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 25, 2023

Members Present:

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

Staff Members:

Stephen Innuksuk Siobhan Moss

Interpreters:

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

Witnesses:

Thomas Ahlfors, Legal Counsel
Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik, Assistant Deputy
Minister of Culture and Heritage
Teresa Hughes, Deputy Minister of Culture
and Heritage
Joelie Kaernerk, Minister of Culture and
Heritage

>>Committee commenced at 9:00

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Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good morning. I would like to welcome everyone to our televised hearing on the review of the official language legislation, all the Members that are here and all Nunavummiut that are watching.

Before we proceed, if I can ask Mr. Anavilok to open us in prayer so that we have a good hearing.

>>Prayer

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to start off the televised hearing by my opening comments, the Chair's opening comments, and then there will be opening statements from the Minister of Languages and consideration of the ministerial submissions.

Welcome, everyone. Before I proceed, I would like to ask all Members and presenters and visitors to put their cellphones and other electronic devices on silent mode.

As the Chair of the Standing Committee, I would like to formally welcome everyone to this hearing of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation as part of our review of Nunavut's language legislation.

First, I would like to introduce my Committee colleagues:

- Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Co-Chair of the Standing Committee and Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa;
- Bobby Anavilok, Member for Kugluktuk;
- George Hickes, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk;
- Adam Arreak Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak;
- Mary Killiktee, Member for Uqqummiut;
- Solomon Malliki, Member for Aivilik;
- Karen Nutarak, Member for Tununiq;
- Joseph Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Member for

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Netsilik;

- Alex Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet; and
- Craig Simailak, Member for Baker Lake.

Nunavut introduced two new language statutes in 2008, the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Both of these statutes mandate that a review of the legislation be conducted by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

As such, on November 7, 2022, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion for the Standing Committee on Legislation to conduct the review and to report back to the House by the fall 2023 sitting.

The Committee sent out invitations to a number of key stakeholders and advertised across Nunavut to encourage submissions from the public on Nunavut's language legislation. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to extend our thanks to those who took the time to prepare and submit written submissions. The Committee greatly appreciates the level of thought and effort that went into these submissions.

Over the next few days, these hearings will provide an opportunity for Members of this Standing Committee to hear from the stakeholders who provided written submissions and to discuss in detail the issues and recommendations they have brought forward. We will be hearing from the Government of Nunavut's Minister of Languages, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, representatives from Nunavut's Francophone Association, the Inuit Uqausivut Taiguusiliuqtiit, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I would like to address some housekeeping matters. For the benefit of our recording system, I would ask presenters to wait until I

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Members of the Standing Committee have been provided with a number of documents for reference during this televised hearing. For the benefit of our witnesses and interpreters, I ask Members to be precise when quoting from or making reference to specific documents.

With that, I again welcome everyone to our hearing and invite our first presenter, the Minister of Languages, to make a brief oral presentation on their submission to be followed by a discussion with the Members of the Committee. [Minister] of Languages, Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Members of the Committee.

This morning, I will begin by introducing the person to my right, Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes, to my far right, Assistant Deputy Minister Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik, and to my left, Director of Legislation Thomas Ahlfors. Those are the officials who are accompanying me here.

Good morning. Mr. Chairman, thank you, as well as my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings of the hearing regarding language.

I put my name forward for a ministerial position last week, and I was selected as minister and sworn in this morning and now we are at this hearing. I'm hoping that you won't ask too many questions. I'm just kidding. I was appointed as Minister of Languages and Minister of Culture and Heritage. Let me start by thanking our translators and interpreters. Your hard work

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allows this House to engage on issues like these hearings that are critical to our territory. Thank you to the translators and interpreters.

(interpretation ends) I am here to present the Government of Nunavut's submission on "the administration, implementation and effectiveness of provisions and achievement of objectives of Nunavut's language legislation." As requested by the Committee, we have included recommended amendments which I will outline later.

(interpretation) Our language and culture are inextricably linked. Nunavut exists out of the need for a government responsive to the needs and aspirations of Inuit and others who choose to join our society which is grounded in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Our language legislation was borne from partnerships with key language stakeholders, elders, and others such as Nunavut Tunngavik and extensive community consultation. Our *Katujjiluta* mandate reinforces that vision and strengthens our focus on building bridges and working together on enduring partnerships to support Nunavummiut.

Nunavut's language laws are strong; they may be young, but the base is solid. Still, we recognize that more hard work is needed to refine these laws. Together we will continue these efforts, while advancing discussions around support for standardization.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we value the work of your Committee in collecting input from those key stakeholders and others. We look forward to valued input from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, our Languages Commissioner, and others this week and to working with your Committee to address and incorporate feedback.

Iksivautaaq, the submission we have presented recommended three main

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challenges to the legislation:

- 1. Resolve the jurisdiction dispute of federal compliance;
- 2. Dissolve the unused Official Languages Promotion Fund; and
- 3. Focus Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit on its critical mandate and away from the need to operate an independent administrative structure.

As previously noted by the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, there has been resistance from federal departments and agencies to comply with the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and ambiguity remains.

With the passing of both the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the *Indigenous Languages Act* by the Parliament of Canada, there are renewed opportunities for productive dialogue with the federal government on its obligations under our *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Additionally, with the launch of the federal Inuit Nunangat Policy and its provisions related to accessing federal programs and services in Inuktitut, there is willingness from the federal government to build compliance with the objectives of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in building partnership with the federal government, it is important to emphasize that we are not seeking to take anything away from other official languages; we only seek to enhance the use, promotion, protection, and revitalization of Inuktitut across Nunavut. We aim to support Inuktitut to be the primary language in all parts of our society.

Mr. Chairman, my predecessors, past and current Languages Commissioners and Inuit

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leaders have asserted that the Government of Canada must provide equal access to federal programs and services in Inuktut to Nunavummiut. Our submission recommends adding a new position to bring federal compliance with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Specifically, we recommend that the Parliament of Canada clarify that it will uphold its language obligations to all Nunavummiut, including Inuktut speakers. This is a question of equality for us as Canadians.

Mr. Chairman, the second proposed change deals with the Official Languages Promotion Fund. This fund has not met its initial objective to collect fines and penalties prescribed under both Acts. We believe that future monetary penalties could flow into the general revenue system, as is currently the case under other legislation. We believe removing it will simplify administration and allow increased focus on our existing funding programs to better support our language obligations, programs and services, including revitalizing and promoting Inuktut.

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is designed to serve a critical role. As the language authority, it is tasked to develop, publish, and promote the standardized terminology and expressions in the Inuit language.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the organization has proven to be severely challenged by the requirement to operate as an independent administrative apparatus, leading to various challenges. For example, it has been unable to produce audited financial statements since 2017-18 and has advised it cannot locate board members' minutes from 2018 to 2020. Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's executive director position has only been permanently staffed for eight months out of the five years. In June 2023, in

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response to a request from the board chair, the Department of Culture and Heritage produced a senior manager on transfer assignment to give needed support.

(interpretation) As you know, this statutory review process is staffed by section 43(2) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to consider "whether or not administrative independence is necessary for [Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's] work." We believe that allowing the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to avoid administrative burdens will ensure it has the focus necessary to advance and succeed in its critical mandate.

Mr. Chairman, item 4 in our submission includes recommendations to clarify and improve the structure of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit if it remains independent. While I will ensure the Committee is provided any requested details, I hope that we can focus on meeting Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's administrative needs through an established structure that will allow the organization to focus on its mandate.

Recommendations 5 through 8 are administrative: removing a spent provision, a dated definition, and cleaning up the appointments process and revocations to Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

(interpretation ends) Finally, Mr. Chairman, our submission also recommends your Committee consider the intended application of the *Official Languages Act* to our quasijudicial bodies not established by our laws.

Mr. Chairman, we have a robust language regime in our territory. It still remains unparalleled throughout Canada. It recognizes Inuktut as the language of the public majority in Nunavut.

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(interpretation) Our Official Languages Act aims to place Inuktut alongside English and French in equal status, and our Inuit Language Protection Act serves to support, revitalize, and promote the use of Inuktut as Nunavut's primary language.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut's language legislation is also young. (interpretation) We all know that Nunavut is vast and it was recently established as a territory. Language laws in other parts of Canada are over 40 years old and are only now beginning to mature. Our *Official Languages Act* has only been in force since 2013.

Mr. Chairman, we are travelling together on the right path as a territory. Our predecessors, Inuit partners, and other language stakeholders did great work, especially Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Our work today remains grounded in the extensive community and stakeholder consultation that underpins it.

This is the first time a review has been done for our language legislation and it's an opportunity to refine it to our needs. As mentioned earlier, Nunavut's language legislation is unparalleled, but we cannot take this for granted. We need to continue our work with this legislation to ensure not just the existence of Inuktut but that (interpretation ends) we can bring to fruition what Nunavut's early visionaries fought for: a territory that protects and preserves Inuit culture, a territory where Inuktut is the primary language of all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in closing, I thank you and all stakeholders for taking the time to engage in these discussions. As I was recently appointed as the Minister of Languages, I look forward to continuing our work to advance language laws in Nunavut.

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I would first of all like to thank you in advance. Just for your information, I got appointed this morning, but I welcome your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kaernerk. The floor is now open for comments or questions on the opening comments. (interpretation ends) There are no general comments. I will open the floor now for consideration of the ministerial submission. Any questions or comments to the submission that the Minister of Languages has submitted for these televised hearings? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the minister spent his weekend reading a lot of material. He has probably been drinking from the fire hose all weekend.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to start off with a fairly basic question. In the minister's view, what are some of the obstacles or barriers that are limiting the ability of public and private sector organizations to meet their obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer this question to my Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you are asking a question about the linguistic challenges that are faced by the public and private sector organizations, if I understood your question correctly.

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If people believe there are any areas or sections that are not being implemented, especially related to service provision in Inuktut, then they can submit a complaint to the Languages Commissioner. After the complaint is received, the commissioner has the authority to help that organization. I hope I responded to your question. It would be best if the standardized terms are used through the Inuit Language Authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. To clarify the question, what challenges do the organizations face with respect to the Act? Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): As I am not aware of any challenges that are being faced by the organizations, I cannot respond to that question, and I would have to check with the Languages Commissioner if there are any complaints. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. The Minister's submission indicates that the federal government's passing of both the *United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the *Indigenous Languages Act* as well as the announcement of the federal

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Inuit Nunangat Policy may lead to an opportunity to work closely with the federal government to build compliance with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Can you describe what specific steps have been taken since the passing of the federal legislation to work with federal counterparts to build federal compliance with Nunavut's language legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. We try to advocate for our language and look at how the federal government can make improvements to their programs and services through financial support. We advocate for language services to be provided, as language is important to all Nunavummiut.

If it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have my Deputy Minister supplement my answer.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we work continuously with the federal government and also make sure that there is compliance with the legislation within Nunavut. We have the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which includes the federal government and their requirement to provide documentation in Inuktut. We strongly believe in that.

We've had regular meetings with our Minister and previous Ministers who have continually advocated for language services with the federal Ministers in Ottawa. In addition, I've had meetings with my fellow Deputy

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 Ministers to make sure that the Inuit language is recognized in the Nunavut territory because Inuit have to be provided services in Inuktut.

I would like to say further that I am proud of the entities that have already worked to provide services in Inuktut. For example, if I apply for a passport, I can now be provided the services by Inuit in Ottawa. If I approach Service Canada to get more information, I can be provided services in Inuktut. However, some entities are not putting in enough effort to provide these services, such as the post office, the airline industry, and the revenue agency. The senior citizen benefits are not communicated in Inuktut.

