about that. I feel like I'm in the proper place, and with a person like you in front of us.

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Lester Landau did an audit on your workplace, and I like some of the comments that they made. They did the investigation, and they did the audit of the work that you did. Reading the letter from the accountants, they talked about the work that you do as the Inuit language authority, and your finances were approved.

The expenditures and revenue were all reviewed, and the auditor wrote about them. The fact that it has been a strong standing organization, the way that the auditor wrote about it, the people who did the investigation in Iqaluit, January 31, 2020. It states your previous budgets, and the audits in reading them go back to 2018 listing expenditures of \$2.1 million for your employees, temporary staff, travel expenses like tickets and accommodations as well as office expenses. Up to now, has this budget remained at this level, where is it now? Perhaps I am asking this question prematurely.

I know you have a proper finance person now. There are so many details inside that I'd like to understand, and that's why I'm asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, like I stated earlier, as board members, we are not accountants, and we're not secretaries. We've done as much as we can, and in the past, when the organization was running better, we hardly ever had any surpluses. We had a proper coordinator at that time, and we've had good coordinators twice. We have been properly staffed twice.

Whenever we showed our work to the auditors, we got support from them. They tell us; if you did it this way, it'll be better, and if you did it that way, you'll be in a stronger

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financial position. These are outlined in the management letters, but it is very difficult right now compared to previous years. The reason is, due to the fact we had no one in financial administration for many years.

At this time, we finally got an employee identified, and that person just started in their position, although we have a person who did the financial accounting, we must ensure they work with the new employee, so we will be looking at the auditor we usually use, but mainly just for support as we really need help in this area.

The finance person will need support as well from the auditors that investigate our finances every year. Whenever we ask for funding, we have to rely on educated people like that to make proposals. So I believe, along with the financial person's help, that we can put together our group again properly. I hope I'm being clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that further. There are three languages that are in the *Act*, and we've been dealing with them since yesterday. We had visits yesterday with witnesses in front of us, and also this morning, we had witnesses, all discussing and talking about the *Official Languages Act*.

Looking at the work that you do, and we're starting to understand more and more. I've never worked with the Inuit language authority before. I've never spoken to anyone in the Inuit language authority, although I have heard of your work.

When this was being audited, as we know that everything runs better with money, with everything accounted for on paper. As you stated earlier, even an ordinary Inuk or a traditional Inuk, you need to have financial administrators, and you understood that, and people who have been educated in financial administration are being included in your organization

However, with finances, you are now an independent organization with a finance comptroller and a financial coordinator. Looking at the things that are progressing: is the budget you are provided annually inadequate now? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. Actually, for items needing terminology such as illnesses or diseases like COVID, having a lack of staff, and not really having a proper office, those have been our barriers. They have been a hindrance to our progression.

They can't be fixed right away in some cases, so I have told fellow board members that if we follow this properly and follow what the auditor told us to do and concentrate more on that and we will not lose funding. We all know that, and it is what we want to do. It is always better not to have a surplus and we have been told by the auditor that if we use these finances properly then there won't be any cutbacks.

That is what the auditor has been telling us. Not intentionally, but we have not used all of our funding. We expect that we will add more board members if the people who are interested are appointed. We are hiring more staff, and we are quite happy. We have expectations that we can do it. We believe will keeping getting funded by the federal government as well as the Nunavut government.

Using proper communications, the Inuit language authority board and our staff must do proper reporting and complete the annual reports properly. Every document that is produced and finished is a great feeling to finish something. We want to keep on doing that with our government and our leaders and happily work with them. It may be slow and might take time but be all aware that we will not let it go. Sometimes money becomes a difficulty and when we get to those occasions, we will communicate with our leaders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very strong words, and the people of Nunavut can hear you.

We would like everything set up on behalf of the Inuit language. Now with your group, I would like to hear, while you are here, and ask you about our elders who are dying off, and about language in the home, community, and in our lives that has been dropping and we have become worried. Do you have any concern that we might lose our language? That is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Yes, it is very painful to hear that. We find it very painful in our meetings when we hear about the language being lost. We have to do more, and we need more of this and that, and we repeatedly say that. We will keep pushing for them. We are not hopeless. We have help available. We have good help available. There are people available in Nunavut who can help us properly.

We are not so confident in the federal government because if they could give us a little more authority with the Inuktitut language or if they got rid of some of the barriers, it would help. You have seen the improvements in our organization. We want to work with others on this. We expect that when we are gone, that there will be a proper education system to comprehend and write Inuktitut to support the work of the schools. As the language authority, we have worked with the schools and have asked that the students are taught properly in Inuktitut.

Those that don't go to school can be taught leadership skills like all of us. It is an ambitious project for work but the only thing we don't know is how the federal government will be supportive or will they diminish some of our rights. We have to keep pursuing and the current situation seems good right now. Have I answered your question? Perhaps my fellow board member could answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Qitsualik, do you want to speak?

