



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 40

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Pages 2320 – 2473

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit East)

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Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
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Minister responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for the Status of
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 8, 2012

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Ms. Ugyuk if she could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The member is requesting unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19, Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none. We will proceed then to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask members to stay in their seats and we will proceed directly to Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good morning, members. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We have the following items to deal with: Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you and good morning, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and commence the review of CLEY, followed by the Department of Human Resources, Environment, EIA, and the Legislative Assembly, followed by the clause-by-clause review of Bill 24. We then will proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bills 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 –
Culture, Language, Elders and
Youth – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Arreak made his opening comments yesterday and so did Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Arreak, do you

have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to bring witnesses to the table.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Arreak, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Simon Awa, Deputy Minister, and to my left is Michael Rudolph, financial consultant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I welcome both of you to the witness table. We can now proceed with general comments. Are there any general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Minister of CLEY and his officials. I'm quite glad this morning as we're nicely refreshed. I believe we will have very good questions. When you're tired in the evening, you kind of just slough off a lot of questions. Mr. Chairman, I will ask questions at a later time when it's appropriate.

When you look at the business plan for the Department of CLEY and with the legislation passed that became the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, we do understand that it's being delayed due to the *Official Languages Act* still not implemented.

We have also known that, as we hear through the media and radio and various other print media, it's still obvious that the Inuktitut language is not being utilized as much, even though legislation is now passed, as well as the *Education Act*, which speaks to the fact that Inuktitut has to be used. In recognition of the fact that funding is given to the Government of Nunavut related to languages, which is \$1.1 million, it seems like that fund is decreasing, even though the cost of living is increasing.

What I wish to understand is what the department's priorities are. Are they trying to negotiate with the federal government on language protection or have they tried to obtain further funding now that the *Official Languages Act* recognizes English, Inuktitut, and French as the main languages, to try to further protect the language and to promote these services?

Mr. Chairman, it also states in the opening comments that the Piquisilivvik Cultural School is an initiative that they really want to undertake. We also heard that 24 students have started, but I didn't see any comment on that particular school. There are also satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake. I would like to know why the government has not studied these satellite campuses. The government has stated that Igloolik and Baker Lake can be the two satellite

campuses where students will also be taking courses.

To me, it seems as if Baker Lake and Igloolik are kind of being left on the sidelines because there is no mention of these schools in the new communities, particularly in Igloolik, where the residents are awaiting the school specific to teaching Inuit customs and culture. The school is in Clyde River and the intention was to create two satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake. For that reason, I would like to know what the plans are for the two new satellite campuses.

Mr. Chairman, with the other initiatives that the department has undertaken, we have been made aware of these initiatives, such as sport and recreation responsibilities to the Department of Community and Government Services, as well as other divisions that will be moved to different departments. We have also been advised that the Piqusilirivvik Cultural School will be moved to Nunavut Arctic College. It seems that there is a lot of consideration that have kind of been stopped in their tracks, particularly where it involves Inuit culture.

Mr. Chairman, if you look at the time when Nunavut was being created, one of the priorities of the negotiators was to protect languages. During the development of the Nunavut government, the culture, language, elders and youth department was one of the priorities. In looking at the particular business plan, it seems to me that the department is well on its way to being dismantled. I would like more information about that at the appropriate

time and I will be raising questions on these issues, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to Nunavummiut and to the residents of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, and my relatives, especially my wife. It's still very early in the morning in the Kitikmeot region, so I wish them a good morning.

I also thank the Hon. Minister Arreak, who is in front of us at this table. I believe he recalls, including Louis Tapardjuk and Simon Awa, that in the past, we were in the same committee on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and I really enjoyed that particular time because we were able to work cohesively on these issues. Sometimes the barrier we would face was that we were not very well versed in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. For that reason, we would run into problems because we were sent off to school. I am very glad that I was able to go to school because it provided a benefit.

I will not make a long comment, but in looking at all of the government's departments, as we did during our tenure as the members of the committee on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has to be applied to every department and we wish it could be incorporated in all of them. It's obvious that through the good offices of the Hon. Minister Arreak, particularly with Simon Awa being responsible for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* matters, these issues will start surfacing.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that nothing can be created overnight. The world was said by some to be billions of years old while others maintain it was made in seven days. (interpretation ends) Well, that's beside the point. (interpretation) When we talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, let's go, let's go, let's push it so that it is incorporated into every department, and that it not only be the priority of the Department of CLEY. It has to be a priority for all, not just CLEY or the Languages Commissioner.

Like my colleague, Louis Tapardjuk, I fully recognize the French language within Nunavut since French is an official language of Canada. I recognize English as this language is recognized throughout the world. Be that as it may, let's start prioritizing *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, as well as the protection of the Inuktitut language. When you are not an interpreter, sometimes you run into terminology issues as it can be very hard to convey your thoughts without the proper terminology.

With respect to the protection of the language, let's continue to encourage its implementation and in particular, let's incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I will always keep returning to that because when I didn't know enough of the land when the weather was cold, when daylight is fleeting, or in areas of dangerous passage, then you have to operate it by using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, especially in this land of the Arctic. I doubt that our arctic conditions will change overnight, even though all the proponents of global warming state that it will. I am commenting primarily to urge that the

issue of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* be incorporated into every department.

Perhaps, as we go into the page-by-page review, I will also have questions at the appropriate time. However, I am quite satisfied that the Hon. Minister Arreak is handling his portfolio and I have no doubt that he will fulfill his responsibilities. Further, his official, Simon Awa, is very capable, along with the other person at the witness table. Thank you and good morning, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Prior to moving on to our meeting, I wish to remind all members that the comments are very interesting and we want to ensure they are heard by our audience. So if you have any electronic devices or cellphones that can disturb the audio, you should either put it on silent mode or turn it off completely. Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to make this a short comment. I was touched during our Committee of the Whole meeting yesterday when we were discussing Inuit culture, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and societal values, and that it has to become incorporated into our government. There were many comments relating to that issue conveyed by our colleagues, particularly by the regular members.

When we deal with draft legislation, it seems like *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is being left behind. As Mr. Tapardjuk has reiterated from time to time, we should not just treat it as a side benefit, but it has to start being taught at a very young age. We have to start incorporating a lot of the Inuit ways of teaching and

learning. I believe a lot of us agree that we have to delineate and define a lot of these items. I just wanted to comment on these issues.

With respect to this issue, all departments will have to start paying attention and start incorporating on this, as my colleague, Mr. John Ningark, stated that they have to start incorporating Inuktitut and Inuit values into every piece of legislation. As members, we convey the thoughts and concerns of our constituents. I want people to know that this is something we will continue to push. We, along with all Nunavummiut, are still expecting a lot of change and expecting Inuktitut.

That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister. I would like to welcome his deputy minister and the financial consultant. I just wanted to comment on this matter. It has only been a short while, perhaps 12 years, since the Department of CLEY was profiled when the Nunavut territory was created.

I want to recognize the fact that while the former minister, who is the MLA for Amittuq, was the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, a lot of these initiatives were being created and a lot of people enjoyed seeing these initiatives. A lot of these grants related to the protection of culture as well as encouraging traditional activities, something a lot of people enjoy.

I also know for a fact that if it became a department, it should not be specific to culture because again the southerners, both the French and non-Inuit, have their own distinct culture and it's pervading the entire territory because that's all we watch on television.

If there will be a Department of Culture, pretty much all of the arts programs would have to be included into the department, which includes film media, as promoting culture. The feature films at this time go through ED&T. In my opinion, all of these ought to be in the Department of Culture because they're related to promoting culture. I would prefer that. If we look at libraries, I also believe that they could be slotted into that department.

One thing I'm concerned about referring to the opening comments is how you profile the mandate of the department. Let's say if the Premier states that we will be creating a new department of such and such. Once it's created, a minister is appointed. In my opinion, it should all be laid out in the legislation. For example, the Department of Education has to have a legal foundation so that it's obvious that a minister has to be appointed to the department.

If I were to make this comment which I believe is true, there really is no Department of Culture according to legislation. I doubt that the cultural department has any legal foundation. Therefore, the Department of CLEY is pretty much an agency or secretariat of the Nunavut government. I believe that would be a better use of our resources because it would be up to the government to put in resources too. If

you include social services, it would be up to them to deal with that.

I would like the minister to continue to encourage and push that if there will be a Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, it should be approved and established by the Legislative Assembly so that this department will have a legal foundation and continue on throughout the life of the territory. I don't want to see the department getting dismantled and eventually disappear because a lot of these resources and other cultural resources are very important.

Although we're not able to create big infrastructure for housing these cultural resources, this is something we are trying to repatriate. So I would like to encourage the minister to respond. Wouldn't it be better if we were to create a legal foundation for the Department of CLEY and to include the mandate and the responsibilities in that legal foundation?

I'm just making these comments during this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I didn't hear a question. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we're under general comments and I would like to make a few comments myself. The elders are under the direction of this department and if there are elders abused, it should be dealt by your department. We hear about elder abuse. We hear about elders' money being taken by their family or their relatives. Elders are vulnerable.

The government has a reduced rate for housing rent for elders because of their age. I feel very strongly about this issue because there are a lot of elders out there who are under hardship and I believe that there should be a support system in place for those elders. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. We will now proceed. We are on page F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment to the Hon. Minister of CLEY, Hon. Arreak, with respect to the grants and contributions report and I believe it was released in October. There was a report outlining the grants and contributions that were given out in 2010-11. In that report, it seems to state that the \$8,594,281, which is slightly different from the figures we received from the Department of Finance that stated there was \$7,179,844 that was expended.

What I want to understand from the minister is how you can reconcile these figures, especially when there are reports provided to the Legislative Assembly. When there's that kind of disparity between the two figures, is there any way to try and reconcile these reports so that they're exactly the same, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for Amittuq for raising that

question. At that time during the standing committee, these figures were given and during that time, I had stated that we would again release those figures and we provided the report as to how these funds were expended. We also explained the differences that come around. The difference in the funding is \$1,265,400. If I am correct, that is what he is referring to. They were on a slightly different funding arrangement, but we have agreed that we will look into that and we will try to ensure that all funds are accounted for.

Perhaps my Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, can provide more detail on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to apologize. I am pretty hoarse today. I think it is quite obvious. First of all, the Department of Finance figures that were provided as grants and contributions were \$7,180,000.

However, when we looked into the actual accounts during the standing committee, what they had forgot to add in the Department of Finance was the Canadian government language funding that is provided to the Nunavut government. That particular part of the funding was not added to the figures related to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. If they had been added, then there would have been \$8.4 million that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth had allocated for grants and contributions.