If Inuktut-speaking people understood or are more informed about the programs and services that are available, then there would be higher uptake. This is always a topic of discussion and previous and current Ministers have brought this up with their ministerial counterparts in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 8 of the *Indigenous Languages Act* provides that the federal "Minister may cooperate with...territorial governments...by entering into agreements or arrangements...for purposes such as providing Indigenous language programs and services in relation to education, health and the administration of justice..." To date, what new agreements or arrangements have been entered into with the federal government to provide Inuktut programs and services in these specific areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

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Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would request that the Deputy Minister who dealt with these issues be allowed to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just recently signed a two-year agreement from 2022 to 2024 with the federal government to receive funding of \$5.1 million, including funding for French language services of \$4.1 million, if I recall correctly. Those are the two agreements that we have signed to date. Nonetheless, we have continued to negotiate, as our next session is already arriving, and we will enter into negotiations on the next steps. It's obvious that if the funds were increased, then we would be able to undertake more assignments for Inuit language services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Now, with respect to Mr. Hickes' question, have you signed an agreement with the Department of Health and the Department of Justice to provide Inuktut services? Have you signed any agreements for these departments? Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education would fulfill their own need to sign an agreement. If we signed the agreement, it would specify the funding being provided to the Department of Justice as certain funds are set aside through this agreement with the federal government. We also provide some funding to the Department of Health towards that through our existing agreements. It is specifically for interpretation, translations, and annual meetings to determine how

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medical terminology can be improved by the Department of Health. That is the agreement we signed with the government departments to provide that support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 10 of the federal *Indigenous Languages Act* provides that "A federal institution...may...provide access to services in an Indigenous language, if the institution...has the capacity to do so and there is [sufficient] demand for access to those services in that language." My next question is: what steps has the Government of Nunavut taken to demonstrate a significant demand in Nunavut for federal services in Inuktut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, the work was undertaken by the previous Minister of Languages, especially in providing more services in our language. To use this example, there are daily word reminders as well as day calendars that can be provided in Inuktitut. This includes any advertisements that must be provided in Inuktitut. We are trying to work collaboratively with the federal government on the language service provision, how the federal government can acknowledge our language formally, and how to ensure advertisements include versions for all Nunavummiut.

With your permission, my Deputy Minister can elaborate further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuit within Nunavut are numerous who speak Inuktut, perhaps the majority of residents are fluent in Inuktut throughout Nunavut. There are rights provided to Inuit to receive services in Inuktut and, if we prefer to be served in the Inuit language, we should be able to use Inuktut to request these services. This is protected by legislation, (interpretation ends) significant demand (interpretation) notwithstanding, as the services must always be provided in Inuktut. Only through this avenue can the Inuktut language be protected if we wish to speak Inuktut in the future, so we will always retain that need to provide services in Inuktut. If the service is unavailable in Inuktut, it would lead to using the other languages. We must ensure that services can always be provided in Inuktut.

Even if the organization or business maintains that there are no staff able to speak Inuktut and that they cannot provide the service in Inuktut, the legislation stipulates that this service must always be available in Inuktut as it is the right of the Inuit to use their language wherever a government office is situated throughout Nunavut, including federal government offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the response, but I would like to just drill down a little bit. Has the federal government communicated what significant demand is and what steps has the government taken to provide recognition of significant demand in their own legislation to make sure that there is the onus on the federal government and agencies to provide Inuktut

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services in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on my understanding, there haven't been any regulatory directives sent to provide these services as far as I know related to indigenous languages legislation. They still have to draft up the legislation towards the provision of services in indigenous languages, so I cannot answer that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In one of Ms. Hughes' earlier responses, the Deputy Minister had mentioned signage. Has the Government of Nunavut provided support and resources to entities outside of Nunavut to provide services and signage in Inuktut? We recently had just last week a hearing with Department of Family Services on children in out-of-territory care, and we have a number of demographics and a number of residents that are receiving services outside the territory. My question is: does the Government of Nunavut provide support, resources, and translation services to contracted entities outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an issue where my deputy would be aware of the details and she can respond accordingly to the request of our colleague on how these are provided outside the territory of Nunavut, with your permission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. Currently we have the right within Nunavut to ensure that contracted bodies, for example, if the Department of Health held a contract in the south or perhaps even the Department of Family Services held a contract in the south, then through this contract, there are provisions specifying how the contractor will provide the services in Inuktut. This legal requirement stipulates the need for this provision. Although I have not had the opportunity to review these contracts, we would have to check to see if this legal requirement is included in the contract. I am aware of this requirement because the legislation states this stipulation for any contracted services, such as the Department of Health contracts would require service provision in Inuktut. This must be included in the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I fully understood the response. The Deputy Minister mentioned it should be included in the contract with the contracted entity to provide language services, but I also wasn't sure on whether those conditions are in the contracts. My question is to maybe just get some clarification. In most service contracts with the service provider in another jurisdiction, does that contract include signage and languages services and, if so, is it incumbent on the contractor or on the Government of Nunavut to assist in translations and funding for signage and language services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize as my response was not very clear. Yes, this is a legal requirement to have this provision written into the contract to provide the services in Inuktut. This is the legal requirement under the legislation. The smaller contracts agreed to by our government can also receive funding support from our department to offer signage or posters on the walls, such as funding for Inuktut language lessons of their staff, so there is a bit of funding specific to this requirement, but it has to be submitted as a request to the Department of Culture and Heritage. There is a limited fund available, but any contract signed requires the Inuktut service provision component. This is a legal requirement under this legislation.

The minister can supplement that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk, I believe you wanted to supplement that.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Yes. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, in 2022 the Inuit Nunangat Policy was released by Canada and so it's still a work in progress. For those people who are outside of our jurisdiction, we are still in the part of agreements and arrangements consistent with the *Indigenous Languages Act*. That's why I wanted to make a supplementary on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a situation where the language component is not included with the service contract, yet a facility may want to provide signage and language services in their facility even though it may not be part of the contract, are there

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ΡΦΡΑΦΡ ΔΟΛεΦιρούρος CΦραφορη ULDATO

funds available to those entities to be able to provide, again, the signage and the translations needed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just came into my seat last week. My deputy is more familiar with this information as she deals with the operational issues. I will have her respond with your permission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* under section 4, (interpretation ends) third party contracts, (interpretation) it stipulates that this provision has to be added if any services are to be provided and the services must be available in Inuktut. This is required within the contract. If this legal requirement was not included, then our department must be informed about this lack of service provision or submit the complaint to the Languages Commissioner if this requirement is not met.

For bodies outside of Nunavut, there has to be a proposal submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage that has a limited fund towards this requirement, especially for smaller private businesses. This is to highlight their provision of services in Inuktut and they can receive a contribution of up to \$5,000 on an annual basis. Hopefully I responded to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that Ms. Arreak wants to add to that. Ms. Arreak.

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Ms. Arreak-Kullualik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a limited pot of funding set aside, but there is no specific funding allocated towards that, although there are some funds for certain items, such as contributions that you have to apply for through a proposal. Further, if any training is required for the staff to provide this service, they can apply for this funding via a proposal application to the Department of Culture and Heritage. If training in language proficiency is required, it can also be funded through a proposal to our department.

Here in Nunavut, the private sector and businesses all have obligations to provide language services as stipulated by the legislation. If an agreement is reached to provide services in Inuktitut or to direct them to provide services, it is automatically included in all service agreements. However, for the public signage requirements, such as public documents, we stated it was a small fund with a \$5,000 cap that is proposal based and that can be provided to small business owners.

The requirements for the *Inuit Language Protection Act* under sections 3 and 4 are required within these agreements. I hope I responded to Mr. Hickes' question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes wanted to know if those outside of Nunavut who provide services are eligible for the \$5,000 that Nunavummiut can access based on a proposal. Can the \$5,000 be available to service providers outside of Nunavut? Ms. Aariak-Kullualik.

Ms. Arreak-Kullualik (interpretation): I will redirect that question to the Deputy Minister.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry. Ms. Hughes.

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within our legislation, the grants and contributions are targeted for Nunavummiut, but some businesses are large and they provide service in Inuktut, especially medical boarding home operators that don't require much financial support as they have a larger business base.

If I understand correctly, we are talking about small businesses that provide care to children. It should be a requirement in the contract to provide service in Inuktut as required under the Act. Small businesses and those trying to start their own businesses or a construction company can seek funds as to how they will provide service in Inuktut, signage, or the Inuktut required in the work that they are trying to do. That is what it is based on for the contracts and the service to Nunavummiut. It must be a requirement of the contractual agreement. I hope that was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. For clarity, the \$5,000 that is proposal based, can companies based outside of Nunavut access that funding? We know that Nunavut companies can request up to \$5,000 in funding, but can companies that are from outside of Nunavut access that funding? Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is disappointing that is not available to contractors that are providing services to Nunavummiut outside of the territory. I guess my next question then would lead to: if a government department has, such as Family Services has a residential contact or a service

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contract with somebody outside the territory, is there a common language in translations for signage? If an entity wanted to provide signage and some language services in their facility, even if it's not a contract condition... . If I'm a contractor down south and the contact with Family Services may not even know where to get translation services done, so does Culture and Heritage provide those services upon request to southern entities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you for that question. In terms of the documentation outlining the process, along with the operational issues, as I am still getting up to speed on the issues, I would ask that my deputy be allowed to respond to the developments on this issue to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds allocated by the Department of Culture and Heritage are quite small. When a previous terminological meeting was held, there were discussions on how to provide funding support to the private businesses. This was added to provide further support to our corporate sector and this was our attempt to provide further support under *Uqausivut*. This fund was created to provide more funding support.

With respect to Nunavut, our legislation is drafted to allow for contribution agreements and it specifies that this is applicable only to Nunavut companies. With respect to companies based outside of Nunavut, it would have to be reviewed separately as our legislation and policies would have to be

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revisited to allow for that.

Nonetheless, I want to state further that the Department of Health has to include that provision in all of their contracts. If this legal requirement is not included in the contract, then they are breaking the law. It has to be included in all contracts that they are required to provide the service in Inuktut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That kind of leads me to my earlier question: is common language provided to these entities to be able to make sure that the signage is consistent? We've had issues even in-territory sometimes of signage mistakes being made in the interpretation. Some words in some dialects mean a totally different meaning in another dialect and you've got to be careful of how those are interpreted. To make sure that there's a consistent model and common language and terminology across signage that that we use in the territory, it needs to be consistent with our partners that are trying to provide language services in the south.

My question is still: is there a dictionary or something somewhere that the Department of Culture and Heritage has access to that is available publicly so that people can make sure that they're getting the right, maybe not the right dialectal difference, but the right translation on their signage and their facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something we really wish to implement at this time. We want to standardize the terminology in Inuktut so that

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the same wording is used publicly as a service provided by our government.

At this time, we are starting to use that as we have a terminologist who tries to ensure consistency in documentation in Inuktut. However, some of the requirements are held by the IUT. If the IUT sends that to our department, it would clarify that they need these services again. As an example, the pandemic was quickly named on an emergency basis when government arbitrarily stated it was a health pandemic. We are now familiar with that term and we now use it throughout the government.

For the written content from the government, there is a lot of terminology that has been collected through a computer database where it provides Inuktut words in terms of health and other areas where they are gradually starting to develop terminology. We can now get more information on the Internet. If you type in English, it comes out in Inuktitut and other languages such as Chinese. We met with Embassy West last spring to find out whether their staff knew about this resource and they were happy that it is now available.

My assistant can elaborate on that if she would like to add anything.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik.

Ms. Arreak-Kullualik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The requirement to provide standardized Inuktitut and terminology in Inuktitut is the work of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit for standardization as written in the English version.

(interpretation ends) Standardization (interpretation) is a major issue that we must CL6900 UUC. PCP64 DEPLASSE Ľ°Ⴍ ႱぺĽჼď Ͻዮϲዾሒዶჼď ჼbናኣዾϧჼď 2004°4 CP6°2 CPC CPG CP60°CC 4D%CPU%, Υ%ĖΦ%<C%, DM CΔbσ ᡃᡉᠺᡪᠵᢣ᠂᠌᠌ᠫᢛᡆᡥ᠘ᢣᡲᡥᠦᡖ. ₫°σ°b°ω°°°C>сω2°d° «Д°°С>υ4°ς, СL°d« ۲۰۵۱ کامی ماد ۱۳۵۲ کامی فرسلانه Δ \$\rightarrow\$\ ᠘ᡩ᠘ᡴ᠘ᡩ᠘᠘ᠳ᠘᠙᠙᠘ᡩ᠘᠘ᡩ᠘᠘ JP%L%ÜC. CL6dd⊃ %bP\LN°a, $\delta \Delta^{-1}$ $PA^{5\%}\dot{U}^{5b}$, $\Delta^{5b}b\Delta \Delta F^{5b}\Gamma^{5}$ CL $^{5}d\sigma^{5}U$ 3144dd JÚL ACJA4dd

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work towards as it is a substantive issue. Further, as the deputy explained briefly, we had to quickly develop a term on an emergency basis to add a term for COVID, again just as an example.

The digitalization of past work is slowly being developed and transferred to our computers although this is a slow process, but the terminological work is very large that needs to be incorporated, along with new terminology developed in Inuktitut. At this time, we are starting to move ahead with the definitions of specific terminology and trying to amalgamate the words.