Ms. Qitsualik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that our Chairperson has very clear thoughts on this, and I support the work being done on the Inuktitut language. We now have a finance person and the directorships have been filled. We have been only four annually. The appointment of other directors will help improve the operations of the language authority.

We have had partial board meetings, and it is difficult to function that way. It is better when we have a full board to carry the workload. This is the first time we are here, and I know people will better understand us. I am glad that we are able to sit in front of you. I have

never been in the legislature before and I was quite apprehensive, but you are very welcoming, and I am grateful for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you for your responses. They were quite understandable. We too, working on the government side, want to support you. In terms of having staffing problems with the Department of Culture and Heritage supporting you by providing personnel to your organization. My question is: are you working with the department or going through difficult times right now?

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We went through a hard time and got support for the Department of Culture and Heritage. We can function on our own with the reports through the board on financial matters and can deal with that as a board. From other organizations and Inuit, we have been supported to carry out the work we are doing.

When we go to communities, we have a lot of support as elders. The respect of elders is very much alive, and speaking with elders is very much alive. We want to enhance this, which is something that we have been thinking about and wanting to proceed with. Our staff requires benefits, and we don't provide much support. That is one area that we have problems with. If we can retain our staff with adequate salaries and housing as well, we would be in a better position with our staffing issues. If it is contractual, there are end dates and the staff member would have to look for other employment, even though they may be

very talented, yet employed elsewhere, leaving us with no finance staff.

We have to look at our staff in terms of longer-term funding and similar requirements to what they have within the government, which has had many employees that are even able to speak Inuktitut. In terms of *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, if our salaries were matching the market, I think we could function better.

We did receive support from the Department of Culture and Heritage and from the government as well. We expect that we will work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the level of detail in the responses that have been provided. Yesterday, we had the Languages Commissioner here and she had concerns on the length of time it was taken to get responses on some of the work that needs to be done. One of the suggestions she had was to be able to contract some of the work that your organization does. Before I get too deep down that hole, I'd just like to get an opinion whether you think that that is an achievable thing that can be done to contract some of your work out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, let me just respond to that. With respect to the financial reporting contract work, we are unaware of the need for that, although we hire temporary workers in the interim period.

To use this example, they compile the terminological terms for all different types of sea ice, or even granular or types of rocks, or even terrestrial mammals, so both the proper title and nicknames are included, along with endearment terms and kinship terms, terms such as that are dealt with through (interpretation ends) contracts (interpretation) to work on the actual terms.

This will most likely continue as an organizational practice, in hiring temporary workers to work on specific details, as we have no way to sidestep this work. It will have to continue, but what I was speaking to was our actual employees, both our executive leadership and workers should be permanently hired, and not a contracted employee.

This would allow them to be paid at a representative pay scale, but currently this contract work for temporary projects will remain needed as it assists us to produce more terminology and not depend entirely on one person who would get burnt out.

We will continue to search for temporary contracts based on the needs cropping up among our operations, such as our much-delayed annual reports, as it is called in English, and we may end up having to contract that work as well, and we are not in denial or conflict with this operational style, nonetheless, we are requesting that our employees be paid fairly in their roles as we want to retain them in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. And that leads to my next question, as it has been said that, and you acknowledged that there has been delays in the language assessments, there's been delays in creating some of the newer terminology,

some delays in the reporting, the annual reports.

I'd like to get an opinion from the chair: what is the priority of the language authority right now? Out of those three topics specifically, on the annual reports getting up to date, the language assessments for Government of Nunavut staff, and the terminology work that needs to be completed as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, we have held ongoing discussions on our priorities, on what needs to be prepared for the operational priorities of our organizations, so we have had ongoing discussions on the best way forward when we meet as a board.

This indeed, was the cause of our misunderstanding as older persons, that we were required to produce the annual report on schedule. It is not too long, and it should be doable within a scheduled time, and this now comprises our first priority.

Another listed priority is the need for excellent communications and a common understanding with our organization employees or agencies we have a relationship with. We just need to work together in partnership amongst the parties to finish the work for that report, as it is not impossible.

The *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* will still be required, and we anticipate more additions. We will also start to schedule our needs for the operational challenges our office faces, and we will look for other terms that ought to be reviewed which are listed in our business plans.

We want to ensure a smoother operation and to develop a digital version that can compile the terminology developed and submitted, from the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and the Qikiqtaaluk regions. Obviously, it may fall ultimately short as there are sometimes disagreements between regions when looking at new terminology. Agreeing to a specific term sometimes is an issue, and this requires more deliberation on terms such as Minister.

What new terminology will we adopt for that role? Let's say the new title for the Minister of Education, or the Minister of Finance and what nomenclature will we replace that with in Inuktut that denotes the high role of the position? Issues such as these are what we deal with.

The need to search for more terminology seems to show the central importance of a database where we can insert the terms for everyone to be able to use, so that is very important equipment we need to plan for, and to tabulate all the terms in various dialects. Yes, we may run into issues, as an example, the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* may be viewed as choosing the wrong term.