The other slight difference in accounting which we found out is a lot of the grants and contributions funding that we provide to the organizations in the communities is kicked back into the program. That was also not accounted for and not included in these figures.

I would like to reiterate that the language funding provided by the federal government was unfortunately not included in the Department of Finance's figures. That is the reason for the discrepancy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, now I understand. With respect to the \$8 million grants and contributions funding which you provide to the communities by application, I believe you inform them that there will be a certain amount of funding available prior to April 1.

Once you have provided the grants and contributions funding and the communities have expended these funds, how do you determine that the funds were used properly? Do they go through an application fund? Is there a kind of a reporting process or how do reconcile these differences? Do you have to check into some of these grants? I would like to find out more details on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds as expended are provided to the Legislative Assembly for review. Prior to March 31,

we ask for funding requests and sometimes we allow further requests for government funding if and when required throughout the year. When we submit these figures to the Legislative Assembly, we require accounting and a report from every organization that is provided funding. The figures you have are for the year 2010-11. At least that's how we look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the question I was trying to raise is, for example, if any personal body applies for funding to do a cultural or language activity. If they obtain funding, I imagine they have to report on what they used that funding for. What I'm trying to ask is: how does the department determine that the funds were used as intended? If they misused these funds, would they have to return the funding to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth? That's what I was trying to get at, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the funds that we provide through grants and contributions have to be accounted for and reported. All the accounts are reported. At this time, we are also not just requesting a report but also pictures of the activities that they undertook as part of their funding activity reports. Pictures are very good examples of how they delivered these cultural activities, so we ask for a report and pictures. That

allows us to showcase how these funds are being used.

If my deputy wishes to provide more details, he can. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa, do you wish to make a supplementary response?

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the minister was very truthful in his statement. The regional Inuit associations and other bodies, such as the elders' committees in the communities, don't provide a very long report and we're not expecting them to provide a 10-page report. What we want is a short report with pictures that allows us to understand what their activity was all about. That's why a photo collage that shows how the funding and the activity was undertaken is enough to satisfy our requirement because it shows us exactly what they did and how they expended the money.

Be that as it may, Mr. Chairman, there are some bodies, such as the regional Inuit associations, that don't always provide proper reports. Due to that fact, we have a bit of difficulty when the non-reporting entity requests more funding. They run into a barrier because they hadn't accounted for previous funding that they received. Until they provide accounting for the previous funding they received, we cannot provide them with additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister.

That's very understandable and I also agree with their statements, especially where it speaks to the regional Inuit associations. However, when it comes to bodies in the communities, such as the elders' and youth committees, I doubt that they will provide a very detailed report. I do like the fact that you have done it that way and that it is proceeding smoothly.

I would like to ask this question. Why do you request applications prior to March 31 when the funds have not been spent prior to year-end? Are you trying to give out that funding or are you expecting that the funding will be approved and appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, that you ask for applications prior to the fiscal year-end? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been the practice for quite a while now where the request for funding has to be submitted prior to the fiscal year-end, which is March 31. It's not the expectation that our funding will be appropriated, but it allows the communities to plan their activities for the upcoming year and it allows them to plan their activities throughout the seasons.

If we look at recreation funding, they fall into a slightly different category. They end on March 31, but then in September,

in the fall, when half of the fiscal year is completed, they can then resubmit an application for recreation activities.

March 31 is the end of the fiscal year, but that is something that could be changed at any time. The only reason why it has been kept is because it became common practice. We can look into that to see if we can fix it to your satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. The reason why I'm raising these questions is that in Igloolik, we have an annual cultural activity celebrating the return of the sun and I am very pleased that they are able to obtain funding for these activities.

However, I think the problem that we seem to encounter is that I believe the celebration of the return of the sun is around January 14 and it's a weeklong cultural activity. The deadline for applications is March 31. Once they have completed the celebration of the sun in January, they have to do a report and they also have to submit an application for next year's funding prior to year-end. It seems like the application sits for a whole year within the department. I'm raising this as an issue to be considered because some organizations are in a rush to submit their applications.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has two separate funding periods for recreation funding, and I imagine they have committees that review and approve or deny applications. Is this an issue that the minister can

consider to see if they could also do that for these cultural activities, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anyone can make an application prior to March 31. We can take that into consideration. As my deputy minister said, we can review it and see if we can make changes. Yes, we can do so. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to make this my last comment. I would like to ask if the Inuit Language Authority is starting to be a more independent body or if they are now independent from the government and whether their board has been created. I would like clarification on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Language Authority became independent from the government on September 18, 2011 and they have a board, but they're still involved with the Department of CLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): I did say that was my last question, but I would like more clarification on that. Is

CLEY looking at when the language authority will become truly independent from the government? I'm sure they will continue to receive government funding as they're part of the legislation under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. When would that happen while continuing to receive government funding?

The reason I'm asking is because the government will obviously be affected by the language authority and if they're too close, it could create a conflict of interest. Therefore, I prefer to see the language authority at arm's length from the government. Does your department have any plans when the language authority will be at arm's length? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy can elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. When you wish to have one of your officials provide a response, it would be useful to identify which official you're referring to. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, in accordance with the Act, the language authority had to become independent on September 18, 2011. That did happen and as the minister said, they have formed a board.

Although they are legally independent, we have a memorandum of understanding between our department and the language authority, as well as the

Department of Finance. Due to their lack of capacity, the Department of CLEY will provide assistance for about a year while they're trying to fill their positions. That is what we agreed to in our MOU.

However, based on the language authority's legal authority, they make their own decisions and operate on their own. They are not directed by the Department of CLEY nor do they report to the deputy minister. All of their reports go directly to the minister as per legislation.

With respect to paperwork and human resources issues, the Department of CLEY is providing assistance to them in that regard through the MOU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Every time there is a response, another question pops in my head. When we speak about the Inuit Language Authority, as a member, I already have a question to recommend to their committee.

For example, we use *Ai, Ii, Uu, Aa*, which is an iteration of the syllabics writing system. I believe the actual term for syllabics is *Qaliujaaqpait* and if we were look at them in reverse as if though by some other people... how they have a minister? If I were to ask that question to that independent authority because they report to the minister, where do I ask questions, to the Minister of CLEY?

If I was to ask questions to the language authority and they're supposed to be

independent, how do I ask questions in this House? Who will represent them? Let me get that through my head, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the language authority is at arm's length, as my Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, had stated, they provide reports to the Minister of Languages. Therefore, questions can be directed to the Minister of Languages and the language authority can report to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. We're on page F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, do you have your hand up? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I had my hand up. Thank you. In regard to follow-up with some of the questions that Mr. Tapardjuk had in regard to the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, I understand how, on September 18, it was set up as a public agency council at arm's length from the government. I'm just wondering: in terms of direction for that public agency council, is that provided by the minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Before I let the minister respond, I would like to remind you that if any member is going to be asking questions, please specify and let me know if you're going to speak to the

page that we're reviewing. Please indicate to me so that I won't miss anyone. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the *Inuit Language Protection Act* is being implemented, it also indicates that the Minister of Languages will be in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a public agency council, the question I have, since it's newly formed... We have other public agency councils that are part of the Public Agencies Council that is under the direction of the Minister of Finance. Through the Public Agencies Council, there are letters of expectation and memorandums of understanding that are set up. Is that going to happen with the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is why it's set up. Things are progressing and it may take a whole year, where we will be working hand in hand to raise them to become an independent organization. We are making progress and it has been set up in that manner. We will continue to try to do that, as per Mr. Elliott's statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of April 1, 2012, for the fiscal year of 2012-13, you will be receiving a letter from the Minister of Finance as the public agency council providing direction for the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* as well as a memorandum of understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): As we had stated, Mr. Chairman, on September 18, the language authority became a public agency council and that we will be providing support to the language authority and we don't... Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After April 1, once the letters are received, could the minister provide us with those letters of expectation to the president or chair of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* as well as the memorandum of understanding between the Minister of Finance and your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, will respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the current MOU is between *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* and CLEY. The MOU is not between IUT and the Department of Finance. The MOU only provides corporate services and human resources support to IUT until such a time, hopefully within a year, that they are able to operate on their own.

As for the letters of expectation, the mandate of IUT is very clear under ILPA legislation. The board will submit an annual work plan to the Minister of Languages and that work plan, if approved by the minister, becomes like a letter of expectation. So the mandate of IUT, the board itself, as an arm's-length entity is very clear under legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. I just need to ask another question. I think I have it clear in my head. I understand where they get their direction from, from the actual Act, but in the different corporations that we have as part of the territory like the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College, they're all governed by Acts as well, the Colleges Act and whatnot.

Those Acts are followed, but they also have boards of directors that are set up. From those boards of directors, there's a minister responsible, which sounds like the same sort of structure that we have with the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, at the same time, to provide guidance, not on the overall Act itself but in terms of specific year

mandates and changing government mandates like we're acting through *Tamapta* right now.

The Public Agencies Council, which is chaired by the Minister of Finance, has a public agency council. My original question was once the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* is up and running to provide that guidance and to ensure that the job is being done, which I believe the Hon. Member for Amittuq was trying to allude to, to make sure that it functions and does the job that it's supposed to... The Public Agencies Council, under the direction of the Minister of Finance, does provide letters of expectation on an annual basis to add to that.