We did the preparations for this work and we are now developing the next step that will be available digitally so that anyone can reads it. In English, this would be the (interpretation ends) MS Translator (interpretation) that is slowly translating the words along with an Inuktitut copy. I would state it in English as (interpretation ends) voice to text (interpretation) is the next phase. We are making some progress and slowly turning the corner, and I concur that we need to make these readily available, but again it always depends on capacity issues. We are starting to focus on this further, so progress is slow and our aims are very high. Slow but steady progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you. I have no other names on my list but we will wait a short while. While we are waiting, I would like to ask the Minister this question: on page 4 of your opening comments, near the ending. I will ask the question in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the second purpose changed deals with the official language promotional funds. The funds have not met its initial objective to collect fines and penalties prescribed under both Acts. We believe that the future

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Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, we have not fined any organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Good morning (interpretation ends) everyone. The Minister of Languages annual reports for 2019-2020 and 2020-21 were tabled in the House on February 28, 2023.

The submission addresses some of the challenges in producing and tabling these annual reports in accordance with subsection 15(1) of the *Official Languages Act*. Can you describe how the department has worked to increase its capacity to produce the annual reports and provide examples of any on-going challenges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question, and in my opening comments, we stated that these reports are quite delayed but we are working diligently to ensure we can start tabling the reports and the proposed legislation. This is still being developed by the department to determine the best option to improve this requirement. At this time, it is still being developed as per my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The question was: what challenges are there in producing and tabling these annual reports. (interpretation ends) Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this has been undertaken to catch up to that, and the Department of Culture and Languages really wants to improve this aspect. They have tasked this work to see how to develop these reports on a timelier manner, especially as it is required by the *Language Protection Act*, and they are working to see how to have these reports completed, and to ensure we report on developments in our department so we are trying to follow that requirement now. This is what is causing the delays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister elaborate on what those challenges are? Please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the Language Act implementation unit has to coordinate and manage collection. That's one of the gaps that had been identified when it comes to the implementation results. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to my original question: can the Minister describe how the department has worked to increase its capacity to produce the

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annual reports and provide example of any on-going challenges? I'm hearing just one response to that. I'm sure that there are many challenges and many ways to address that capacity to produce those reports, and I'd just like more information on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the ongoing work we've been doing, I would like to refer this question to my Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, we are quite pleased to announce that our annual reports are now caught up to date, and now, we anticipate during this fall session that we will be able to table the past fiscal year report, as it is now completed and is scheduled to be tabled in the House in the fall session.

The biggest barrier we faced was we had one employee who was responsible for a large amount of work, the recognition of the Inuktitut language, the Inuit Language Authority, and in 2020 we were looking at how we can improve the system so that we can put together a report on a shorter time frame.

We also get funding requests from the Nunavut communities that will be used for languages and there's a lot of paperwork required to put together and they usually come from the Nunavut government departments and the communities. We look at how much money was expended and we get a report on how that money was used.

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We have the implementation of the Language Acts. There are five employees who will be performing those duties. I think that from now on, we will be up to date in tabling our annual reports and other documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's always good to hear when work is redistributed and knowing that there was only one person responsible and now there are five, it's what I understand from the response. Perhaps I'm misunderstanding the response, so I'll go back to you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was partially my response. We had one coordinator, but we made it two coordinators, one who is with the IUT and the other one is responsible for the official languages. With the official languages coordinator, we now have four other individuals who will be working on the annual report and also review the requests that are being made by the communities. There are five employees in total. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. The submission notes the different timelines for submitting annual reports by the Minister of Languages, the Languages Commissioner, and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, which vary from 12 months to 6 months to 9 months after the end of each fiscal year. On page 3 of the submission, it states:

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"While various delays have previously limited the advantage of this structure, it does present an opportunity for alignment between organizations."

Can you please elaborate further on what these opportunities for alignment might be and whether you feel there should be amendments to the reporting timelines currently established under subsections 15(1) and subsection 24(1) of the *Official Languages Act* and subsection 23(1) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*?

I can repeat any part of that question if need be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the timelines, and since I just got into my position, I would like to defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We drafted this report by compiling all of the items, as it usually takes quite a bit of time to collect the reports from the initiatives led by the communities, as well as developments of our government departments. There are many details that are required to be compiled, and due to the multiple requirements, this generally leads to delays.

Additionally, we have to include within the annual report the work of the Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit and how our department responded to these submissions. The report cannot be produced when the IUT hasn't submitted their report to us, so this ends up

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delaying the report. Further, the Commissioner of Languages wants to submit her recommendations and we are looking at how to incorporate them into the report.

Another issue we discussed was that we still need an additional 12 months in order to compile all of these reports, as it is quite a large task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just maybe simplify that question: is there a feeling that that there should be amendments to the reporting timelines that are currently established in the *Official Languages Act* as well as in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* in order to align them better to allow for that reporting to be a little bit easier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twelve months is sufficient for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page three of this submission addresses the lack of a formulized process for responding to recommendations included in the annual reports of the Nunavut's languages commissioner which are required under section 24 of the *Official Languages Act*, and I'm wondering from the Government of Nunavut's perspective: what factor should be taken into consideration when establishing a formulized process for responding to recommendations in the language commissioner's annual reports? Thank you,

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Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this to legal counsel, Mr. Thomas Ahlfors, with regard to the *Official Languages Act*, if that is alright with you. Thank you. My deputy minister will respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. Yes. There has to be better understanding and discussions when it come to the Nunavut language commissioner's recommendations, and also, which are in the annual reports and usually those documents are tabled in the House and it doesn't say who should be responding to those recommendations.

For example, if there is a recommendation to provide services in Inuktitut, is it the responsibility of the Department of Human Resources or another department? There is room for improvement and should we receive a complaint, it is referred to officials and a copy is sent to one of the government departments for review, but then we don't know what happens to them after. How can this be improved? Does someone from the House need to get a copy or are the commissioner's recommendations in the report? Who is responsible for them? Does someone from the House respond? Who responds to the commissioner's recommendations?

I believe there needs to be a better direction as to what should be done with the recommendations, or who should the Δ 6760 \dot{C} 66.

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recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason I am asking this question is, we've just had an example of, you know, a pretty full and taxing week of questioning to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. What was very helpful for me as a Member who is providing a response to this Auditor General's report was that along with that report on Family Services, there was the Government of Nunavut's response to those recommendations and though it was just one department.

When we're talking about languages, every department has responsibilities. To me, it would make sense that when a report from the language commissioner comes to us to consider as legislators, the Government of Nunavut has taken the step of answering to those recommendations, so that the gaps can be demonstrated. As well, and really importantly, the steps have already been taken to address those gaps.

I would go back to the Minister with the question of whether or not there is consideration of Culture and Heritage responding to the languages commissioner's annual reports as part of that process, so that we have more information before us that would make it a more fulsome and educated discussion. Thanks you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, when it comes to tabling the annual reports, the department has taken considerable steps in increasing our capacity to meet more

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There are other Government of Nunavut departments and other agencies, and community organizations that we have to obtain this information that we require. The department is taking considerable steps in the capacities that the information has been required to be obtained, when it comes to submitting the annual reports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think I'll just make a clarification here. The Member was asking if there is any consideration of the Department of Cultural and Heritage, explaining or adding more information and recommendations on what has been done or could be done on recommendations that the language commissioner has made to the House. Mr. Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister is more familiar in the operations. I would like her to respond.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our belief is that there is room for improvement, similar to the Department of Health. At this time, the legislation states that if a complaint is submitted and an investigation is required, then it has to be sent to the senior management level.

A copy is submitted to the Department of Health, and we are not party to this investigation. It also has to be included in the annual report, but it never seems to be directed to a specific department but rather to all departments. When dealing with

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languages, the minister's office, yes, does receive a copy of the complaint, but staff do not always see them.

Perhaps it can be clarified in the legislation, actually...excuse me. It is not under culture, but under the languages legislation where it states the minister must always receive a copy of the complaints, or that the Minister of Languages shall respond. That is what I believe is missing from the legislation currently, so that it will be clear for all parties. It should get recommendations on how to implement this, or to conduct action items under that subject particularly for the annual reporting requirements. It sometimes gets muddled as to who should respond to the complaint and it should be clearly written to outline exactly who is responsible for them.

Alternatively, we may receive correspondence from the MLAs or the Legislative Assembly or from various departments, so that must be clarified. On occasion, letters are also submitted for annual reports that have to be tabled in the House, and the departments receive correspondence from the Assembly. We are unsure if that should be the norm. This is what we must negotiate and debate, on clearing the action items so that we all know who will respond based on the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on from that line of questioning because I think that there is some indication that that we're kind of in agreement about that, and I look forward to seeing how that evolves.

Mr. Chairman, going back to the Minister's opening statements on page five, the Minister indicated that the executive director position of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

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operations had only been permanently staffed for eight months of the last five years. I know personally how difficult it is to staff certain organizations and I understand from this statement that the Department of Culture and Heritage has provided a senior manager on transfer assignment to give needed support.

I would like to know a little bit more about that, that working relationship, and what sort of support that senior manager is giving. How long is this transfer assignment in place and what are the objectives of the transfer assignment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I am new to this position, I read these this morning about the operations of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. I'm starting to understand the department. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department covets the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit organization as it is very important to our mandate, and we feel it is completely required to operating and their mandate is a large responsibility.

At this time, they have been experiencing problems for quite some time now, and we were continually meeting with the previous chairperson, as well as the current chairman to determine how to provide more support, however, without an executive director being hired, it led to many difficulties and issues.

The position was advertised but due to the lack of qualified applicants, this did not

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proceed effectively. We have a seconded worker there currently, and they are there to provide administrative support and this is temporary as that person is providing support as they are already working for our government.

They are looking to conduct training for a replacement for that position, and this is the primary reason for the delays. At this time, I cannot state who the person is or who it will be as this process is still moving along. Nonetheless, the support worker wants to train an existing worker to that position and to provide support to that position. I believe the secondment is a year long term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little bit confused because it is my understanding that recommendation number 3 proposes that the staff from Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit be absorbed into the Government of Nunavut, and we're hearing that this is a transfer assignment for a one-year period of time.

If we can just have a little bit of a clearer understanding of what the way forward is there. Is it that the transfer assignment is going to build up and then not be absorbed into the Government of Nunavut, or is it to take those actions towards the Government of Nunavut absorbing that work and giving it the administrative support that it's been lacking for 12 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. We need to make some considerations about it. Right now, we don't know how we are going to be asked to proceed. Whether they will remain independent or if the employees will be added to the public sector of our government, so this is what we need to discuss and negotiate to determine that. Further, it is listed under the *Nunavut Agreement* specifically Article 32, where we need to have deeper discussions with NTI on how this will be dealt with.

At this time, it is set up in this manner, and we are just adhering to this process today, and this temporary placement is to ensure operational capacity, and they will be training an employee to become a director for the IUT organization. During this on-the-job training as a director, we anticipate more work as the Inuit Language Authority still has work to complete.

This body must remain even if it is absorbed by our government sector or remains an independent body as the legislation speaks to this need. We want to ensure that this organization continues to operate and this is why we have started providing support as we received the request from the chairperson to provide additional support.

The fact that it runs on its own and if it were taken over by the government, maybe some of workers would be able to concentrate more on their work, then they wouldn't have to do any of the administration or financial work on their own. Their annual reports are very late too, and once the Government of Nunavut takes responsibility, the work will proceed better. We believe it still needs to independent and have its own coordinator within the

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Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. To Ms. Brewster's question. Article 32 in the Land Claims Agreement, how will it impact on the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit? They'll be independent or will they be absorbed by the government? Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an important area, and we'll need to work collaboratively with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that many organizations that are run by boards of directors, struggle not just with the administrative burdens of reporting or receiving funds and creating annual reports, but what they also struggle with is governance.

I note that, again on page 5 of 7 of the Minister's remarks were that the board was unable to produce audited financial statements since 2017-18, and also cannot locate board meeting minutes from 2018 to 2020. So with this knowledge, I asked the Minister: What has the Department of Culture and Heritage done to support more training and governance for Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's board of directors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for your question. In the financial report, from my understanding, Culture and Heritage, as I mentioned, how can we improve things when there are no positions in Inuit Uqausinginnik

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Taiguusiliuqtiit? With the request for support, perhaps the Chairman's position, if the government would accept responsibility, perhaps the annual report required would be up to date, and the financial reports would also be up to date. That is our thinking.

Perhaps my deputy can elaborate a little further on this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding recently, a course was given to the new board, as always, when new boards are appointed, training is provided, and training was just taking place recently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any representatives, voting members, or ex officio representatives of Culture and Heritage on that board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding, none. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I just get a little more information about what kind of training that Culture and Heritage is supporting for that board?

I know that there is that really important step

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of giving an employee through a transfer assignment, however, it's really imperative that when we know that the board is struggling, currently, to take the most basic and important steps to be accountable through creating those annual audits, as well as, those annual reports, it's really imperative that a monstrous organization, like the Government of Nunavut can and should be able to support a struggling organization, so that they can meet their very important mandate.