Almost like there was no common grounds for agreement when Nunavut's territorial flag was arbitrarily chosen, which we now all use today. Nonetheless, everyone has accepted that flag today, and it is now in public use and we can all recognize it anywhere, and it is even now used as an emblem on clothing and parkas.

Much like that, we may be in disagreement at the beginning, but upon careful deliberations, the word would be acknowledged by many people, and yet we still have many new technological creations that Inuit use now, which do not have an Inuktitut word for it. This is part of the reasoning for prioritizing the website for our body. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Thompson. You'd also mentioned working with other partners and other organizations and it leads me to my next question. When we look at the relationship with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, or ITK, which also has some obligations on standardizing Inuktitut, what type of relationship, or what type of assistance have they been able to provide? Or what assistance have you been able to provide to help Inuit on a national level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, thank you. This language is quite varied, and to use it as a reason, we will continue to make it a priority, and further, there are many other abilities we have, which makes this more of a happy circumstance in terms of our relationships, much like your own positions that also have powerful roles.

By using that ability, we deliberated on how to develop this working relationship within the area of language standardization, with a committee struck to deal with terminology, and that is with Inuit Tapiriit. We have met with that committee in the past, and I have also worked on certain projects, but mostly temporarily.

These areas within language development are very important, and we will continue to maintain it's primacy but, there are other matters to think of. For instance, expectations. It has been many years now since Inuktut started getting lost, and we are seeing dipping numbers so we expect smaller numbers. We

are aware of these issues, how to put this into words.

We know of this issue, but our body has maintained that with our language rights, and with the federal and territorial governments agreeing to keep our body running, we will keep doing our job. We will not stop due to the loss of our fluent speakers, as our past elders requested us to be proud of our language. Pride in one's uniqueness. We will not quit, and we know it may end up missing some terms, and it will sometimes seem impossible, or difficult.

However, me and my fellow board members have spent hours deliberating on these issues, and we will not stop our work and there are still other bodies who can assist us. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. I believe we have completed our questioning, and I am glad that our witnesses had the time to respond to your questions which were understood by all. Now, I would ask if Ms. Thompson can begin here closing remarks, but I want to do a special thing here.

You are all elders, and have travelled from long distances to come here, and Ms. Thompson, you can start with your closing comments, and Ms. Qitsualik will also add her remarks. So, please, if you would like to make your closing comments, Ms. Thompson.

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, thank you. In being asked to come, we were a bit trepid being older people, and my partner and I placed ourselves in that corner however, we did not anticipate the warm welcome we would receive here.

We are grateful for this, and obviously, you know the Inuit ways of welcoming, so we are

feeling very welcomed here. We are now feeling right at home. Also, we want to continue our collaboration on terminology with the MLAs, the department and the various offices.

We are aware that many elders are passing and that our numbers are dwindling, but there are more Inuit also reaching that age and becoming elders, much like us, and you. We will see more people reaching that elderly age, albeit in lesser numbers. There will remain elders even then, I have no regrets in making this statement.

We do not feel this, and further, we will continue to support you all with all of our abilities, as we need to preserve the Inuit culture and language through your good offices and roles. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We also have Ms. Qitsualik who also wanted to make closing comments. Ms. Qitsualik.

Ms. Qitsualik (interpretation): My turn? Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased, as I recall my childhood as I started remembering things and meeting fellow Inuit for the very first time from the Baffin region, Kivalliq region and the Western Arctic, I could not understand even a single word.

I could not even guess what they were trying to say either. In this day and age, I am very grateful that Inuit from the Netsilik, the Baffin, the Kivalliq, the Western Arctic can now understand each other today. Once I learned that, I became very appreciative of this fact as Inuit everywhere.

My late father told stories of traditional knowledge held by Inuit, and I had not fathomed ever seeing the situation today that we are living in. My father used to predict that Inuit would become very numerous, and start to understand one another. I used to hear him say those things and I always had a little doubt that it would ever pass.

The truth as it turned out. It came to pass while I was still among the living, and I recall my childhood, my old traditions as becoming strange, and I am now able to travel south, and I appreciate all of these things. I did not imagine that some of the practices in our past would also become alien to us.

I now live in a house, and during my childhood, I only used to wear caribou clothing, and ate only the flesh of animals we caught, and those were among my first memories. My grandchildren are so vastly different now from my great-grandparents, and they do not want to eat the food that I eat as they are conditioned to eat mostly storebought items from the south.

I do love them, and want them to continue eating their traditional foods, and this is one area of my culture and lifestyle I am trying really hard to retain. I thank you all.

## >>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I also am glad we were able to meet here, and the public was able to witness the hearings on television here in Nunavut. Now, this meeting is now adjourned. Tomorrow morning at 9 a.m., we will commence the final meeting scheduled, and the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will be here tomorrow to make a presentation.

We are stopping here and I hope everyone has a great day today.

>>Committee adjourned at 14:54