I guess that's what my original question was is to see, once it's set up, whether it will function in the same manner as other corporate entities that the Government of Nunavut has right now. In all fairness, it should receive the same amount of attention that all the other corporations do as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Did I hear a question there? If I didn't, did the minister hear a question there? Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Language Authority has to present their report annually to the Minister of Languages, who then tables it in the House. As to their activities over the past year, with ILPA, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, outlining these requirements, it's very clear what the Inuit Language Authority has to

undertake and it is being followed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To me, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* is extremely important. Could the minister commit to speaking with the chair of the Public Agencies Council to see how his department will work together with the public agency committee to get a better understanding of how that works? If we're going to make the *Inuit Language Protection Act* work, we want to make sure that it is set up properly within the system so that funding is guaranteed, so that direction is provided. So if the minister could commit to speaking to the chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could speak with the chair, but I cannot assure the member if there is going to be any changes made because we haven't conducted any assessments yet. I can assure the member that I will have talks with the chair. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and his officials for appearing before our committee. The question I would like to direct is the syllabics in the *Ai, Ii, Uu, Aa*, which has been the subject of discussions for changing back to the original. I am not sure if I am the

only one who misunderstands it because I want to bring back *Ai, Ii, Uu, Aa* and they want to take out one of the symbols. What is the reasoning for debating that change it back into that particular one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to apologize first because if people have misunderstood that we're trying to take out certain iterations of the syllabic orthography, that's not the case. We're still debating whether it will remain the same, whether we will revert back to the original, and that includes roman orthography. We're still discussing the matter. Nothing has been taken off the table. All that is, is that all of these options are being weighed and measured. It's included in the mandate of the Inuit Language Authority and all they're doing is reviewing these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite get a response to my question and I would like a proper response. What is the reason for this being debated and discussed? What is the reasoning behind looking at the syllabic orthography? What is the reasoning for debating that issue? That is what I was trying to raise in my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because we're trying to protect the Inuit language, we're trying to look at which orthography would be better used to maintain the protection of the Inuit language. So the Inuit Language Authority, in looking at the protection measures, particularly in trying to protect the language, is reviewing all of their options and they're wondering how best to protect the language, whether it would be through roman orthography or syllabic orthography.

When you look at the digital age and computers and in online chatting, a lot of people are using roman orthography. There is a new application now available online that teaches syllabics. I believe that if you go into iTunes or Apple websites, there is now an application available that can be downloaded to teach you how to speak in Inuktitut and to read syllabics.

Again, we're trying to protect all aspects of the Inuit language and that is the reason why they're reviewing all of these ideas. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand the reasoning why they're looking at these ideas. If you look at the world, computers can be adapted to any language and culture. So if syllabics are going to be part of the debate, it's very easy for a computer to convert. I am very protective of my syllabics because it defines part of my culture and who I am.

If the committee is deliberating upon these ideas and perhaps it may come into use a few years from now, but with respect to our generation, this is our way of writing. If you're going to be using the computer as a foundation, if we look at the Japanese, the Europeans, every country converts their language and adapts it to the computers. So I don't see that as a good enough reason for looking at the language because not every person in Nunavut will be able to deal with computers.

I myself don't really work with computers because I'm not that adept at it and that's just the same thing. I don't have any more questions, but I don't think computers should be used as a reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Arreak, would you like to comment on that?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't mean to say that computers are the reason. What we were looking at was how best to protect the Inuit language so as to ensure that it's not being lost, especially in certain parts of Nunavut. That's the reasoning for trying to protect the Inuktitut way of writing in both orthographies.

I believe syllabics were created way back by a missionary when he wanted to change the oral language into something that could be read. I believe the missionary converted orthography into syllabics and Inuit took that to heart and made it their own.

Even if we start trying to not use syllabics, it's quite obvious that those of

us who grew up with it will continue to use it. What we are thinking of is long term and our descendants may want to use a different orthography. It is obvious that those of us who grew up with that orthography will continue to use it until we pass away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,000,701. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page F-5. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this particular branch summary under Official Languages, I think, to me and to all of us in Nunavut, the protection and promotion of the Inuktitut language is very truthful and very important.

Everything that we do in the government always reflects on the amount of funding that we receive. Whether you're speaking for or from territorial or local government, it is part of a much bigger picture. That is where the core funding comes from, the federal counterpart.

Whether your first language is Inuktitut, English, or French, we all want to promote and protect the use of that language. In the old territorial government, before Nunavut came into being, it was generally thought by the legislature, mainly aboriginal organizations, caucuses, and what have you, that it was very important to

promote the French language. Why? This may sound ironic coming from someone like me.

I always talk about the bigger picture. Part of the big picture: you want to ensure that we have friends in high places where, in Ontario, part of the government, Senate, politicians, bureaucrats, most of those people speak French. It is always good to impress these people in high places. I think it's critical and crucial to put higher emphasis on supporting the French language for the sake of funding from our friends in high places.

I also recognize the French language as an official language of the country and an official language of Nunavut. I say this with no prejudice, but we never get enough funding from the federal government. So there is no question; I just wanted to share that knowledge with the good offices of the minister of official languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Although no question was asked, Minister Arreak, perhaps you wish to make a comment.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ningark's comment is completely on target, especially where he speaks about the limited funding and that we have a hard time operating with that limited funding.

Nevertheless, we are making preparations to request more funding and we want to have it tabled before the House. We will be using that to start implementing the *Official Languages*

Act, as well as the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. That is what we're trying to lay that foundation so we can request more funding down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding from the federal government that is specific to language is \$2,250,000, which is Vote 4/5 funding, for the Inuit and French languages. How much of this funding has been expended? What was it used for? What kinds of contributions were made? Are there any expectations that the funding for language services will be increased by the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was also raised in a previous question and in the response, it was stated that at first, there was a missing \$1 million in the figure between the Department of Finance and the Department of CLEY. This specific funding was for schools related to language classes, for the preparation of the language week. It was used for various activities throughout the year. Most of the details are outlined in here and it's been tabled, so it's available to every member.

We have continued to have expectations about higher funding when that legislation was passed in June. Actually, if there has to be additions, we received 35 comments or concerns about the legislation based on the task we have

been delegated. We have tried to work on implementing these recommendations.

The IUT committee now has a board and they will try to meet every week. We had expected that they would be up and running by last spring but unfortunately it's taking a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you made a statement on that issue in the House. The *Official Languages Act* hasn't been implemented yet. I don't have the record of the proceedings in front of me, but in June, you tabled Uqausivut, a draft implementation plan for both of the Languages Acts.

I believe it was on June 4, 2008 that the *Official Languages Act* was passed in the Legislative Assembly and received Parliamentary assent in June 2009. My first question here is: can we expect to have this Act come into force? I'm referring to the *Official Languages Act* that was passed in the Legislative Assembly on June 4, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I responded in the House that the *Official Languages Act* was grandfathered from the Northwest Territories in 1988 and it's still in force. We look forward to it being implemented in the near future. We are working on it and it also includes

the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which was passed. Under that law, the French speakers can use their language in the workplace, and it's being used in the schools. In the Inuit cultural school, the language of instruction is Inuktitut. It is being slowly implemented. Once Uqausivut is approved and tabled in the House, it will be one of the responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will make this the last one for the time being, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Protection Act* that we have to implement in Nunavut, what are your plans for dealing with large institutions, such as Royal Bank of Canada and other banks?

When you go to the bank to be provided services, for example, you have to make a deposit, they ask, "What can I do for you? Do you want to make a deposit or withdrawal?" The forms are available in English and French. There's another language I'm not sure about. I never quite get the particular language, but I believe you can choose Chinese or Japanese when you press buttons at the ATM.

The ATMs are starting to surface in a lot of the smaller communities and you have to use these cards to access your funds. It's become obvious that when elders receive their pension funds, they generally request assistance from the closest person, even though there's confidential information or a potential for money to be stolen from them.

What I would like to understand, Mr. Chairman, is: are you speaking with these financial institutions to see if we could be serviced in our own language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I have no idea what they are either. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Languages Commissioner is working with these institutions as part of our mandate, enforcing the *Official Languages Act* as well as the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. We cannot really enforce it at this time, but there is a time down the road where we will be able to enforce them.

In the meantime, we can meet with these large institutions to try to develop language-specific forms or applications. These are things that we can work with these institutions because at this time, they're available in various languages, such as Chinese. Yes, we can discuss those matters with them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): I think I am not to talk, as the clock for my time did not even stop. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk, I apologize. Our assistant forgot to press the clock to stop it, but please proceed if you wish. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): I just wanted that time noted; I did not really mean that I was not to talk. Thank you.

It states in the document that you will hire six staff for the Official Languages and Services Division as per the *Official Languages Act*. What exactly will these positions be doing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials will be able to provide more detail. At this time, there are interpreter/translators for all documents. There will be an editor. So there are three main interpreter/translators with one editor and also the supervisor or manager responsible for translating proper terms. There will also be one technician. At this time, we have identified six positions specifically for implementing this legislation. I would like to ask my deputy, Mr. Awa, to add more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The positions have been approved and it's contained within the legislation, specifically for implementing the legislation and enforcing it. During the 2011-12 fiscal year, there were six positions and they will add a few more positions to go in 2013-14 because the duties inherent in converting documents to Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, French, and English are growing. We can't even keep up with the demand at this time when all of the documents have to be

translated into the four official languages.

Additionally, I am quite glad, Mr. Chairman, since previously any documents written in either Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun was never proofread. As long as the document was written in Inuktitut, with all of its errors and even if it did not make sense, it would be published.

Now, with the requirements of the legislation, there are specific positions identified to proofread all documents for readability and I am very glad that there will be editor positions in our department. As the minister indicated, there are now six positions listed and we are looking at adding new positions in the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now in June 2011, apparently you tabled the Uqausivut plan to the House, but I was not yet a representative here so I have only heard of this fact.

With respect to the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, I believe those are the official titles and they were passed in this House. I would like to know what type of implementation plans you are working on. Can you provide some information on any plans you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per my previous statement, there is a committee that has been struck that will be looking at developing these ideas further in respect to the item that was tabled in June 2011.

Also, as per my earlier statement, we received about 35 submissions to the document we prepared, with the majority commenting, with not too many parties disagreeing with the document.

However, we cooperated with officials from the Office of the Languages Commissioner, NTI, and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to strike a committee. Representatives on this committee are going to develop the action items. Currently, they are working really hard and additionally, we have prioritized this committee and they will be concentrating on these matters up until springtime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Further on page 88 of the business plan, the funding for the Language Acts Implementation Division seems to have decreased in 2012-13 if you compare it to the previous year. Can you explain why there has been a decrease in funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't quite get what he was referring to. Perhaps the member can clarify exactly

what he is speaking to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Oshutapik, please elaborate further.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you compare the figures for 2011-12 with 2012-13 on page 88 of this document here, they seem to be decreasing. (interpretation ends) According to page 88 of your 2012-13 draft business plan, the budget for the Language Acts Implementation Division will be less than half of what it was in 2011-12. When Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* comes into force, wouldn't this division require additional resources and, if not, why not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. He said that it's on page 88 of the business plan. Do you now know where it is, Mr. Arreak?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We now understand what he was referring to, so I would like to ask Mr. Awa to provide some more details to the member of the reasoning.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the page the member referred to that outlined over half of the funding being cut, the reason was primarily due to the preparation work required to get it going. It is now more than halfway completed and due to this, the main work revolves around consultation work and requests to other bodies for information and with most of

these activities largely completed, that is why the fund was cut in that manner.