We know in the past that organizations have folded because of that lack of support that was so important and could have been credibly given by the Government of Nunavut to uplift an organization such as this. I'd like to know exactly how that is taking place and, if it's not taken place, what are the barriers to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'm still learning my position. My Deputy Minister has more knowledge on that. I'll ask her to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I stated previously, our department prefers to retain the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* agency and we want to ensure its smooth operation to fulfill its mandate.

The Department of Culture and Languages provides funding for their operational funding, and due to their independent status, we try to respect this independency but when I have had meetings with the chairperson, I keep asking how to provide further support.

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When they submitted their request for additional support by asking for a transfer assignment to provide administrative support, we did that and we are assisting them in that way, and further, for their board the agency initiated their own board training manual to teach board members their roles.

When I first went to meet with them, they were holding a board training session I believe it was 2021 when I first me them, and just recently, they submitted a request for additional funds to train the board members how to operate as a board, and operational plans which they just conducted.

Perhaps when they are presenting their report, then they can provide an actual response on how they have undertaken this work, as they are scheduled to make a report, so they can answer how they were provided support as well as their board training work which I am sure they will be able to outline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm going to use my discretion now. We will take a 15-minute break and give everyone a chance to stretch their legs. We'll be back in 15 minutes. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 10:39 and resumed at 11:01

Chairman: Good morning, I would like to call our meeting back to order. The next person on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Listening to the responses, I do have some questions on the discussions and the opening address which we have all heard.

Language, especially the Inuktitut language is

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one I really utilize personally, and I am aware of my shortcomings in the vocabulary that I use. Nonetheless, with respect to the Minister of Languages, leads me back to the question raised at the beginning, and the response provided about the working language of organizations, and where the Inuktitut language is the predominant language used in Nunavut and in our chambers.

The language is used, recognized and due to this recognition, even without returning to the previous questions, your responses spoke to the need for collaboration, and fully acknowledging the language. How is your department operating on that front? What exactly does the department undertake that is clearly working in terms of fully using the Inuktitut language?

This is due to the fact that it is unclear what the department is trying to do, perhaps they want to try an initiative but it seems confusion is the result since it seems there doesn't seem to be follow up to ensure its successes, and to have a strong emphasis that shows the strength and not the weaknesses, and I wonder if there are any long-term plans. Hopefully I am clear in my commentary, and I wanted to speak to that first. That is my question, Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your question. As I just got my portfolio this weekend, my deputy would be in a better position to respond to that question. Thank you.

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

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a good question. What strategies and work we do in collaboration with our fellow Inuit, or those who want to provide service in Inuktitut, and to have more services in Inuktitut and to fully showcase the Inuktut language.

There has been a lot of work done in the past under the office of the Minister of Languages, and perhaps this is the biggest development as previous conferences were held before I became appointed to this position, but I recall prior meetings to develop Inuktitut terminology as Inuit were brought together in 2019.

There were discussions on the language, concerns stemming from Inuit about the language issues or priorities along with the report that was developed on the goals, and we try to develop through this process terminology or language plans, such as *Uqausivut* mandate.

This *Uqausivut* 2 plan as we call it, speaks to these issues as it is felt to be important, especially for education, services and the preservation and retention of our language. Also, to provide it in our schools through the service provision, so these are the main areas. It speaks to how improvements can be prepared, and much of the commentaries are from Inuit.

As an example, daycares were noted to be lacking preschool Inuktitut manuals to teach the workers, so we can look at how to provide more support in that area to the Department of Education? It is under their mandate, and the Department of Education is currently developing those manuals and are working on several variations.

Additionally, on an annual basis I write letters to my associates, to my fellow deputy

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ministers on the requirements or obligations the government has to follow, as it is now law. I generally ask for their plans towards incorporating Inuktitut further into their departmental work and in the regions. We ask how we can provide support to the other departments.

There are other details but I will stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response clarifying that. Actually, the conference you mentioned from 2019, included individual Inuit comments, and they were specifically towards the Inuktitut language. The actual details contained in that report, has your department undertaken an in-depth review of that report? I ask that since you stated it was before your appointment to that department, where the conference conducted their work. I am asking if this report has been reviewed carefully so that is now my question. Thank you, Me. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will turn this over to my deputy. Thank you.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for my outburst, probably from wanting to respond quickly.

Yes, this document was carefully reviewed and based on the review's findings, this is where *Uqausivut* 2 was developed and we are

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working on implementing the recommendations listed in that mandate. *Uqausivut* is our main directive and it contains issues considered important. We continue to work on them, and there are many recommendations and many of them are very poignant and specific, and we have been able to implement quite a few of them.

Also, I forgot to add this earlier. We also have funding that is made available to the communities, if they wanted to conduct Inuktitut language initiatives locally, training or meetings.... Funding is available in terms of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and the work that is done annually through proposals and promoting Inuktitut and the teaching of Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently appointed, Minister Kaernerk, I honour you. I even know that this is your very first session after being appointed. I can feel your commitment and I like to see that you are clearly aware of wanting to do the work. It is kind of too bad that they put you into the fire right away. I also want to state, there was a question earlier from my colleague, Mr. Hickes.

>>Laughter

I am sorry, but I want to return to his question earlier where I want to turn to, and it is regarding contracts awarded in the past. I too regret the fact that communities are unable to apply for funding from this fund for Nunavut. What I heard was the \$5,000 limit available through your department and I am talking about this here.

I am referring to southern-based companies

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and the bodies that can apply from our communities, so I ask if they are numerous and if there are multiple applications, that is unfortunate but if there are a small number of applicants, then in my view established companies would take advantage of that, as per your response earlier.

This is what I want to ask if you are aware of southern based companies that may hold a contract, and how are they offered support to provide services in Inuktitut especially when dealing with patients who have a different language. Are you aware of whether they can apply for funding support? Is there anything in that field? I want to ask that firstly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minster Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. Thank you for your support. This morning I was sworn in and now I go straight into a hearing. I will ask my deputy to answer my question, and she is better able to fill you in on the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad this question has come up again. For those that get contracts, under the contract there has to be provisions for service in Inuktitut if they are serving Inuit.

The funding that is available for services in Inuktitut, they would agree on an amount, and it would be included in the contract. Following our Act, for the Department of Culture and Heritage, we also have requirements for funding to remain in Nunavut for Nunavut organizations and smaller businesses in Nunavut. It's a minor

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financial provision to support. It was raised also that they now are required to follow legislation, so this funding was introduced.

When we talk about the contract, these provisions are set. As a government, we have requirements in the contracts for services that we seek an agreement for the need to provide Inuktitut for local businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked my question for southern based companies, and whether you are aware of that, as we depend on these services and this is of integral importance as they provide these services to our constituents, children and was also part of our work. I wanted to see if this was something you have heard about, much like what is offered up here in Nunavut, where they can request funding support. I wonder if any companies are providing services in Inuktitut or if this policy is included in their contracts following the *Official Languages Act*. Hopefully I am clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, it has to be within the contract. I am not aware if those outside of Nunavut can receive this kind of financial support. There is none. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Yes, it appears that we won't be able to make adjustments obviously, that Inuit language service provision in the south...actually, we were

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Mr. Chairman, I wish to turn to another matter again. My colleague (interpretation ends) Ms. Brewster, MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa (interpretation) asked a question which I want to return to, as your response to her question about what type of support is provided to board members when the government is having a difficult time retaining them.

You are providing support to bodies that require further support, so your response was to provide assistance especially the IUT body in particular. The Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit body is what I am referring, sorry. You stated that your department covets the body, and want them to operate smoothly, and to retain their independence as I understood it.

We realize that it is an independent organization and that they have recently sought support from the department. The organization needs to be supported in a timely manner as this is an important organization. I wonder if you can let us know when this situation will be rectified and that you will be working with them in the future. I want to hear from you when are you going to be dealing with this and to support them after a review on moving forward? Do you have any dates available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

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Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. In regard to Culture and Heritage and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, I would like to refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our desire is to keep this body and its mandate is critically important, and our department has not provided any training, as they conducted their own training as part of the board membership roles, and I am aware of this fact.

At this time, through a formal paperwork process, the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources are assisted by our department, and if we were not offering this support, it would be much more confusing as to who would conduct that. We continue to provide this support and will continue that, and this is why we seconded an employee from our department. This is to allow them some flexibility while they deal with the issues as a board.

Further, we have not set a date, since they operate independently with the legislation as their mandate, and we have received a query to check the legislation allowing the IUT to remain independent as they are today. This is written in the legislation. After five years, we will develop a progress report on the body, so we have started preparing that. We will continue to provide assistance and support, irrespective of their independence or amalgamation to the government. We will continue to provide their operational funding, as this is what we provide. This will require more negotiations as to the status of this agency.

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I can only state that it may be easier to assign the paperwork and their employees into the field of government operations, as the board would still be required. We have to consider our options and negotiate that with our fellow residents along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations on a better model or process.

How can we move forward better, and we are acknowledging their difficulties in operating, as we are now aware of that, and I believe that all government departments are experiencing vacancies and capacity issues, so perhaps if we had a closer cooperative effort and departments worked closer together, perhaps the work that is required can be dealt with more successfully? This is especially related to their mandate of developing terminology in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. Your department probably knows that there is room for improvement. With that, the Inuit Language Authority has to have a vision of the Inuktitut language that is equal to the other official languages, and I look forward to seeing an improvement under the authority. Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on to my question.

(interpretation ends) Section 13(3) of the Official Languages Act requires that the Minister of Language develop and maintain a comprehensive plan for the implementation of language obligations, policies, programs, and services of government departments and agencies. The Minister's most recent implementation plan Uqausivut 2.0 expires this year in 2023. The question is: when will the next revision of the government's language implementation plan be introduced?

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(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and I will refer this to my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. First of all, our language is very unique, and we have to provide services in Inuktitut and where we can make improvements. It is all written in a document and *Uqausivut* 2.0 expires in 2023. We will be using that implementation plan because we lost two years due to COVID.

We are currently looking at the implementation plan. We have identified which we have completed and once that is done, we will have to do another review on where we can provide further support.

I can talk about it for a long time, about what has been done but I think it is going to take too long. Since we lost two years to COVID, we are a little bit behind, but we do want to introduce, and make an introduction of a new one next year but will have to do a thorough review first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that response. Since we are about two years behind due to COVID, I'm not surprised that there is a delay. What has been done to date? There are two, I believe, that the department could explain what has been done and what has not

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been done to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this to my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): I don't know where to begin. One of our goals is to provide training. I will give you an overview of what has been done to date. The Department of Education provides money to daycares for preschool education. We provide funding for those daycares to provide those services.

We try to work with all government departments. This was a task that was undertaken by the Department of Education with our help. We have been provided \$66 million through an agreement with the federal government. We also provide funding to the communities and \$1.2 million is provided to the district education authorities.

Again, through the Department of Education we are looking at preschoolers and the parents to provide Inuktitut education. I believe they are called *Ilitaqsiniq*. They also have an agreement where they provide training for ages 0 to 6. We're looking at how we can provide further support to the daycares.

In 2021-22, we set up a language desk in Naujaat. There are quite a lot of tasks that we completed. Should I go ahead an outline some of the tasks that were completed, Mr. Chairman?

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

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Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the listeners out there, and the employees at the community level. I'm sure that this information is valuable at the community level. I don't mind just leaving it at that.

Moving on to another subject. (interpretation ends) Currently, there are no regulations to guide the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* or the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. When does the government anticipate bringing the relevant regulations forward and which areas will be a priority? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I am looking at bringing the relevant regulations before our term is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, there was only one coordinator that handled multiple responsibilities, and the (interpretation ends) Language Acts Implementation section (interpretation) is now established, although the positions are still vacant, but we are contemplating filling them over time.

Also, we do not have a director of official languages at this time, although the position is now being advertised, and if you know anyone who is qualified and expresses an interest, please inform them about this position, and we would warmly welcome a qualified individual who may want employment at our offices.

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Now, I believe it was in December where we feel we will be hiring the director or coordinator, as the manager and (interpretation ends) Language Acts Implementation section (interpretation) would work closely together on how and where the legislation can be changed or amended, so that review will commence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Just for clarity, and for better understanding as the deputy minister just reported that the office still has no employees hired, so I would ask the minister this: with two years left in our term, will this target date suffice to complete the legislation? Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy to provide a response if this target date is sufficient to complete all of the work as it is written. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't really understand the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. To clarify that question, the position identified to draft up these regulations is still vacant, and the minister stated that this work on the regulations could be completed prior to the end of our term, so I wondered if this target date provides enough time to complete the work? Will this work be completed within the two years? Ms. Hughes.

Thank you. Ms. Kullualik can you respond?

Ms. Arreak-Kullualik (interpretation): We became a little confused for a minute when the question about regulations and then you

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explained it, and then we became confused as to what the question actually was.

In regard to the question, Mr. Chairman, right now the committee is reviewing the language legislation and what you just mentioned, yes the time is enough. We have enough time. The recommendations, if we try to make the recommendations, they can only be implemented by the next government. I hope that answers your question.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, thank you. I apologize for the confusion about regulations which is why I asked about it. Ms. Killiktee. Yes, thank you. According to my list, Mr. Anavilok is next.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First I want to bring up the amount languages that some of the communities are losing. I know Kugluktuk is 87 percent English now and there are other communities around that figure, anywhere from 30, 40, 50 percent to 80-something percent. I know it's good to help in revitalizing the languages in our regions, in communities.

When I looked at these reports, especially on legislation and annual reports. That's all there is for Inuinnaqtun and it is pretty much all out of date. My question is: will there be any improvement like Inuinnaqtun or any other dialects in the regions where the communities are losing their languages? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, I'm sure the Department of Culture and Heritage is working hard to work on the different dialects of the Baffin and

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Kitikmeot Inuit regional organizations, we have met with the Kitikmeot Inuit Heritage people to see what else we can do to promote Inuinnaqtun. We have provided financial assistance to the Kitikmeot regional Inuit organizations because they know their communities better than we do. They know the Inuinnaqtun speakers better than we do. We have tried to work with them to see how else we can promote Inuinnaqtun.

In our plans, we have stated that we will be reviewing to see how our staff in the Kugluktuk language section can support communities in seeing if the communities can revitalize their language. Also, to see how they can work together among the communities because they are our experts. Inuit from Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk are the experts in the Inuinnaqtun language. We rely on them and we will always support them and find ways to support them with our funding, and also provide more funding to them. Through working together, we'll see if we can do more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess revitalization could go through... it's pretty far behind now. I guess one good way to start is the young people, the children. From some of the things I heard that some of the people that speak Inuinnaqtun and English

HΔ**▷¹**: 'dϧ°ႭΓ°, Δካ⁄ ᠙▷Ċʹ·. 'የቦ\'Γ▷ና ΔΔΔና bϽ;λʹϧϽቨʹʹʹ·Γʹʹσͼ ϧϹͿͺʹϧϹͼͼʹͰͿϲͺ 'የቦ\'Γ▷ና ΔΔΔና Δϲʹͼ·ϭϯϲϲͺλͼʹϭͼ ϧϹͿͼϧϹͼͼʹͰͿϲ, ʹϧϼͼʹϽͼϧϲͼʹͼʹͺ ΔΔΔ°αʹͼϧϽϲ ͺʹͼͼϸϳͼϧͼͼʹͼϭͼʹϧϲͼ, ʹͱρηʹ·ΓϷϲ ΔΔΔϲ ϧϽ;λʹϧρͶϳʹʹϧϲͼ ϸαϷϧͼϲ ΔϧϲʹϧϲϲͼͼʹϯͿϲϧͼϲ, ʹϧϼͼͼ ϫϲϲʹʹϲͼͼ ʹϧϷϒͰϲͼͼϒͰϧϘϲ ϷͼϲʹϹͼͼ ʹϧϷϒͰϲͼͼϒϷϲʹ϶ϽͼͼͺϽͼͼ ʹϧϷϒͰϲͼͼϒϷϲʹ϶ϹͼͼͺϒͰϧϘϲ, αϷͼϲ ʹϧϧϥϧͺ

Δ•/ペኦር•: L'a. Γ\ጋ ላαልጋ•.

fluently, they try to apply for an Inuinnaqtun teaching job. They ran into that issue where the.... I don't know if I could bring this up, but it's the wages that they stay away from. They stop trying to apply for the teachership. If you work with the Department of Education on that part, that would be my next question. That's one thing I found out is that the lack of interest is coming from the old wages that they have had there for 10 to 15 years. There is no interest from people that know the language that can become teachers.

My question is: would your department work with Education to influence the promotion of language revitalization? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kaernerk:

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. It's unfortunate that it is true what the Department of Culture and Heritage have done. My Deputy Minister can explain that, Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I should say that the Department of Education has done a great deal of work on behalf of the Inuinnaqtun dialect. There are, I believe, 800 new reading materials that have been created for the children and young children have more reading material available to them now. A lot of good work has been done on that.

As to your question to the complaints about the wages being too small, the education department has their own union that they have to work with, so the people have to talk to the union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Λ
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HΔρ': 'dϧ·αϳ· Δι/«ρς. Δϲ·σϤʹ϶ϽϲͺλͰϭ· /ϧ·ϲ·ͰʹζΓʹͰϧΔ ϷʹϧϽ Λϲͺλιτισι Α΄ ΔΔΔ°αʹ϶Ͻ· ϷʹϧϷλʹͱʹ Γιλος, ϷʹϧϲͺͰυΔ· ϷΔͼϞʹ ʹϧʹϧ·ͼʹͱͰͺͺϲ·ͼ·ϽϭͱϸϤʹͼ·ͰϧϤϨ 800 Δϲʹ ϷʹϧϲͺͰυ· ΔϹʹͼϧΔ· ϞͼͱϹϷϒͰϲ Δϲ·ϭϤʹ϶ϽϲͺλͰϭ·ϭͼ. Ͱʹα ΔϹʹͼϧΔ· ΛϤϚΔ· ΔΔαʹαʹͼ·Ͻ· ϷʹϧϲͺͰυʹͰ ϤϽΔ°αϷϭͼϧϽϲ Ϲͼʹϧα Λϲͺ·ΩϤʹͼͰͿϤ

Ρረ⊲σ Ċ°௳ ϤΛჼჼĠႶ' Ρ΄௳Ρϧσჼ ΓΡϽϤΛϧΡʹϧ·Ϲʹ;σ∿υ Δϲ·°σϤʹͽϽϲʹΛϧϧϤͼ ϲʹϧʹΓσʹͼ [ϸϽϧϧʹϧΠΓͼϽʹͼΠʹͼͿͿʹͼͳʹϧͺϹ. ϹΔͼͿ ϤʹϸʹϧϹΓΙʹͿϹΡϧΛϤʹϧͼʹϧσ [ϸϽϧϧͺϷϹͿͼͼ]–ϥϧͺϹͿ· ʹͼͿϧͺͼϹͺͼͺϘϧϹͼͼ **Chairman** (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. The information about the books in Inuinnaqtun like dictionaries, the last time I went to the high school, they still hadn't received dictionaries. They have two copies, but they mentioned that they didn't receive any. I am not sure about the elementary school, but it would be good to have those in place. I guess they have to purchase them themselves, but I guess they would have to find funding.

I want to go to page 3 of opening comments, "Dissolve the unused official languages promotion fund." I wonder if you could elaborate on promotional funding, how much and why dissolve it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really understand what has been done with this yet, so I would like my deputy minister to respond.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was some really good thought on the matter when the regulations were being put together, that Inuit, if not being served using the Inuktitut language, or if you were discriminated against because you speak Inuktitut, you could request for an investigation and people may be fined for it. There may be many fines coming after, it's called the language promotion fund in the *Act*. Only once has money been given to them.

It was \$200 that they received from one

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Αλιγριστος Δερουστις συνλιστος

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person, and every year, they deduct \$20 from the bank. That money is slowly diminishing, and we're supposed to not make that disappear as a special purpose fund. That fund is in existence, but we'd like that to be turned over to the general revenue instead.

Our department already has language promotion fund, and the Department of Culture and Heritage already has that fund. We actively promote the fact that groups can request from it. The requests are reviewed regularly and they include people from the communities during that review. Those who are not approved can complain and ask why they didn't get approved. There is no money being put into that special purpose fund. We use it, and it seems like it's a two-way street. It's as though one part of it is running well and the other part is not running well at all. If they are ordered by the court to pay money into it, it would be put into the general revenue.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Just for clarification, sometimes our dialects are slightly different. (interpretation ends) Under any one of the two *Acts* there, what can you be fined for? Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, if I didn't receive service in Inuktitut after I requested service in Inuktitut, and if my supervisor disapproves and dismisses me for that, that action can be submitted to the courts. That is one avenue, and through the Commissioner's office, an investigation is begun if this is going through the court system, and if there is a payable fine, then that money would be provided. To date, we have never gone through that route, as no one has had a fine levied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is on page 4 of the submission, which addresses the lack of a formalized process of responding to recommendations included in the annual reports of Nunavut's Languages Commissioner, which are required under section 24 of the *Official Languages Act*.

From the Government of Nunavut's perspective, what factors should be taken into consideration when establishing a formalized process for responding to recommendations in the Languages Commissioner's annual reports? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We had some discussions on this, but if you could perhaps repeat? Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this was responded to but perhaps the deputy minister can further elaborate.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To ensure that we all share a common understanding, perhaps even specifically to the commissioner's recommendations and suggestions, which are included in our annual report or if improvements are made, then we can arrive at a common understanding of the status. I think we need to deal with that to make a better system.

As I stated earlier, we do not get copies of the complaints or report, as it is tabled to the Legislative Assembly. This includes investigations, and is forwarded to the executive level, and a copy sent to the body being investigated. We do not see copies of

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these items, and it makes you wonder how can we institute better improvements to this requirement?

Perhaps we can respond through the report submitted by the Minister of Languages or to get correspondence from the Legislative Assembly to the affected body or government agency. As an example, if it is the Department of Human Resources, a letter would be sent to that department or if it is towards the Department of Health, then the letter would be sent to the department and a copy provided to our department. If it could be setup in that manner, it would be easier. I hope that is clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Recognizing the clock, we will break for lunch and we will return at 1:30.

>>Committee recessed at 11:50 and resumed at 13:28

Chairman: Good afternoon. I'd like to welcome everybody back to our Committee meeting. Before we start again, I want to ask for clarification on the official language promotional funds and the fines that may be collected under the authority of the Act. Currently, for what kinds of violations of the legislation can the fines be imposed on individuals or businesses? Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Let us rephrase the question that was asked on the promotional funds. The fund was established as a GN response to the request of Ajauqtit to have penalty fines paid out to a special account following similar demands from other organizations.

Both the *Official Language Act* section 27 and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* section 33, provide protection to any person who applies

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It states "No person shall discharge, suspend, expel, intimidate, coerce, evict, impose a pecuniary or other penalties on or otherwise discriminate against a person because that person applies for an investigation, gives evidence or assists in an investigation or the reporting of a concern to the Languages Commissioner." (interpretation) This is how the legislation is drafted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To be clear, this is the only penalty in legislation? Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is what is written.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We understand. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm struggling a little bit with how I'm going to word what I am about to say. I question the wisdom of having a Minister appear before us who, by their own admission, had just been sworn into cabinet without having the very important ability and time to be briefed on the file. As such, with all due respect, a 100 percent respect to the public servants who are here, who the Minister has had to defer to, it's been an exercise in frustration because, ultimately, the Minister is responsible to speak to this file.

I'll ask, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister was able to receive a briefing over lunch hour, and whether or not, due to that briefing, whether or not if it did occur, whether or not the

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minister has anything supplemental to add to the responses that we received this morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we went through that selection process on Saturday. I was sworn in this morning and after this swearing-in ceremony, I only had time for a very quick briefing and immediately switched to these hearings just after I signed off on the portfolio.

Yes, I fully concur that I am brand spanking new and may not have the familiarity to answer, but I did discuss some of the larger issues. Nonetheless, I apologize but I have no enmity to being thrust into this as a new member of the executive and in being placed into this committee review over languages, so this was like stepping into the fire right from the frying pan.

Now, in saying that, I fully trust my deputy minister who has been in that position for several years in this department of Culture and I felt it was easier at this point to defer to my deputy concurrently on these files, indeed, perhaps, if I rephrase that, this is a big responsibility. Well, comparing that to other files, it isn't that large, but to immediately be thrusted into a committee hearing, without any ability to catch up with the issues, I am trying to respond as the responsible Minister and I stated during my campaign to become a minister, I am a quick study, but I wasn't expecting to be immediately placed in that situation.

Regardless of that, I stated that perhaps I could begin to respond properly if I had two weeks to absorb the issues, nevertheless, I only had two days to attempt my immersion

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for that response. I won't delve any further.

I will go back to a response that was given to a question that was posed this morning. Mr. Chairman, Deputy Minister Hughes, in response to a question, and I'm not quoting directly I'm just quoting from my notes, said that the department is using the implementation plan in *Uqausivut 2.0* and they had lost two years due to COVID-19.