However, on the other hand, looking at the mandate of the government, we will expend other funds for implementing the legislation. This fund is mostly for the preparation work to get the legislation drafted and reviewed. Due to that reason, since the legislation has been largely completed, that is why the funding is much smaller as it is just an indicator of the amount of work left. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. We are on page F-5. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister for appearing in front of the committee. I would like to speak about languages and the fact that the two pieces of legislation are slowly being implemented. It's very complex and challenging. The work to implement the *Official Languages Act* is ongoing.

I would like to raise this question. You support the use of Inuktitut, especially once Inuktitut becomes an official language. I would like to ask the minister whether our government will eventually be able to provide services in Inuktitut. If so, does the government have a strategy for teaching its employees how to speak Inuktitut if they were unable to speak the language? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy

Minister, Mr. Awa, will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Awa, please clarify.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot really provide a whole lot of detail, but if that could be accomplished, I personally would be very happy if the government was able to provide services and operate in Inuktitut. I look forward to the day that all government employees would be able to speak and write in Inuktitut, but I can't even forecast a date.

With respect to my expectations and my dedication to this task, those of us who are Inuit are starting to lose our language, so that should be our first priority. If we are more focused on reclaiming and repatriating our language and more people want to learn our language, then the demand will grow. I do expect that at least the senior officials, managers, and others who want to learn Inuktitut are provided that opportunity and that opportunity is available throughout the year.

Generally the public service has workers with different levels of fluency, whether they are beginners, intermediate, or more advanced. There are announcements that talk about classes that are occurring throughout the week, and they identify beginners, intermediate or advanced classes within these announcements. That's all I can say about that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand that clearly and I agree with them. It seems that the Member for Amittuq keeps questioning when the legislation will come into force. These two pieces of language legislation have been approved by the House, but the government keeps deferring the implementation of the language legislation. If the term “official languages” is defined, English is not the only official language, is it? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the official language legislation has been approved in the House, we have agreed that the Inuit, English, and French languages would be the official languages of Nunavut. Although those three languages will be the official languages in Nunavut, English and French are the official languages throughout Canada.

In Nunavut, I believe we will be the first territory to protect the Inuit language by making it an official language through legislation. English is not the only official language. Although we have a target date to start enforcing the *Official Languages Act* this coming spring, we are also considering Aboriginal Day or the anniversary of the Prime Minister’s apology for trying to assimilate their fellow Canadians or another date of importance. English is not the only official language here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. However, I believe it would also be true if we stated that if the Inuit language was a language of operations within all government workplaces, people would receive service in Inuktitut.

I think this should be researched, although I know it is not part of your mandate to enforce that with the government employees. If Inuktitut will become a language of service, then it has to be clearly identified and a directive should be made to all senior officials, and not just within your department.

The reason I make this statement, is that currently, if there is a vacant position that will be advertised for a government job, it usually has a caveat: this position is not a bilingual position. Can you include this in your review? All positions will eventually have to be listed as bilingual positions in Inuktitut and English. We do not use French as an operational language.

The French language is protected at the federal government level. I truly believe that not many Inuit would be taking French language instruction and it’s the federal government’s responsibility. The French language is recognized as an official language here in Nunavut due to the inclusion as an official language in Canada. I believe the Inuktitut language needs support to reach that level, and if the leaders do not resolve this at the top level, that all job opportunities at the senior level will be required to be staffed by bilingual workers.

The way it is setup, Mr. Chairman, is what causes the problem. If you are going to be speaking in Inuktitut or are required to provide service in Inuktitut,

following the official language legislation, that position has to be identified as being a bilingual position. The only reason for categorizing a position is so that person can get a bilingual bonus. Any position thusly not identified, even if the employee is an Inuk, without the bilingual requirement for that position, that Inuk does not receive a bonus.

For that reason, if your department is unable to deal with this matter, you should collaborate with the Official Languages Commissioner to try and get more compliance. Will you be able to assist them? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Languages Commissioner does receive complaints when services are not being provided in Inuktitut, English, or French. You can submit your complaint to the commissioner regarding any of the official languages.

With respect to the positions that require bilingual bonus, particularly English and Inuktitut, this is a matter that is being discussed and debated both in the offices of CLEY as well as Human Resources. They are holding discussions on how to better define bilingual bonus positions and how you can qualify. This is always in the realm of hiring prospective employees here in Nunavut. That is the way it is set up now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The basis for my statement is that this government wants a bilingual workforce, but we still have to implement legislation and the majority of our positions state that the position does not require Inuktitut. It states Inuktitut is not necessary.

I discovered, accidentally sort of thing, in English, since I was not really looking for a case. I found out this person, although they are bilingual, they do not receive a bonus for this ability. I asked why? I was told that the position did not require a bilingual worker, even though the worker was an Inuk and fully fluent. Why? Whenever a unilingual person calls the office, the desk clerk may not speak Inuktitut and all of a sudden, this employee becomes their interpreter, even though their position states that bilingualism is not necessary for the job. (interpretation ends) That's not fair. (interpretation) Inuit employees have to receive much fairer treatment within our government workplaces.

That is why I spoke to this issue, to recommend that the system be revised and the issues addressed. We should remove that category, and make them bilingual.

The reason why I say that is because Canada has been officially bilingual since the 1970s. In those days, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that bilingualism is now an official part of the public service everywhere. That made it much easier. Learning French became mandatory for anyone wanting promotion in the public service and those who became proficient earned increases in their pay.

Here we are nickel-and-diming Inuit. What we must do with our legislation, not just your department, but I believe you can contribute as a department or through EIA if this government is to be bilingual and to have everything become open and accessible to Inuit.

I imagine that you can examine this to determine precisely what the barriers are if this government is to practice bilingualism. I'm asking if that effort can be made. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per our continual statements, we are working towards the goal of any official language being used within our government offices. Furthermore, on September 19, we started implementing this requirement to use any official language within the workplace.

The workplace requirements, such as the job descriptions for these positions are being reviewed, however, I can't speak for the Minister of Human Resources as he has to speak for his own department. At this time, all I can state is that this is under review, but with respect to the details, I can't speak to the details. I can't respond either as we already have a Minister for Human Resources who has that mandate .

The bilingual language requirement, as it stands currently doesn't really define whether it's Inuktitut-English, Inuktitut-French, or French-English. It just speaks about bilingualism, the ability to speak more than one language. That is what it

states currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That response has clarified the situation to many members, as some of the MLAs believe that an employee of the government who is an Inuk is in a bilingual position. No! Only those positions that have clearly been identified as requiring bilingual workers get this bonus.

I want to turn to another subject. My next question regards the writing system which is concerning to many people. Personally, I can use either system and I have absolutely no problem with syllabics being used as a language of instruction and I would prefer to see this system protected, as well as Roman orthography for Inuinnaqtun, obviously.

I have had some constituents' state that they learned the original syllabic system whereas the shortened version is currently used within the schools to teach Inuktitut. Will they continue to use the shortened version of syllabics within the school? That is my question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Exactly how, I am unsure. With respect to this issue, the Minister of Education would deal with the regulatory or policy matters, and if they have any policies to that effect.

I will not be speaking on behalf of my executive colleague responsible for Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Is your department responsible for determining which writing system should be used or is there another department responsible for that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): The Inuit Language Authority is now starting their work regarding languages and the writing system. The Department of Education has their own legislation with regard to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. What I'm trying to say is there was an elder who was concerned about the old style of syllabics and I'm just using that as an example. We are now using the shorter style of syllabics. Maybe the Minister of Education can sing the Inuktitut alphabet song. At the end of that song, they sing, "I can speak Inuktitut now." I really like that song. The elder usually speaks to this issue and I was just using it as an example.

We have a shorter version of syllabics and we also have a longer version of syllabics, so we have two syllabic writing systems. They are using the shorter version of syllabics in education

and I believe that it's better to use that one. I would like the minister to know that many people have approached me with their concerns related to this. I hope that's understandable. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak, did you understand?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understood. He showed me two versions that he has.

>> *Laughter*

I don't believe that there is legislation as to which syllabic version is to be used. I have never seen anything on it, but the shorter version of the syllabics was created at a time when there were no Inuktitut keyboard layouts. When IBM was creating fonts in syllabics, there were too many syllables and that's why the shorter version started being used. I'm sure the member can recall that as I believe he was working for Inuit organizations when it was being worked on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley, I'll get back to you. I have other names on my list. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, while we are discussing the issue of language, I want to ask this question. Inuktitut is still quite prevalent in its usage, and non residents assume we have language legislation, such as that recently passed for Nunavut's official languages of French, English and Inuktitut.

However, in the western region, the usage of Inuktitut is deteriorating very quickly, especially in our Netilik region. Is there any funding specific to parents for maintaining and preserving our dialect? We do want to preserve it.

Whenever our colleagues mention that the French language is rarely used outside the capital, I take a personal slight because my grandchildren are able to converse in French and I am proud of their capability. The two older children, through conversing with their father have become able to speak in French. It's not good to hear that because my grandchildren are able to speak French. As good parents, we must try to teach our children their languages and to preserve their languages.

When you are considering the actual funding to protect languages, I would want to see any language protected irrespective of whether it is French, English, or Inuktitut. I believe many people assume that a lot of people can't even speak in English. A lot of adults also have problems speaking their dialect properly. I imagine that is the case all over Nunavut.

Parents should speak their language to their children regardless of what language it might be. From a personal perspective, when I look at my grandchildren, I see their capability because they speak a language I can't speak. We should be trying to increase all Inuit and all Nunavummiuts' ability to speak their languages. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's comments were comprehensible. The Inuinnaqtun dialect remains a concern for many people as people fear it is being lost. We try to promote Inuinnaqtun, and I have seen initiatives to promote the usage of Inuinnaqtun when I have travelled to the region. It seems to be coming back into vogue as it seems to be resurging, however I imagine it is being lost in certain places.

Yes, these funds are made available to all applicants, whether it is the RIAs, the local municipalities, or even individuals. An individual can also apply for funding from this fund if it is specific to protecting the Inuit language or if it is related to language activities.

If you are a parent or any person who will be trying to conduct language activities, the funding is available as long as it is related to languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Looking at the time, I would like consent from my colleagues to take a break. When we come back, we will have Minister Arreak return to the witness table along with Mr. Awa and Mr. Rudolph. We will break for lunch and when we come back, Mr. Curley can continue with his questions. We will take a lunch break now and resume at 1:15 p.m. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 12:05 and resumed at 13:16

Chairman (interpretation): Members, I would like to thank you for coming back. Good afternoon. Members, thank

you. Prior to recommencing our committee meeting, I have some news to pass along...