I would just like to go back to that implementation plan just to get a better understand of what the setbacks were. Specifically, on page 26 number 4, implementation planning, it states "In addition to its core planning elements, the implementation plan will incorporate" four different areas and the first one is, "An oversight and accountability framework." I think that one's on page 20 of the document.

The update in that document states, "The department continues to review and update its funding guidelines, procedures, accountability reporting, and monitoring templates, and it prepares annual language-funding agreements with multiple departments and public agencies." I'm just wondering if we can hear a little bit more about that oversight and accountability framework and what are the components of that framework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the Minister before me has worked on this file, and I think my Deputy will be able to answer this. Thank you.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Uqausivut*, yes as you referenced speaks to the (interpretation ends) language of learning, the language of service, language revitalization (interpretation) is what comprises these four pillars of linguistics.

Now, the document I mentioned which is the (interpretation ends) language acts implementation section (interpretation) that was recently revised and this is the basis for providing further support through this category. Within the *Ugausivut* document (interpretation ends) the accountability (interpretation) section was declared as requiring further revision. Now, that work was completed, resulting in this (interpretation ends) Language Acts implementation section (interpretation) and again, it applies to the departmental agreements we are required to complete, and with respect to the funding applications of our communities, if it is specific to languages, then it too requires a separate agreement that must also be signed. This results in numerous agreements.

For example, the Department of Health or even our Department of Culture and Languages receive funding through that avenue, and all offices dealing with linguistic plans are funded through this section, and to ensure these obligations are met which is why we created that office.

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We have three agreements currently, with the French language agreement perhaps I may be mistaken, but I believe it is \$4.4 million for the French language service provision, and these funds are from the federal government, and our own specific funding amount under (interpretation ends) language implementation funds (interpretation) totals \$5.7 million.

The funds used have to be fiscally accounted for, and managed to ensure the services are provided as funded, and for the Inuktitut language services, our agreement with the federal government is 5.1 million that we use for our annual operations. There are multiple funds that if you total them all together, I believe it is about \$14 million.

These are monitored for adherence to the agreements, and to determine if the services are provided, so the reports that arrive to our offices help us determine if we are fulfilling our contracted service provision, and if these details are included in the annual report. We check to ensure if they are conducting the services by monitoring the implementation as we are the responsible party to integrate these various reports.

This is how we made these improvements by developing the (interpretation ends) language acts implementation section. (interpretation) Hope I am clear in my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to quote directly from page 27 in the oversight and accountability framework. I would like to hear what aspects of this work were set back due to COVID, and why they were set back.

It says specifically, the governance framework

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will include, and this is a long paragraph, detailed terms of reference for each oversight body and committee associated with the implementation at the departmental and territorial level, including membership level of authority, general purpose, structure, membership, accountability, deliverables, meeting schedule and format, administrative support and other resources required, reporting requirements, document sharing protocol and communication protocol, entities whose roles will be defined in terms of reference will include deputy ministers and any relevant intra-governmental committees, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Language Commissioner, departmental staff, and any Inuktut and French working groups established to support implementation.

The second bullet states clear and specific responsibilities and authorities for all aspects of plan implementation, monitoring, budgeting, evaluation and monitoring formalized and approved as required.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to have a clear understanding of what, if any, of these aspects of the work related to the oversight and accountability framework have been set back due to COVID, and what has been done to alleviate that setback since the end of the pandemic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I regret that I was not here. I will ask my deputy to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At that time, when this initiative

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was first started, we tried to ensure the proper planning was done and a committee was struck composed of the deputy ministers on how to best implement the obligations and if these are properly being adhered to. The committee was formed to that effect to deal with Inuit cultural, linguistic issues and at the time, it was struck.

When the government changed, the previous priorities of that government changed, and it became four separate areas under *Katujjiluta* mandate. Within this mandate of *Katujjiluta*, that area that pertains to our department revolves around the public sector, and how to incorporate plans for Inuit employment where we can provide the training and this is one of the items that we have stated to be completing.

However, with regard to that we have contemplated the various scenarios where improvements can be made to these annual reports, or to have them included in the reports, and amongst our departmental staff we have had discussions on how best to ensure our regional offices are providing the essential language services and how best to put them together. This is part of the work here that was delayed. We haven't been able to do the work required to put that back in place currently, but the (interpretation ends) language acts implementation section (interpretation) and this will continue to identify the obligations that are completed, and what other initiatives can be developed. This includes our desire to provide more support for the various departments.

As well, we collaborate and partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and this includes a committee that also includes representatives of the federal government when it comes to working on the Inuit language initiatives and educational issues. Back then, the members of the committee

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were also able to acquire funding totalling \$42 million, towards teachers and teacher education programs so they can teach in Inuktitut. These funds were allocated to Nunavut Arctic College and these were some of the initiatives we developed through that committee, and that agreement provides Arctic College the ability to offer language education by pooling the resources of both Inuktitut and French language programs, and this is under the (interpretation ends) Language Acts implementation section (interpretation) to ensure their proper implementation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be really easy to digress into the questions I have about the current mandate, but I am going to stay on implementation planning. The second bullet of the core planning elements of the implementation plan is "An evaluation framework and logic model." The reason I really want to get down to whether not this work is done is because this implementation planning is a very important way to measure the success of the programming.

The information that we have on that evaluation framework and logic model has four components that are listed in the *Uqausivut 2.0*: "Provide an evaluation logic model for the evaluation of *Uqausivut 2.0*; Describe the evaluation framework including potential methodologies; 3. Identify performance indicators that will be used for the evaluation; and 4. Incorporate an evaluation matrix consistent with the logic model, including evaluation questions, indicators and potential data sources."

It states that Culture and Heritage will play the lead role in developing the system for the Θαργσο Λκαααρνιλιτυς \$42 Γσσο.
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plan as a whole, assisting departments and agencies in developing their own monitoring mechanisms to provide input to the broader government-wide monitoring framework. I would just like some reassurance that that work is on track and the evaluation framework and logic model is being implemented, and it has been made available to the other departments that are implementing *Uqausivut 2.0*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Annually, we send out information and directives to all government departments on the obligations and legal requirements on these needed action items, and request information on how they will be implementing them in their workplaces. We raised these questions to all departments and regional offices, and generally this includes a section on how to receive assistance, and what are they doing on behalf of Inuit language to ensure that it becomes the language of the workplace. My Assistant Deputy Minister can add to this if she wants to.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Arreak-Kullualik.

Ms. Arreak-Kullualik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this was something we wanted clarified and just recently our deputy minister provided a directive to all government workplaces that if any further applications were contemplated, then these guidelines would need to be followed.

We also developed the regulations for the *Official Languages Act*, and which sections would be used or followed by these workplaces. It should make it easier to follow the guidelines, especially in the

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implementation of certain obligations and for our reporting requirements needed to explain which sections of the legislation are used, and how they are being implemented.

Just recently, we started this initiative, and I am not saying that it is deferred but that in reviewing this area, we found it necessary to include this and this is why it was added. Hopefully this makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so you know, when I first started in these hearings, I had to have a note to myself to say Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just not a hundred percent clear that that evaluation framework and logic model has been created specifically to monitor *Uqausivut 2.0*, and if I could get a clear answer about a yes or no, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is part of our preparations as there are four areas under this plan that we are trying to implement here. This is how we generally find out what is being done by our schools, language services and in revitalizing our language. We use them to determine if the reports submitted to our department can be compiled together, and as we merge them, we find out which sections have been used, which sections are completed, ongoing work and work that requires continuation. That is how we are looking at them, and, if I can say this, I'm talking about (interpretation ends) achievements (interpretation) that we are putting together much like what the little picture denotes for these four areas. Thank

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 you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding that the logic model and framework is in use, you know, the utility of that is to be able to sample and track the data that comes from that, and to coordinate the consolidation and analysis of planned results and outputs.

It also includes assisting appropriate stakeholders in identifying remedial measures when required and report as required on consolidated results, and I think, in plain language, that that tells us that logic model and framework is there in order to help to identify areas of concern where certain departments might be having difficulty in reaching the goals of the plan.

I wonder if we could hear, Mr. Chair, a little bit about what some of the barriers are to success in implementation, based on the results of departments and people identifying that those concerns and how Culture and Heritage has helped to address those concerns based on what's being reported to them about the ability to implement this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't really finished reviewing *Uqausivut 2.0*. It is continuing work and we will still hear from other departments as to what needs to be improved and what needs to be added. After we have good discussions with them, they will explain these to us when *Uqausivut* is being reviewed. At that time, we will be able to say what our barriers were and the things that need more

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work done and other things that need to be considered further. After the review, all this will be decided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm proud of the Minister, who just got sworn in and now he's in the hotseat already, so I'm thankful for that and I'm happy to see the two officials, the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister.

On the first page of the.... I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) The submission indicates that the Minister of Languages is proposing a number of recommendations to Nunavut's language legislation without having heard formal views from language stakeholders. Does your office often receive informal submissions or opinions from language stakeholders or other organizations regarding Nunavut's language legislation and, if so, how are those issues addressed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. That's a very important matter and I don't want to make an error as I'm very new here. I would like my Deputy Minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, perhaps, when we were compiling things, we could only compile things that are from the government and we were asked what changes we would like to see or what improvements we would like to see or

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We asked if we could see some of the other submissions and we did. We were able to communicate with them by writing letters and not face to face. There was one face-to-face meeting with the Inuit Language Authority representatives and the Languages Commissioner, and they explained what they are going to explain. Quite recently, we finally saw their letter to Nunavut Tunngavik, but we weren't able to come up with a final agreement and we didn't really work together on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand why you didn't try to get some information from the communities, because they're the ones who are going to be following the rules. Why is that you only have meetings with government officials, and don't have public hearings?

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is within the mandates of you, the MLAs if I am not mistaken, and the Standing Committee wanted to deal with this and the committee is reviewing it now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you don't want to hear from the general public; you only want to hear from the Standing Committees and not have dialogue with the general public. Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did want to have public hearings, and we wanted to set up a special committee, and the request was submitted by the Minister, but that was not the route taken, and the request to create a special committee was not used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to another subject, (interpretation ends) as noted in the submission, elders had stressed their struggles in accessing government and business services in Inuktut. (interpretation) Especially the medical patients. We are in Nunavut and Inuktitut has to be spoken to the public.

(interpretation ends) The *Inuit Language Protection Act* aimed to address those concerns by requiring public and private sector organizations in Nunavut to provide services and signage in Inuktut. Can you describe some of the initiatives and resources provided by the Government of Nunavut to help public and private sector organizations meet these requirements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have to represent

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I would like my deputy to supplement my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly agree with you that we have to provide services in Inuktitut for elders. We all should be provided services in Inuktitut. We have to be welcomed in our language if we are going to have a working relationship with between the government and the public.

In regard to small businesses, as we indicated earlier, we have documents available and should a small, private organization or sector require funds to make signage in Inuktitut, there are funds available. Hamlets are also eligible. For example, Hall Beach became Sanirajak and the hamlet required funding to change their signage. We provide money for those sorts of things. Again, we also provide funds to the local radio stations so that they can have Inuktitut programs, and for anything else. As long as it's for the preservation and enhancement of the Inuktitut language. Whenever there is a request made at the community level, we will review it.

Again, the Department of Health also provides funds for interpreter workshops on an annual basis to make improvements on the services that they provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the private sector, I'll

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use the hotels as an example. They have no interpreters. If you enter the hotel, you have to check in. I have, on occasion, checked in to hotels and there is an elder there who is trying to get a room and he has absolutely no help from the staff. Do you also provide financial aid to hotel and other organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The Languages Commissioner in Nunavut can also provide help for you. You used the hotel as an example, and you can make a complaint or request to the Nunavut Languages Commissioner. Their office is here in Iqaluit. You can go through her office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the federal government and the Government of Nunavut. Who provides services? What kind of further support are you looking at when it comes to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some parts, the federal government doesn't provide services in Inuktitut. The Department of Culture and Heritage are working together with the federal government so that there will be more recognition of our language. The Department of Culture and Heritage is working on standardizing the language at all levels, all official languages. This is an ongoing, living

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document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. The federal government, or the Government of Nunavut, are they aware when that project will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank you for the question. With *Uqausivut 2.0*, the federal government does have to apply our laws in their organization. The federal government has to recognize our language. We have these two laws that are applied and they should have recognition for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Why doesn't the federal government recognize our language laws? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Maybe my deputy can elaborate further on why that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated that we

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 Δ ⁶**/ የ C**⁶**:** L'a. Γ σ⁵ Γ ⁵ Δ ⁶ σ ⁶.

 Δ ⁶ \prime
 ΗΔΡ': 'd৮°ሲΓ', Δ'ነ/«ÞĊ'i. Γσ'ጋ» ኦ'bናĊ'L', already have language laws in Nunavut to provide services. Under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, we have to provide services in Inuktitut. The federal government is already a part of this. The reason why we would like this considered is to enhance, and for the federal government to understand, that in Nunavut, they should be applying our language laws within their departments.

Yes, the people of Nunavut are approximately 85 percent Inuit. We have many Inuit who speak Inuktut. If we look at all of Canada, the majority of the Indigenous population is in the north. We would like to make a submission and ask them how they can further recognize our language laws. What can the federal government so that there will be recognition of our language, that's what we've been saying to them for quite a while now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Again, I would like to move on. (interpretation ends) Recommendation 1 of the submission suggests that a section be added to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to clarify federal obligations under the Act.

Can you clarify whether you anticipate that the federal *Indigenous Languages Act* would be taken into consideration under this amendment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my Deputy to respond. Thank you.

Δ•/ペኦር•: L'α. Γ[、]ጋ L⊂Ρ.

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, under the *Indigenous Languages Act*, it may be there, but the regulations and so forth have not been as yet completed. We want the federal government to respond on how they will recognize Inuktut in Nunavut, under the *Official Languages Act* or under the *Indigenous Languages Act*. It might go through that with the unique situation in Nunavut. This is something that will have to be resolved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not really clear. It might be recognized there and has to be resolved? What exactly do you mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is based on federal legislation, and as per our previous statement, they are also obligated to inform us and we are trying to query them through this legislation, as it would not apply to the federal government unless if they implement it themselves.

Our question is that: how will you implement it and how will you recognize the Inuit language within Nunavut? The federal government would have to draft up language legislation in the House of Parliament. Their position is generally influx and hard to decipher, as they do not fully believe that it is not legally applicable to them. However, they understood that Inuit comprise

the majority of the population here in Nunavut

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 Δ ⁶ \prime
 and they require services in Inuktitut and we see their Inuktitut language services sometimes, and I said earlier, Ottawa is the only place that provides passports, and I was served in Inuktitut during that process.

They also have Inuit staff in Iqaluit. You can see their attempts to provide services in Inuktitut, but our preference is that they introduce legislation, to really believe the need for that legally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying this as it is now understandable. Now, this fourth recommendation speaks to the three pieces of legislation revolving around the Inuit languages and the policies. It states that changes have to be made with revisions. Can you outline this area by highlighting the needed revisions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy can respond to that. I'll ask her to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be a little clearer. Which one are you referring to? Employees or the board of directors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki, can you be a little bit clearer? Mr. Malliki.

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HΔÞ¹: ˤd⊁°Ⴍ广⁶, Δዮፖ<▷Ćڻŀ. Ͻዮፖርባ⊲ቴዮ°σንĽጚ∿Ⴑ ႭႠ⊲∿σቴ ለ⁵ጚበኄቴናĽ∿Ⴑጭለና, ΔႪҌႭ丛৮Ⴊበ ▷ኖ≪ኌኄጜና ቴበĽት? ʿd⊁°ႭЃჼ, Δዮፖ<▷Ćቴ.

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Recommendation number 4 of the submission suggests three amendments to the Inuit
Language Protection Act to clarify and improve its staffing structure. Can you elaborate further on what these amendments would achieve? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the items in number 4 are around, for example, the chairperson, who is treated like an employee, and they have to sign off the paperwork that should be handled by an administrative officer as they are mainly (interpretation ends) administrative duties (interpretation) have to go through the chair. This is something we want to defer more to the responsibility of the executive director, as that is our preference so that no more confusion exists. (interpretation ends) The executive director would change to a CEO (interpretation) and currently the hiring process they use means they can hire anyone as an employee.

However, under the *Official Languages Act*, they have to use the government hiring process, although under this other section, it states they can hire any person they wish to hire, so this is where we want to make it more compatible with the OLA section. I think it is here. Yes, section 21(3) language should be more consistent with respect to their hiring of employees, and they use the government hiring process, and currently, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is dealing with Article 23 – Inuit Employment Within Government also identifies that obligation so we want to clearly reference that in this section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. With my names, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, all. Welcome, Minister Kaernerk, and to your staff. Before I begin, I just want to say a quick introduction. One of my constituents is here, Mary Owingayak. She's here with the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities. They're here for meetings, I just want to say a quick welcome.

I think I only have a couple of quick questions for more of a clarification, Mr. Chairman. Minister Kaernerk, there were discussions earlier regarding section 10 of the federal *Indigenous Languages Act* that provides a federal institution, may provide access to services in an Indigenous language, if the institution has the capacity to do so, and there is significant demand. That's where I'm looking for a bit of clarification.

We all have elders that prefer to speak Inuktut or Inuinnaqtun, we even have some constituents that are not elders yet and have a very strong Inuktut language vocabulary and a weak English vocabulary, so they prefer to speak Inuktut. I am wondering what exactly is a significant demand? Has that been rated? Is it two constituents walking in every month for three months straight? Is that a significant demand or is it ten people? Has that been clarified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't there in the discussions. I'll ask my deputy to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think Nunavut has significant demand, but (interpretation) when the bill and Act were presented; the regulations were not put in there yet. The significant demand or the meaning of it has not been defined yet. It was in 2019 when the bill was enacted, so we haven't defined that yet in the regulations, as I understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. Do you have a timeline of when that will be known? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I can say at this moment is that the work is in progress. The Inuit Nunangat Policy was put together by the federal government along with Inuit organizations and an agreement was achieved. We were not involved but we also meet as groups in Nunavut with NTI, our department, and the federal government. This is often raised as a question, but when it will be completed, I cannot respond at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you, Deputy Minister. Moving on to my next question; earlier we were discussing loss of language. We all know it is diminishing right across Nunavut, so I, myself, have a bit of trouble, here and there, speaking it. There have been talks about standardizing the Inuktitut language, which is a great initiative

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to try and preserve it, but I also think we should be careful so that we don't accidentally help further diminish dialects.

In Baker Lake, when I was growing up, I was told there was 11 different groups of Inuit with 7 different dialects, and growing up, when I was at certain elders' places, I would speak Inuktut, and the elder wouldn't understand me, so their son or daughter would have to translate for me.

I'm wondering: what other initiatives or incentives is the department looking at doing to ensure we save some of these dialects? I know you mentioned, people can apply for funding, which is nice, which is easy. Here, go apply for this money, and hopefully you'll get approved, or we'll let you know if you get approved or not. I'm wondering, is the department looking at doing other initiatives to try to keep dialects strong as well and reviving them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your follow-up question. Yes, personally I am a resident of the Amittuq and yes, if I use the Kivalliq term *ma'na* which is thanking them and that dialectal differences are noticeable.

With these dialectal differences, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit or language authority would have to review this further in my view, especially words that are different amongst dialects such as those in the Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions, especially in providing services that our government offers.

All program language can be improved and with our language being critically important and with the need to have all Inuit understand the language, including our elders, unilingual ᡪᡔ᠈ᢣᡆ᠘ᡏᠳᠮᠮᡃ, ᠙ᡟᠳᡠ ᠔᠈ᢣᡥ᠘ᡊ᠘ᡕᠪᡥᡠᡃᢛᢅ᠋᠑ᠾ᠂ᡣᡷᡥᡆᢗ᠌᠌ᠵᡥᡳᠫᠮ ᠘ᢣᠮᡆᡕ᠘᠂ᠮᢐᡒᡲᢐ᠒ᡤ᠘ᡱᢙᢉᠵᠼᡗᠮ

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Inuit as elders should be clear in their understanding. This includes Inuit who are unilingual or the other way around, where they understand English but not Inuktitut. I believe that improvements can be made and the Department of Culture is working collaboratively under section 10, on the *Inuktitut Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to the next person on my list, if I can just remind everyone in attendance here about their cellphone, we are hearing someone getting texts or emails or something to that nature, so (interpretation) Next name on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some questions I wrote down were already raised by my colleagues specifically towards employment and human resources on recommendation 4, and although this was already discussed, actually the first one I understood, Mr. Chairman, the title of chairperson, is that request to change that term? Here I mean the (interpretation ends) executive director or chief executive director (interpretation) terms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking about that requirement. Yes, under the Act, it states that the title was originally to be chairperson but once the agency is absorbed into the department, at that time, the title would be changed to that title (interpretation ends) chief executive officer. (interpretation) Within the Act, it can be changed and it is possible that IUT would still have their own independence under

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subsection 22(1). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Secondly, (interpretation ends) subsection 22(1), Inuit Language Protection Act, (interpretation) be amended to add a requirement to use a competitive hiring process. Section 20.1 of the *Official Languages Act*. Are you looking at something like the language commissioner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We feel it should be the same under the act that we would see it being the same. That is the change we are proposing, 20.1 under the act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) On July 23, you hired an acting executive director. (interpretation) Has the person been replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy to update us on this. Thank you.

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

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Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, they requested assistance from Taiguusiliuqtiit, so we provided support, and a position was posted and seeking candidates, but they had no applicants, so, in terms of support for Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, we provided an employee for a short-term as they search for an employee, and also to be able to educate the person that is selected, and to support in the operations of Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware Inuit have applied for positions and are not selected. What are the obstacles for the positions in your department, are they under educated, or do they not know enough Inuktitut? We know there's staff housing shortage. I am aware that many Inuit have applied for positions and are not selected. What do you feel are the obstacles in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of history, my deputy can answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not enough applicants at times, and the lack of managerial experience, those are the main obstacles right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hughes, thank you. In terms of positions being opened in our office, and I also want people to apply, that there's staff housing. In terms of board members for Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit board of directors, are they short of directors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in terms of the committee there, the board is full right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. In terms of staff, are they trained at Piqqusilirivvik, plus here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have none that we are aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up with my colleague from Aivilik, and I'll just rephrase. On the first page of the submissions, it indicates that the Minister of Languages is proposing a number of recommendations to Nunavut's language legislation without having heard informal views from language stakeholders.

To the Deputy Minister's response, to my

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understanding, it was only the GN, and the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, and the commissioner, and correspondence to the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. To my understanding, there were no consultations in the Nunavut communities, only through the MLAs to the Standing Committee. The general public always, when the legislation is passed, the general public always identify what are the barriers and the gaps.

My question is: does the department consult with the general public in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my first question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before I go to the minister, just to clarify that the decision was made by full caucus to have these televised hearing, and not to form a special committee to look at the legislation. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, exactly like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was actually speaking to this matter that was disconcerting to my constituents was the clipping or editing of the films, which is what I was trying to ask about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. Minister Kaernerk, I didn't hear a question. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps he can rephrase his question, which I would appreciate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will use for example, the (interpretation ends) Netsilik series (interpretation) that we watch on television. At times, they are voiced over in another dialect, which is what is causing issues because we wish to continue honouring our dialect, and do not want to see the series changed in terms of the language. I am speaking about the (interpretation ends) the Tuktu series, the Netsilik series. (interpretation) This was something I was told to mention. I wonder how we can regulate film editing if a community disagrees with their work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently reviewing the act. What you are referring to, Mr. Quqqiaq, is not part of this. If the minister wants to comment. Mr. Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms, my deputy mentioned earlier, under the Act, regarding the language that we should not put things that are not good to others, that there is an avenue to work through the Languages Commissioner on settling issues relate to language delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the response. Perhaps people are watching in my constituency of Netsilik, and... (interpretation ends) section 9 and 10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* address early childhood education and adult learning respectively, and are not yet enforced. The Culture and Heritage issued a notice in the *Nunavut Gazette* that these sections would not be

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repealed in accordance with the *Legislation Act*, despite not being brought into force within 10 years of the legislation being enacted or amended. When will these sections be brought into force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. In terms, we learn our language when we are born, and that we use it as our base. In terms of your question, currently, in the Sixth Assembly, we will try to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) On page 11 of the submissions, it notes that despite the language legislation being straightforward, there is room for improvement in the area of compliance by government departments and agencies. Can you elaborate on what specific areas need further focus to improve compliance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not there in the planning. If I can ask my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is always room for improvement. We want to provide the best

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Δ⁶/«C⁶: L'α. Γ¹C ⁶diρ ()⁶.

 Δ ⁶ታ**ኖ▷**C⁶**b**: L'a. Γ σ⁵C 5 b Δ {σ⁶b.

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Pbh⁶C⁶a2bb. ⁵db⁶a C̄⁶b, Δ⁶b⁶b.