(interpretation ends) As members are aware, the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation] has been representing Nunavut in the Mines Training Strategy meeting in Toronto this week. (interpretation) For the record, I wish to advise members that Moses Aupaluktuq, Member for Baker Lake, is accompanying the minister at this event in Toronto.

We can proceed and as I stated earlier, we will begin with Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are all aware that the Inuit Language Authority meets regularly, so I want to ask a question about that. I believe they have met quite a few times and perhaps the minister could elaborate on what their mandate is and also outline what they do. That's my first question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They meet occasionally and I believe they meet four times per year. If they do have to surpass the four meetings per year, they do so, but they don't meet much more than that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wasn't really asking about that. What I wanted to know is what their mandate is

and what they do. Maybe he can respond to that later.

My second question is with respect to terminology in Nunavut. There are a lot of terms and they vary by region. Do they select which terms will be chosen, as the best word to represent specific items throughout Nunavut? Or will the terms already in use continue? The reason I wanted to raise the question is because I want to know how they choose a term and who they submit their report to. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Awa to elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his first question regarding terminology committee developments to date, they have dealt with a whole number of issues, but a lot of their work hasn't really surfaced.

I can use an example. For over a year, they have been working and collaborating with the interpreter/translators in the health field to develop terminology specific to the health field or if you have to talk about organs or parts of the body, for example, where you have to translate the terms used by a doctor or nurse which are not yet translated into Inuktitut, and how you would translate them into Inuktitut.

The committee has been working with the Department of Health and Social Services for quite a while to develop terms. What I can say is that they have defined approximately 793 Inuktitut words, I believe, just for the health field. This is not just in this region but in the Kivalliq. They have also been to Winnipeg and I believe they have been to Churchill as well. They have gone to the places where Inuit go to receive medical services. They continue to work with the people involved in the health profession.

With respect to his question about where the reports are sent, every term they define and decide upon is inputted into a computer database. If you go into the computer database, you can check any term for its definition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. It's very interesting to listen to those committees. It seems that a lot of the work is geared towards meeting government needs, but what I was thinking of was if they could disseminate that information so that everybody in Nunavut would have a common term, whether it is through the schools or other means of obtaining information or even outside of government. I am hoping that all the work they are doing, which is inputted into the computer, will eventually be available. Perhaps we can check their website.

When you are listening to radio shows, some of the terms that are deliberated upon are probably not related to what they are talking about. I'm thinking

about how much of a benefit it could provide to the people of Nunavut if the terms that had been defined and agreed to were released outside of the government operations. Will these be made available in the future and, if so, when?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The terminology committee is quite busy with developing terms and they are focusing on one of the priorities identified right now, which is the health profession field. There is also a project called Asuilaak. All of their work is inputted into the computer and that data is available by computer. They are also working on a dictionary that's defining terminology and it's a living dictionary because you can keep adding new terms into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That's very good to hear and that's very positive news. I totally support their initiatives. I imagine they choose from a list of words. Do they discuss the definition or do they have discussions as to which one would be the best fit for a particular term? That's what I wanted to understand because we also have to celebrate our differences. Perhaps the minister can speak to some of these issues I'm talking about. We can personally go and speak to the committee, but I just wanted to hear more details. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you. As we have been commenting, they do have to negotiate and discuss the terminology that is in front of them and then choose which term will be approved. They do discuss the different dialects amongst the various regions quite a bit. For instance, although Pond Inlet and Clyde River are close to each other, their dialects are distinctive. They're proud of the differences in their dialects.

They're not trying to come up with a single dialect; they are glad of these dialectal differences and proud of them. However, the work they are doing is defining words that have no Inuktitut equivalent and these require a matching word in Inuktitut. That is their primary focus at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I am very proud that they're doing their work and I am very happy he mentioned that even though Clyde River and Pond Inlet are close to each other, they have different dialects. I told the member while I was there that a lot of the words used in Clyde River are similar to those used in Repulse Bay.

I would like to raise this last question. Are the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* committee members appointed for life or is there a term earmarked for their appointment? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the terminology committee had to be created. Based on what we're envisioning for the future, this committee will continue and I doubt that their workload will diminish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. We are on page F-5. Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,823,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page F-6. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. I will be raising a question about facilities that house artefacts. The budget for culture and heritage administration was increased by \$98,000. I would like to ask what the increase in funding is for and whether or not the removal of the Nunavut Heritage Centre is part of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe she's talking about the Ottawa-based contract that Mr. Rudolph can elaborate upon. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rudolph.

Mr. Rudolph: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an increase for the contract with the museum in Ottawa that holds cultural artefacts for Nunavut.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rudolph. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some time ago, I believe there were discussions with Yellowknife on a contract that was going to be expiring. Has the contract with them been renewed? I'm not sure of the details. Can you give us details on what the situation is with the artefacts in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have an agreement with the Prince of Whales Centre in Yellowknife and I believe it has to be renewed annually. This agreement is nearing its end and we are currently in discussions with the centre and negotiating with them to see whether we wish to extend it or not. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does that agreement end? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The

agreement ends on March 31, 2012. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you expecting that you will come to an agreement? The end of the month is coming up fast and if you don't expect to have an agreement, will you have to look for a different facility to house the artefacts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had an agreement that has lasted for 12 years, going on 13 years, with the Prince of Whales Centre. We are expecting that the agreement will not be extended and that the costs may increase. However, if we are at a point where we don't think we will come to an agreement or if we are told that they cannot house our artefacts, we will have to make preparations to look for a new facility to house our artefacts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your 2012-13 draft business plan indicates that the budget for your department's Archaeology Program will be increased in 2012-13. What new activities will this division be undertaking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds are generally set for the part-time workers who look after that program. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further in your business plan, there are many priorities listed for 2012-13. One of the priorities is to “Implement an e-book/audio book service.” As you are making those preparations to input these stories into the computer, will it also cost money to try to convert them into digital files? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does cost money, but we don’t anticipate additional expenses. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his response. In your 2011-12 business plan, one of the priorities for 2013-14 would be to “Study options for the development of a new Integrated Library System for Nunavut Public Library Services.” Your 2012-13 draft business plan makes no mention of that new system. Is the current library system adequate to meet the needs of Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here in Nunavut, we have ten libraries, with Iqaluit being the eleventh library. There have always been concerns about the library funding; however, the libraries are provided operational funding under this fund. This budget, which was approved now stands at \$492,000 per annum.

These funds are all used up annually, and additionally, they are already earmarked for their use by the libraries, currently we have no plans to develop any new libraries here in Nunavut. That is how it stands at this time under our plans for the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. We are on page F-7. Prior to recognizing any other member for questions, while we are in the Committee of the Whole; at this time, as the chairman, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize a number of individuals with the permission of the members.

Thank you, and as well, Mr. Minister, it is obvious that you will be asked further questions but prior to recognizing any further member wanting to raise questions, if you can bear with me I would really appreciate it if you and your officials can be patient while I take the time to acknowledge some visitors.

I would like to recognize individuals here in the House. It is not very often that we recognize individuals during Committee of the Whole proceedings.

There are 11 community health representatives and home care workers from across Nunavut. They are here in Iqaluit this week to take part in Nunavut Arctic College's community wellness and health promotion course.

>>Applause

From Taloyoak, the home care worker, Christie Akla.

>>Applause

Our visitors this afternoon are the following, and I apologize ahead of time if I don't pronounce your names correctly, and forgive us please.

From Kugaaruk, the community health representative, Mary-Ann Qajaksaaq.

>>Applause

From Arctic Bay, the community health representative here is Sandra Naqitarvik.

From Kugaaruk, the home care worker, Marie Pierre Inutuinnag.

>>Applause

>>Applause

From Clyde River, the community health representative, Iga Sangujaq.

From Kugaaruk, the home care worker, Ledidia Aksaq Down.

>>Applause

>>Applause

From Cambridge Bay, the community health representative, Angsley Klenenburg.

Also joining us today are the course instructors, Hedgemont Taylor. Excuse me, I am mistaken. They are Hedgemont and Taylor, who are from Yellowknife. I apologize if I mispronounced your names.

>>Applause

>>Applause

From Kugluktuk, the home care worker, Sadie Mijuq.

>>Applause

Our visitors today are spending their final day in Iqaluit. Please join me in welcoming our visitors who perform important work in our communities for the benefit of our constituents, taking care of the people who are handicapped, who require a support system. Please welcome to our Gallery and on behalf of the people of Nunavut, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you.

From Rankin Inlet, the community health representative, Yvonne Agga Tautu.

>>Applause

From Taloyoak, the community health representative, Dianne Mannilaq.

>>Applause

>>Applause

From Taloyoak, the home care worker, Mary Rose Tularialik.

We are on page F-6. I thank the minister for his patience, as well as his officials. We will continue with page F-6. Are there any questions? Ms. Ell, I believe you were done with your questions. F-6. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,773,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now turn to the next page. Elders and Youth. F-7. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,168,000. Go ahead, Jeannie Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the visitors to the Gallery. I think that we all noticed that most of them are women and, this being International Women's Day, I am very thankful to them.

I have a question with respect to elders' and youth programming funds. I believe funding for elders is contained within this fund. I believe there is an elders' hotline or an elders' abuse helpline that they can call. There is a number listed. Are there still a lot of elders calling this number? If they do call, what kind of assistance is provided to them? I would like to get an answer to that. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this number is called occasionally, but there is not a whole plethora of calls. We have made that number available, but we do receive one or two calls a month. However, there are also other numbers that they call to get assistance and it's

not necessarily this number that we provide for our elders. So they have other avenues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you conduct any research as to why elders are not calling? There are some elders that are abused by their relatives or their money or belongings are taken from them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do occasionally get calls on that hotline that we make available. This is still a new number they can call. I believe they are still clinging to their cultural beliefs that you should never complain about issues and that may be the reason they are not calling. We haven't dug into any of the reasons as to why they are not calling.

What we have tried to do is make sure that we advertise the number. We haven't really looked into the reasons why people haven't called, but one thing we do know is many Inuit hate to complain, even if they're in a bad situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, based on our traditional values, many of us have been told not to complain especially if it is untrue.

However, if we are going to tell the truth, then we have to carefully delineate it and truthfully state our case. That is what we were advised to do, but if someone will not properly review your complaint, then the complaint seems to just disappear as if it was useless. Are you ensuring proper and clear guidelines here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are trying to consider all of the issues and we're trying to advertise that number so that it can be used by elders.

Within your role as MLAs, you make announcements to your constituency, so perhaps you can include that information when providing public announcements. We have to work together to ensure that all residents are aware of these matters. You yourselves can assist these elders as well as our department by relaying that toll free number to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I thank the minister for responding to my questions. This fall, we were also informed that the pension or retirement age will be raised by the federal government by a couple of years and that is something they are looking at down the road. Is this something that you are working on in trying to represent our elders? I know a lot of us don't always look at particular elders, but it seems like a lot of citizens in Canada assume that Inuit don't live to an old age based on census data. Can

you elaborate a little bit more on that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are aware that the federal government is looking at increasing the age where people can retire by two years, but we have also heard that people who aren't able to get a pension will be able to get it shortly. It is definitely outside of our mandate as this is a federal mandate. What we could do is probably write letters to the department to find out more details, but we really have no ability to make any changes because this is within the mandate of the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): In the NWT, I believe they have a seniors' society. Have you considered establishing a seniors' society in Nunavut that could voice elders' concerns to the government? I'm sure it can provide more support to the elders. Have you ever considered having such a society? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We cannot force anyone or a group to form a society, whether it is in a community or throughout Nunavut. A society status has to be established by a group. Once they create and establish a society, we can try to provide assistance if they request it.

The other aspect is the funding assistance, which has to be applied for by this society.

However, at this time, the government does have an elders committee comprised of elders that we call the *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* Committee. These elders are very important to us in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we under Branch Summary, F-7? We are. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to speak to this particular branch summary, Elders and Youth.

Back home in Kugaaruk, whether it's rain or shine, I have seen home care workers, like Maria Pia Inutuinaq, walking down the street, sometimes going to a home of an elder. Within the household, there are youth. While we are reviewing Elders and Youth, I wanted to acknowledge these home care workers that you recognized in the Gallery of this legislature. At times, in the wintertime, it's blowing snow and it's always there.

I did want to indicate and recognize the hard work these people provide for our people. In this particular forum that we call COW, I don't have the privilege of recognizing that. So I wanted to recognize them in Nunavut and NWT for their dedication and hard work that they provide for the elders who teach us about the wisdom of the past. Also, in their homes, they have youth, our future.

I just wanted to indicate and acknowledge that these people have

provided the services for the people up here, people who, I again indicate, brought us here and our future generations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and his officials for being available while we ask questions. Minister Arreak may recall when the standing committee met; I mentioned that some of our elders are abused in Nunavut.

Additionally, under the government agencies or departments, elders don't have much representation nor are there any strategies for them. Further, no department is willing to accept responsibility for elder's abuse. As we all know, many elders only request assistance when they're at the end of their rope. Even though some of them are very concerned or stressed out, they won't even mention that they have a problem. My colleague, Ms. Ugyuk, kind of alluded to that situation.

We should create a body or an ombudsman to represent elders specifically. Alternatively, all departments could have a strategy to develop a Nunavut-wide elder's representative body. I asked the minister if this could be considered and I recall that he committed to looking into this matter. So I would like to know if this is an initiative that they will move forward with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Ningeongan because he's very concerned in protecting elders. I think that too many elders are taken advantage of and many of us know that. I do recall the comment he made at the last standing committee meeting. We will not abandon the idea of how we can provide more assistance for troubled elders and we're trying to move it forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that, and we expect that he will be pushing this ahead and I want every department to note that.

I do notice, Mr. Chairman, that the government cannot be the only mover of this initiative. People in the communities need to be involved in strategizing to resolve this issue.

It is unfortunate, but all communities experience elderly abuse situations even though that should not be the case. Our elders are being placed in distressful situations, abused and they become fearful of their relatives. We should not be pretending that it does not exist as it does.

I believe this is a very important issue and I believe that not only the government but also the communities and various organizations within the communities have to band together to try to raise some sort of representative agency.

We're hearing too many cases of elder abuse and I'm just commenting on that, Mr. Chairman, because I want to ensure it's on the table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Minister, did you want to respond to that?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can never pretend that this does not occur as it exists and anything that is ignored never gets resolved.

I stated previously that there is a committee that elders can submit their complaints to, and this has led to multiple jurisdictions developing elder policies as a result of their senior citizens experiencing elder abuse, exploitation and targeting.

The issue of elder abuse is something all provinces and territories are dealing with and strategies to lower the numbers. Nunavut is not the only one dealing with this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I want to speak to this issue, in particular relating to elders and youth, men as well as women.

In contemplating this issue, I like the fact that some communities record Inuit oral history from their elders. Further, I think we can all agree it is extremely important to record elder's oral histories in our communities.

Some of our elders are getting quite old and prior to them losing their ability to

recall their history we should be recording their oral histories and providing a copy to the community.

Many elders underwent life challenges which they overcame in their lives, and if we lose our elders who underwent this extreme change from our ancestors' traditional lifestyles when Inuit were nomadic. Once our elders pass away, we will lose our connection to our past.

What I can state here, is that many of us have lost one or both of our parents due to old age. If our younger generations have access to an elder, they ought to be recording this oral history and to archive these stories.

As a personal aside, I once told myself that I would ask my father about information, such as outdoor survival skills or how to survive dangerous situations as I need to learn this information. I was going to ask about these matters.

Women should also be asking their older siblings, mothers or grandmothers about specific skills or experiences. The problem is, before people ask about this information, before you know it, the person has passed on. Now all of the questions you had to either your father or mother is no longer available and that is why I would ask that the elders' stories be recorded for posterity. So, if you have any questions to ask, please record the answers to your questions.

Additionally, I thank the department for providing funding assistance to people in this situation and this department is quite busy processing applications although their budget is only about \$2 million in this appropriation we will be voting on.

Personally, I still consider this fund too small. For example, we talk about Inuit and their need to know their history, their culture, and their language, it seems that more Inuit women are being provided training in sewing as well as relationship resolution, including emotional support. It seems like there are more programs geared towards women. There are women's groups as well, but what about the young men who are no longer in school? What do we do to support them?

A lot of young men have emotional problems, but they have no one to turn to. It seems that we are abandoning them. Perhaps CLEY could develop a program, even if it is a very small funded program, to assist our youth in our communities. If a young man has learned both sides of his culture, he can look after his family and will be able to go harvesting. A man should be able to assist youth even if it is not just about their machine or even if the man is assisting with fuel. Some youth don't know how to hunt anymore.

I was very happy last week, Mr. Chairman, when I attended a sewing group in Rankin Inlet where they were dealing with a lot of sealskins. I was told that the youngest member's boyfriend wanted to go hunting. Once her boyfriend found out that she was really into sealskin, he wanted to go hunting, although he had never gone hunting. (interpretation ends) That touched my heart. (interpretation) When he found out that his girlfriend was interested in sewing, he wanted to start hunting. (interpretation ends) That's encouraging. (interpretation) When you see that kind of change, it opens up the communication between the couples.

Perhaps we should be looking at these types of programs that are geared towards assisting those who we are letting fall between the cracks. You have to work together with both women and men. I'm wondering whether that program is geared towards that type of assistance. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the oral history recording, this work is still ongoing and our expectations are that it will continue functioning. Any recording submitted to our department can be sent anywhere; the recording is copied and sent back to the community. We also make it available to everyone who wants a copy, including our schools and libraries. We have various avenues to try to make those stories available.

Furthermore, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has gone to the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot and held elders' meetings in the fall. We are also planning an elder's meeting for this fall. In the Kitikmeot, we will be holding a general meeting, as well as the Baffin and Kivalliq regions as well. We have made preparations for our meetings.

Indeed, the funding the member stated was not enough is true and we can't fund all requests. We would prefer to have more funding, but these funds are generally used for appropriate means. Since we are dealing with cultural matters, we are preserving our culture and trying to preserve it for future generations.

With respect to a program that would be applied in all communities is not a path we have taken, however, when communities request assistance, then these projects generally are managed at the local level quite successfully.

We try to ensure that we retain some funds to put towards these programs. If an application is made, then the criteria are checked for compatibility and if approved, then the funding would be disbursed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Excellent news to hear that funding is available. The reason why I am commenting is because groups are put together such as training workshops, as written here.

What I want to state is that this is our government and the funding is specific to the residents of Nunavut, and since it is for Nunavummiut, some communities face problems requiring further assistance since communities may go through dangerous situations. Any hunter who is on the land goes through dangerous areas. Anyone hunting can go through risky areas even if you are an experienced hunter.

(interpretation ends) it's a risky job (interpretation) and we have no insurance, no liability insurance, no life insurance, so you hunt at your own risk. Due to risks involved, we have to teach our youth how to hunt and survive, both from ourselves and this government.

I would like to see some kind workshops offered on these skills. The government

employees should not just collect their pay, but provide these workshops and include them in these reports. We should make this a local initiative, especially programs about culture and survival because we have to improve the future of our youth. Can the minister consider that, so that your programs are more available to the community, to try to encourage more youth to deal with their emotional problems, and to provide emotional support, including survival skills?

If it is a group of men being taught, you can train them in both hunting and in emotional support. There was an elder in Rankin Inlet who used to teach survival skills and sometimes he would sit them down and then speak about suicide prevention issues, emotional problems, and not to dwell on these problems. The trainees were very happy to speak about this and they respected that elder. So I would urge you to support more of these programs. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for being concerned about his constituents. I am in support of that. We will try to ensure that initiative is moved forward, specifically relating to survival skills.

We also have funding we make available specifically for on-the-land training exercises. There is also a training program that is being delivered and the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural School will now have courses on that. If a person wants to get trained in particular skills, they can go take those courses and go back to

their home community and teach what they have been taught.

Now, we have heard about the dog team trips lasting for a period of four weeks to ensure that youth are taught how to look after a dog team. There are some programs that have been developed as a result of community requests. Every community has the ability to create a program geared towards very specific challenges, and we are collaborating with various other departments and communities if they so wish to develop these types of programs.

When our employees go to a community, they generally go on the local radio to speak to programs that are available and provide assistance to the groups wishing to apply for funding, but due to the lack of their proposal writing skills, they are unable to. So our employees, when they are in the communities, can provide training and assistance on the proper way to write up a proposal to ensure a successful proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, respecting elders and youth as per the mandate of the CLEY department, elders and youth issues are under the minister's portfolio.

Historically, in our community of Kugaaruk the elders and youth were provided a facility by the Nunavut government that was to be a meeting place.