 Δ ⁶ \prime
 service in areas where we want to seek improvement. Currently, if we have issues related to non-compliance, it might be due to lack of staff, and we have the requirements set before us, and to also have some faith that the language providers and the committee that we always seek improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, deputy minister, for your response. In your view, what types of initiatives could best increase awareness of the requirements of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many things that have been done since then, since this Act was first being introduced. There have been many reports and meetings done about it, and the education department is a very important part of this and in promoting the language.

There are numerous books that have been produced, and the Inuit languages authority has produced quite a lot of material directing how the Inuktitut language system can be utilized, and they have compiled traditional terms in the communities. The education department is our foundation with that, but

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they have put together a lot of material for early childhood education, and a lot of the material has been sent out to daycares.

We have held meetings with the Inuit Language Authority and the language commissioner to see how we can promote the language better and how we can better serve the people out there with the language legislation. I know we can inform the people better, and the language commissioner does do some promoting, and we can do a better job of letting people know or be aware. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The submission notes on page 12 that the Department of Culture and Heritage restructured its Official Languages Division in 2020. Can you provide further detail on the objectives of this restructuring initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not there, so I would like my deputy minister to properly respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I talked about this already earlier. I said it was one. We had made it into two coordinators. There used to be just one, and we created two positions for the language authority, what is it called? We wanted to make sure they had a coordinator for the translators and for work on recognized languages. There was only one coordinator for

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 this whole thing before, now we have two, and the other one, language acts implementation section coordinator is included in the five positions that are going to be working.

We created that because there was quite a bit of funding that we have to use that is for the communities, and we also took over what Human Resources used to have responsibility for so that government employees can learn the Inuktitut language, so, we took over that responsibility and made it new. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister's most recent annual report for 2020-21 was tabled on February 28, 2023. When will the next annual report be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was responded to already, but if the minister would like to remind everyone what the answer was. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will remind them. At the fall session, probably, we will try and bring that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, it has been responded to already. My next question is to the Inuit Language Authority. They have a board from all across Nunavut. Do they have a board members from Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

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Δ⁶/«C⁶: L'α. Γ¹C ⁶diρ ()⁶.

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CaiyーP*in' bnla'b'*odeap'lc
aaso'Cir, bnla'b'*<' Co'dd a'*i'>)
di't'c'e'i*o'*) C'a Pp'c'*
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Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my deputy minister knows more about this than I do right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a board member from Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to my list, Mr. Simailak is next.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm digging for some more information again here. Going based off of the minister's opening comments on page 6. It states Nunavut's language legislation is also young. Language laws in other parts of Canada are over 40 years old, and are only now beginning to mature. Our *Official Languages Act* has only been in force since 2014, and on the next paragraph, it says; Mr. Chairman, we are travelling together on the right path as a territory.

Our predecessors, Inuit partners, and other stakeholders did a great job, great work. Our work today remains grounded in the extensive community and stakeholder consultation that underpins it. I'd hate to see this work slowed down, and I'm wondering, is the department also having capacity issues to fulfill this portion, or are you guys alright with capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the questions. Due to capacity issues, the department is still

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looking for the position. We are still seeking director of official languages. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the department is still having issues with finding a director for this, is the department not looking at what has been working in other parts for a while now, including Government of Nunavut is remote work. Does it have to be in the same community, or are you looking at moving it somewhere else now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. It is still under review, but it open to anybody. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I lost it there in the translation, the answer; if he can repeat it, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk, the member didn't hear the response. Can you say it again? Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase it. Yes, the director of official languages is open for any person, and yes, it's still open for anyone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about my other question about changing it to a different community under remote work, so that they can't find the director, where is their advertising? What about you get in under different community, Baker Lake, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. Up to now, that has not been considered yet, but there are some plans done to produce it, but nothing definite yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to my list, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the federal government, can you request further clarification on that matter one of our colleagues asked about earlier? Based on your waiting period, how will this affect the responses to the questions? This is particularly relevant and I just wanted to ask about it to ensure my own understanding. Has the department met with federal ministers in the south, or up here? I mean, negotiations as you are in the top echelon of our government management circles, and of the corresponding federal senior level executives for issues under your ministerial portfolio and I wonder if any meetings have been held on this subject? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for her follow-up question. The previous Minister who held this portfolio last held a

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meeting with the federal counterparts in April of this year, 2023. She travelled south to meet with the federal Minister responsible for languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is indeed very important, especially for the *Indigenous Languages Act*, and the fact that the languages require official recognition, which I feel is needed to recognize the Inuktitut language federally.

Did you get any responses or can we anticipate any news? Any positive or uplifting events would provide support knowing that the language is respected and I wonder if any piece of good news was provided in this area. It would make the job of the department easier, as it would allow you to be happy for accomplishing that. Did you hear any news regarding that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerk.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. Now, the federal government has indicated that Nunavut is huge, and our languages need to be recognized better, so, our minister had good expectations, and it's been indicated that they will look to see how they can be accommodated, and there will be more efforts to recognize the language, and the minister will look to see how thing can be improved in Nunavut in terms of our unique language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not an actual question, but I

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'ቴዾል፫ንኦርኦኈለት, σኪኦፎኈጋኈር'ቴጐሩ', 'ቴይልሮጐጋΓ' ኃ° ቴና ልচተጐተልፚና' ፊ‹ለቦንኦናበላ'σላ'σጐሁሙ, ጋ\ʔΓፎኈጋሁር-ነՐ ኃ° ቴና ርLነራL 'Ქልላሪ‹‹‹፫ጎጋተ ርL°ፎ ለሮኪላሲተሁታ ለነተበቦ' ጋህ, ጋ\ርውጭየት? 'ቫታ°ፎቮ, ልነተኞኦርጐ.

 Δ ⁶**/የሶር**⁶**b**: L'a. Γ σ⁵D ⁵b Δ ⁶σ⁶.

Δ•/ペレር•: L'a. Γ\ የቦር•በ.

'ዮር'•Ո: 'd৮°௳广_{*}, Δ′ረペレር'[•]. ላለ[•]d∩⊳^ьb_ላ[•]በ'-J would like to comment more about this matter. I don't really have another question, but the indigenous languages in Nunavut, there are about 85 percent who use Inuktut, and because of that, we have certain expectations, and I want to have good expectations too, to have this succeed, the fact that our language has been recognized, and the act has been recognized. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that is all, as I have no more names on my list. Mr. Minister, if members agree, he can proceed with the closing remarks for this hearing.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate my colleagues who queried our department on these issues. Yes, I fully concur with my colleagues on the importance of languages, especially for us Inuit who place great importance on retention of our language, not just for us as members, but for the entirety of the government to provide services in Inuktitut.

It also highlights how we are providing support to allow for the provision of these services and improvements made to them, and further the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit* has a tremendously large responsibility in protecting our language, and in my view, we must ensure that this is used more frequently and to strengthen this requirement.

Additionally, the comments and questions we heard from members are very important, and especially in contemplating how to receive further support, not just financially, as most of this work requires funding, as well as bodies such as NTI and other regional bodies on working together collaboratively to strengthen Nunavut's indigenous languages following *Uqausivut 2.0*.

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Ċ'\'T°bc σ'cPN'bPLDΔ°a°d°b. 'db°a'e,

Δ'\'8ÞĊ' Λδ'b°DbΔ°a'C'Sδ°b.

Δ∿ικιόι ΚΔς ΊδΔῖσῖ: Ίσξα Γ΄ Δεγος: Ίσξα Γ΄ ΒΟΓΕΡΕ΄ ΔΑΘΕ΄ Ίσξα Γ΄ ΒΟΓΕΡΕ΄ ΔΑΘΕ΄ ΤΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΤΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΔΑΘΕ ΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΔΑΘΕ ΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΔΑΘΕ ΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕ ΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕΙΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕΙΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕΙΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕΙΕΝΕΘΕ΄ ΑΑΘΕΝΕΘΕΙΕΝΕ

'ቴውጐ Δቴተጐርኦቴት ተንግል የሌሎር, የፌኦትበሀጋፊ ቴሬኦ ጉናጋጐ, የፌኦትበሀ ርዜ ቴ ፊ ጉናና ተንቴ ቴርና ጋ ላጐበ ነጋሀ. ላዛ ርዜ የሰላ ውል ይና ጋ ት ህል የሰና, ላ/ ት ቦነጋ በተና 'ቴውጐ Δቴተና በ ላን ት ቴኒስር ውል ይና 'ቴውጐ ነ ት የኮ በ የቴ ተንግል የተነጋሀ. We are also looking at the entirety of the Inuit Nunangat Policy and it was reviewed to determine what requires revision, and our support programming on how they are offered publicly, or through contracted work especially considering the importance of our Inuit languages, and there isn't much language dedicated to these contracts. This is currently being reviewed.

Furthermore, I am grateful that as a new Minister I had this opportunity, albeit I just got assigned the portfolio, got sworn in and immediately got transferred to this public hearing, and I thank you all for your forbearance and patience and although my deputy ended up responding to the questions, I want to voice my immense pleasure here.

I thank the interpreters here at the Legislative Assembly, and the people who edit our work somewhere translating the languages, as they ensure Inuit can keep up with the latest events, government operations, the legislative proceedings which are very important here in Nunavut. I again thank the interpreters and the Members who queried us on these matters.

Also, even though I am just sitting in this seat, I am trying to remain calm; however, I may still make mistakes before I get comfortable, but as I stated previously it is sometimes only by making erroneous decisions that we are forced to learn to adapt. I appreciate each Member for their patience while we were presenting our report.

I also am very grateful to my officials who were present here with me, along with other employees behind us. They work really hard to try to implement this language service requirement throughout Nunavut, and to have it officially recognized in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Ċºdd_>, CL°a ΔΔΔς Δα°Uς

d)dlp°b°C°Γd°b°C CΔL, CL°a

°PΓ°7>PPL°Lς 'bΔ° ΔĊ° "ΔιΔΦ'b°σ7°a°b<ς',

'bΔ°_ CLbdd Δbd\n∩°b°C°b°C

\"PF'8'b°C°b^Δς CLbdnja b°D'S\nJ-j°b°

Ċ°a P°bP/%>c Λιμρης ρ°

P°bP/%°C°b'b°C-Jd°%γης β°D'S'ς Γω΄μως.

CL°a PΓ°7>Pσσ°b°ησ%»

ʹϭͰʹ·ϹϤϽͰͰͻϤʹʹʹͰϧʹϹϷʹʹ ϹʹϧϤ Ͻʹͱʹʹ Ϲʹʹʹʹͼϭ Ͱϲ·Ͱϲ·Ϸʹʹϗʹ·ϝͺϥͰͰ αΓϽΔʹ·α·ʹΓͿϤʹͽ ϽʹͱϷϷʹϧϲʹʹ·ϽΔʹ·ʹϹʹͼͿϤ ΔϼΔʹ·ʹϐϼʹͼ ϽʹͱϷͰʹϧϭϲʹʹͼʹͼʹϲʹͺͰϲ·Ͱʹͼ,ϥͰͰͺϹͰͼͿϤͺͰͼͰϼʹͼ ϤϷϲʹϧ·ʹϹʹϭʹʹϧʹϲʹͺͰϲͱϷϹʹ϶ͿͺϹʹͰϭͺϼͼʹϷϝ. ϹʹͼͿϤ ΔϲʹͼͺʹϭͰϧ·ͼͿʹͼͺϻͼϧϷͿͺ

Ċჼᠯᠯ᠋᠘᠃ᡏᠯᢞᡆᡤᢉ᠒ᡃᡥ<ჼb Cᢞ᠙ᡠᡩᡅ᠒ᡴᠺᡬᡃᡥᢗᡃᡈ ᠯ᠘ C᠘ᢐᠯᠯ ᠌᠘ᡱᢡ᠉᠘ᠺ᠂ᡮᠨ᠌ᢪᢐᡃᢗᡗᢪ᠘ᢗ ᡠ᠘ᢑ C᠘ᡱ᠘ ᠰ᠉ᡀᠬ᠒ᢣᡑᡉᡒᡓᡆᢠ< ᠈ᡠ᠔ᢣ᠉ᠵ ᢗĹᠣ ᠘ᡆ᠌ᡷᠮ ᠯ᠘ ᡈᡆᢗᠮ ᠘᠆ᢣ᠘ᢣᡐᡈᠳᡒᠣᡗ᠘ᠺ᠂ᡏᠯᢞᡆᡤᢆᡃ, ᠘ᡟᢇᡳ᠙ᡬ᠅.

Δ⁶/«C⁶/₆: L'α.

(interpretation ends) I thank everyone for their time and their interest in our hearings for today. We will continue tomorrow morning with the Languages Commissioner. The meeting is adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

>>Committee adjourned at 15:03

シンb∩L♭宀^ゆン^c 15:03Г