This was the (interpretation ends) Elders and Youth Centre. (interpretation)

administered by the hamlet of Kugaaruk specifically for the use of the community.

Although this Legislative Assembly is not responsible for the administration of the hamlets, under the block funding agreements, the Department of Community and Government Services provides funding to the hamlets and they manage their buildings. The building set aside for the elders and youth centre was reallocated to another group and I regret that this happened.

I also have youth in my extended family since most of my children are now grown, but my grandchildren are mostly in their youth. The elders who taught me about life in Kugaaruk are all elderly and I must thank them for those lessons.

It's unfortunate that this occurred. When this proposed facility was reallocated, based on my understanding, the elders and youth would have closed the generation gap, but this decision places them apart. There is no longer a place where the elders and youth can get together.

I believe the Nunavut government, at least within each hamlet, should make carefully consider this. There should be a facility in every community specifically for elders and youth. So when that kind of a facility is removed, the opportunity for elders to teach the youth is also taken away. Again, you widen the chasm between the elders and youth.

Mr. Chairman, I have a cap with "GAP" on the front. The meaning of the word is "separation". I certainly hope that these facilities, such as the elders and youth

centre have to be noted for their importance to each community. I want all the communities to recognize the challenges. We are in the middle, at least those of us sitting here in this Legislature, perhaps in my case; I am leaning closer to the elders' category. I'm sorry that I have coined myself as an elder publicly. However, I am a representative of both elders and youth.

Let us go and provide more assistance to the elders and youth as representatives of Nunavut residents. Let's work together with our hamlet representatives and let's try not to widen the gap between the elders and youth. Let's try to close that gap between the generations.

I just wanted to comment on that and I don't have any questions to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Although I didn't hear a question, perhaps you would like to make a comment, Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally understand the member's encouragement to every community to look at closing the gap.

There is funding available specifically for elders and youth facilities. We do provide some operational funding for those types of facilities, but we don't have any funding for construction or fuel and electricity. We do have funding for the operation of the facility, although we can't pay for all the expenses. If there is such a facility in a community that's geared towards elders and youth and they apply for operational funding, we will provide assistance. However, we

don't actually provide the facility and we don't provide funding to purchase a building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague from Rankin Inlet raised a question and I want to continue with that idea. In your business plan, it states that you will be conducting more oral history recordings. Is the contribution funding that has been allocated for this fiscal year specifically for recording? How many communities is it geared towards? Are you looking at continuing this program? Let me first get information on this question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Oral history recording will continue and this will provide a really good foundation as well as a resource for future generations. At this time, although we have recorded a lot of elders in most of our communities, we are returning to some communities where elders have been recorded and we're also recording different elders. Perhaps my Deputy Minister, Mr. Awa, can provide a bit more detail. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment that in the communities, which I believe is the case in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions, we have identified some

positions for the people who will record these stories.

Usually, our employees within the CLEY department can't visit very many communities due to the limited number of employees. What we usually do is to hire a local person on an hourly basis to conduct recordings of the elders usually for a period of a week or two. Just recently, we identified a number of temporary hires who will conduct the recordings of the elders, where we selected individuals and signed off their hourly wage agreements. However, at this time, we have not identified how many communities will be getting coverage via this initiative, but we hope to have that soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Can the minister outline this so I can envision this process? Once the elder is recorded, then what? With this recording, where will it be housed? What is the purpose of the recording and who uses it? Will it be transcribed? Will it be published? What will it be used for, these recordings? Why are they being recorded? Let me understand that first, after the recording of the elder, what happens then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak, can you please provide an outline to Mr. Tapardjuk?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really

give him what he wants, but Mr. Awa can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Awa, could you do that, please.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Let me say first, as it was brought up previously and I recall the statement that people who are intimately knowledgeable of Inuit culture and practices are disappearing at a rapid rate. This is quite true, so prior to too many elders passing away; we wanted to record their oral history and life experiences. This is what we wanted to try to retain, the invaluable history and knowledge of these elders so as not to lose it.

With that as our foundation, one of the primary goals is to record Inuit traditions, culture and their practices so that we will have a documented history of Inuit. The first step is to record the history. A later utilization of these tapes or recordings is possible, as they can be used in the schools for children, as well as elders.

All the recorded information is being documented; they're being written down and they are documented unrevised. They are recorded verbatim on paper. We haven't completed that part yet. Even though they are being documented, we are also recording this information on CDs. With those CDs, we can make many copies at minimal cost and those CDs could be made available to anyone who would like to learn about Inuit history. They would be instantly available.

These are the main purposes for our plans for these recordings, but I don't know whether I have provided a picture

to the member, and if not, I apologize in advance, hopefully he know understands exactly what the purpose of these recordings are, as well as the goals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many reasons obviously for recording these histories. What about...let me say it this way.

Let's say, I wanted to research the traditional names of the months, and I wanted to use the Kitikmeot region since I already know the Foxe Basin wording for the months.

If I wanted to make a comparison, to find out about the Kitikmeot traditional names of the months, since Inuit recognize thirteen months in a calendar year. If I wanted that information, how would I be able to discern the place where this information lies? Would I have to listen to all the Kitikmeot recordings to find this out? Where would I find the month and names of each month? I still don't quite understand this aspect.

How are these tapes indexed? If I wanted to find this out, and went for assistance to your department to find out the traditional Kitikmeot terms and I asked for this information, would your department be able to divulge this information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ask Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>> *Laughter*

Yes, the other matter I referred to was the “living dictionary”. In Inuktitut, it is called “*Uumajut*” and you can reference it and it is available to the public through the website, or by contacting our offices to request the information. The answer could be provided quickly if you wanted to know the term for the month of June.

They can check it on the website, or if you prefer, you can check it out yourself via the website. We also have *Asuilaak*, which is another database to access that type of information. If what you’re looking for is not available, you can call the Kitikmeot Inuit who would know, or alternatively it is up to you to try to get that information.

We have these options to either do some of the research or if you prefer to do that yourself, that is your prerogative to check with Inuit who speak other dialects as to the term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Okay. Why is it then we are trying to approve the appropriations for these recording? The minister’s response did not fit into the appropriations in front of us as I thought that is part of the department’s mandate, to provide services?

I was told that if I really want to know a particular word, I can personally call the Kitikmeot district to find that out. Look!

These funds we are trying to appropriate is for your department to provide these services to our residents. The department wanted these funds to undertake these recordings, but if we approve them and personally want to know, we have to call our Kitikmeot fellow Inuit? These funds you are asking to be appropriated are for these services. Mr. Chairman, I would like your assistance. What is happening here? What is the minister trying to say, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Perhaps the minister can respond to that? Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was trying to say is that each of us has the discretion to either use the formal system or our own efforts. However, we are trying to fund this so that we can work with communities and to have monies for the temporary workers, and further we have funds available for these projects, if local people would like to undertake recording Inuit oral history.

I didn’t literally mean that the member has to research this on his own. It is up to you to use an avenue or source where you can access the information. You can either do it yourself or have somebody else look for you.

Furthermore, we want to hire employees as well as casuals to assist us in doing these tasks as we will make this available to the public. If that didn’t occur, then members would raise questions about why these tasks were not undertaken and why we don’t fund these projects, even though we could have.

If these monies are approved, we would have ongoing programs and enhance the existing programs we have available to the public. Like so, anyone can use any type of avenue to access information that is available out there. We cannot manage other departments or people as we can all initiate our own personal research.

If there's funding available and if these appropriations that we want approved are approved, then we can provide programs that people would like funded, not just those advocated by the members of the Legislative Assembly. Our fellow Inuit and constituents clamour for certain programs. We also state that elders and youth will be our focus and this is part of these assistance efforts towards that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is requesting appropriation for these funds, according to these documents, to record our elders' oral histories.

Why do we have to go that route when providing funding? These funds the government contributes should be answerable to my questions about the exact usage of this fund where it states "the recordings of elders" and that was the basis for my question.

If I want to understand the meaning of the months, could I access the recording to find out? That was my question.

What I was told is that *Asuilaak* and the living dictionary are good sources of data. That information is already there. What I was going to raise is that if I

want to look up the definitions of the Kitikmeot Inuit dialectal terms for the months via these recordings, how could the department assist my research efforts? Would they provide help? That was my question. I was told that I would have to personally check with the Kitikmeot Inuit, so why is the department requesting this funding even though we have expectations of the provision of service towards this end? That was why I wanted an understandable answer, how does the department accomplish this service?

If I wanted to find out about the meaning of the months based on the departmental archival recordings, then how can I look for this specific item? Do I have to listen to every recording in the Kitikmeot region to find out the seasons or months? That would be several recordings probably with these items. Do I have to personally conduct research to find out the meaning of the seasons? Do I have to do my own indexing?

This funding the department is requesting, when I asked for the exact purpose of the funding I didn't get an appropriate response and that is what caused my confusion on this matter, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Member for Amittuq may have overlooked the departmental line to call our offices for assistance on issues. I tried to say that if he calls our offices, then an immediate answer can be provided, that is what I tried to respond with if you called the offices. You can

even call collect or toll-free to our offices. We can check through that avenue.

However, the reason why I responded the way I did which I kept reiterating. Everyone has freedom to pursue their own research efforts; I was not saying that I am urging you to check out the Kitikmeot instead, you can start with calling our offices. This includes a query if you want to listen to any of the recordings. You have that opportunity and ability. We have made them available to the public.

As we stated, the recordings are being transcribed where the recordings can be listened to and transferred to CDs. They are available to anyone, these archival recordings and this has continued to date. We want to record the histories of our aging adults as well as our elders, and we want their histories recorded by our part-time workers in the communities.

We are not saying no, that our office can't assist with these types of requests. What we're saying is that you have to check with our office and based on your discretionary judgement, you can check any other source of information. However, this funding is specifically for part-time workers to record the elders' oral histories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Using this example will help illustrate why I am trying to understand this aspect. I, personally used to work in this field, as an oral history recorder and recorded over 540 hours of elders' histories. I had

to also convert them into English, created a database and transcribed them in Inuktitut with an index. If I wanted to check a particular month of the moon, let's say for the Kitikmeot term, I just need to query the computer database. It is very easy and would take just five minutes to complete. What I was trying to ask was whether or not these recordings are just being stockpiled by your department? That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my previous-*Annuraaqatik*.

>>*Laughter*

I also thank him for having recorded 540 hours of Inuit oral history as he stated. Commendable and it is good to hear that the member did this type of work, as I imagine that information is useful for many people.

Yes, when gathering these recordings, we keep trying to state that they are not just being stockpiled, they are being transcribed with transcribing equipment and with the recordings also available for public use with the right media, and copies are available, at the libraries and the schools should have copies of the more recent recordings. The written copies are made available in the communities via computers.

They are not just being buried and deposited with no access by anybody. We are making that data available for everybody who wants to know this information.

If these important pieces of information were just archived, then the public funding appropriated for this would not be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. We are on page F-7. Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,168,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Now turn to page F-8. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I'm sorry, but I'm on the wrong page. I apologize. F-8. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Sport and Recreation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,751,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going right along. Page F-9. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your main estimates, you have identified \$3,379,000 for the Piquusilirivvik Cultural School. Does that include the satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake? That is my question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. In the same page, a fund of \$300,000 is identified specifically for preserving the best practices of Inuit culture. This is for providing traditional methods of counselling, anything related to Inuit cultural practices such as improving the required skills to be an Inuk, or when couples experience relationship issues, then these funds are for counselling the couple, for repairing their relationship without a court battle but through Inuit traditional methods. Is this money specifically for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds we're requesting aren't specifically for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's not geared towards that, what specifically do you want that funding for? We have to understand the reason for your funding request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding we have requested has a description at the top and it explains what the funding will be used for. It includes our business plan and that is the reason why we

requested that funding for approval.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): My constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach don't have this information in front of them. Can the minister at least make that statement clearly so that everybody can hear? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work hard on behalf of our constituents and we try to make sure that they have all the information using different media. My deputy can elaborate on what this funding is going to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's viewpoint of the \$300,000 item is correct in that it is specifically for communities. The funds are for the community, elder's committees or anyone who, if they want to assist people into becoming more culturally adept as Inuit outside of the court system using traditional conflict resolution. If they want to undertake these Inuit cultural practices or if they want to under traditional methods then this funding would be available if this appropriation was approved. This is specifically for dealing with Inuit conflict resolution outside of the court system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Minister. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. The issue I wanted clarified is now understandable. However, the minister and his deputy seem to be stating opposing views. The minister is saying that it is not for that purpose while the deputy minister seemed to indicate otherwise. Down the road, can they ensure they are singing the same song, and not two songs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I didn't hear a question. Even though I believe it is just a comment. Mr. Minister, if you wish to respond.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is for teaching Inuit cultural skills; however, it is more for processes outside of the court system. I was simply stating that it is for outside the court system and what I tried to differentiate in my response. The details that were identified by my deputy are correct within our fund request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page F-9. (interpretation end) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,726,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let's go back to page F-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Culture,

Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$27,942,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that the review of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any closing remarks? Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues for raising their questions on issues they feel strongly about. It is obvious that culture is a very big factor in Nunavut and we all want to preserve our culture, language, and traditions. It is quite obvious to me that a lot of members are very passionate about this. All of your questions and comments related to how you want to make improvements will not just be thrown away and have been taken note of.

I also thank my Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, Michael, and our other officials for all the hard work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Before we proceed, we will take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:49 and resumed at 15:15*

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Human Resources – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We now have quorum and are now able to proceed. Does the Minister of Human Resources have opening comments? Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Your portfolios were changed. I apologize again. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Please proceed.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before you and your committee today to present the proposed 2012-13 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Chairman, in 2012-13, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated a budget of \$24,120,000. Our main estimates and business plan show a staff complement of 104 person years. This includes 16 Siviliqtiksat intern positions that are assigned to a variety of departments.

Our 2012-13 main estimates and business plan build on our public service accomplishments and progress in

meeting the goals set forth in *Tamapta*. Our department priorities also address commitments made in response to the Auditor General of Canada's 2010 report on human resources capacity in the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the directorate, which provides leadership and corporate services, including finance, information systems, and human resource policy, has been provided 16 percent of the department's 2012-13 budget. The directorate has the lead on the *Tamapta* priority of developing a GN-wide human resources strategy and continues to focus the department on increasing its efforts to recruit, retain, and develop Inuit in our public service. Another key initiative being lead by the directorate is the development of a new *Public Service Act* to reflect the needs of Nunavut.

The Staffing and Recruitment Branch, which provides leadership in recruiting and staffing practices and administers staffing services for Iqaluit, has been provided 29 percent of the department's 2012-13 budget.

Community operations, which, through three offices in Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, oversees staffing services and training and development programs at the regional level, has been provided 13 percent of the 2012-13 budget. Our staffing team is working hard on developing and implementing new measures to make the hiring process more [efficient]. In 2011-12, there were 89 of 118 job competitions filled. This represents a 75 percent success rate for filling positions in the GN. The average time taken to staff a position is 131 days, which represents a six-day reduction from the 137 days referred to in the

OAG report. Our commitment through our standards of service is 85 days, but limited availability of staff housing continues to impact our turnaround time. On average, the wait for staff housing can take up to 45 days and longer. We continue to work with departments to encourage the timely staffing of their vacancies.

The Training and Development Branch, which provides a variety of training and development programs and career development opportunities for GN employees, has been provided 30 percent of the department's 2012-13 budget.

The Employee Relations and Job Evaluation Branch, which provides labour relations advice and support to departments and offers a variety of programs, such as workplace wellness, occupational safety, and employee recognition, has been provided 12 percent of the department's 2012-13 budget. The branch foresees an exciting year, including implementation of a number of initiatives, including harassment-free workplace and conflict management training. We will also be introducing a new Code of Values and Ethics for the public service.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration and I welcome questions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Fred Schell: Yes, I would.

Chairman (interpretation): Do we agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Schell, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is Joe Kunuk, the deputy minister, and to the left is David Kolot. He's the director of corporate services. On the side of there is Richard Paton. He's the ADM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Schell. Welcome to the witness table, (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Kunuk (interpretation) and Mr. Kolot. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Human Resources.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget of \$24,120,000 has remained unchanged from its 2011-12 main estimates.

The standing committee notes that although the department's organizational structure has changed slightly since the introduction of the 2011-12 main estimates, the total number of positions in the department remains stable at 104.0 PYs. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the department has not increased in size. The standing committee applauds the minister for demonstrating restraint in this area given the tendency of other GN departments to increase the number of positions in their organization charts each year, despite their not being able to fill a significant percentage of their existing jobs.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee's report on its review of the 2010 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut was presented to the House on March 2, 2011. The standing committee's report made a number of observations and recommendations concerning such issues as the government's hiring process, centralization of the human resources management function, and the government's Article 23 obligations. The government's response to the standing committee's report was tabled on October 18, 2011. The government tabled a separate status report on September 28, 2011 concerning its action plan to address the report of the Auditor General. The themes and issues that emerged from this review continue to be important.

The standing committee stresses the importance of timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of key departmental documents, including the government's public service annual report and its quarterly Inuit employment reports. The 2009-2010 Public Service Annual Report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until June 7, 2011. As of February 28, 2012, the 2010-11 Public Service Annual Report had not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly, even though the fiscal year ended almost 12 months ago. As of February 28, 2012, the most recent quarterly Inuit employment report to be available on the department's website was for March 2011.

The department's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that two of its priorities in 2012-13 are to "develop an extensive government-wide Human Resources Strategy" and to "Develop a comprehensive and multi-year GN-wide Inuit Employment Plan, in collaboration with all GN departments."

It is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the government. According to the government's own quarterly employment reports, a total of 943 beneficiaries were employed by the GN in March of 2001. By March of 2011, that number had increased to 1,480. This constituted an increase of almost 60 percent over the course of a decade. On average, the government added approximately 53 new Inuit employees each year.

It is important for the government to develop aggressive, realistic, and achievable timetables for achieving full

representation across all occupational categories in the government, which is commonly understood to mean a public service that is composed of 85 percent beneficiary employees. This is a significant challenge. The government's employment statistics from its March 2011 quarterly report, which is the most recent report to be available on the department's website, indicate that there were a total of 3,808 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies. 2,903 of these positions were filled, of which 1,480 were filled by beneficiaries. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 1,755 new beneficiary employees to achieve full representation.

Mr. Chairman, the *Public Service Act* was inherited by Nunavut upon division. The standing committee notes that over the last several years, the department's business plans have repeatedly referred to the need to review the *Public Service Act*. Every business plan produced by the department since the 2003-04 fiscal year has noted this as a priority. The department's proposed 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2012-13 is to "Continue with *Public Service Act* renewal..." The standing committee looks forward to substantive progress being made on this issue and hopes to see the new legislation introduced in the House during the life of this Assembly. The standing committee looks forward to the legislation, including provisions that address the issue of whistle-blower protection for employees who report wrongdoing in the workplace.

The standing committee also encourages the minister to consider the idea of

providing for binding arbitration in the collective bargaining process. The standing committee recognizes that appropriate consultations with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers Association would need to take place regarding this issue.

The 2009-2010 Public Service Annual Report indicated that a total of 64 employees utilized the government's Employee and Family Assistance Program during the fiscal year. Eighty employees utilized the program in 2008-09. The standing committee urges the Department of Human Resources to work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure that employees can access out-of-territory services when required.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the GN's Priority Hiring Policy expired in March of 2010. The policy provides that Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given position have priority over other candidates. The standing committee firmly supports this policy and members look forward to the tabling of a renewed policy.

In addition to this policy, the GN's hiring process provides that current GN employees, as well as Nunavut residents with a minimum of one calendar year residency in the territory, will be considered before applicants from other jurisdictions. Members of the Legislative Assembly have urged the government to consider increasing the residency requirement from one year to five years given the importance of ensuring that only residents who have demonstrated a

genuinely long-term commitment to Nunavut benefit from this provision.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to strongly support the GN's Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 1,500 students, 75 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001. In recognition of the fact that many of Nunavut's smaller communities do not have a significant GN presence, the standing committee continues to urge the minister to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large GN presence.

The standing committee notes that the department's 2006-07 business plan indicated that a draft of a new "Language Incentive Program" had been completed. Although the department's 2010-11 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2011-12 fiscal year would be to "Develop and implement a language incentive policy for the GN," this no longer appears in the department's business plan. Given the importance of complying with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the standing committee encourages the department to make progress on this matter.

The standing committee continues to encourage the department to develop objective tests for evaluating language proficiency within the public service. The standing committee notes that section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Inuit

Language Authority “may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency...”

Mr. Chairman, the impact of the availability and affordability of staff housing on the recruitment and retention of employees has been an ongoing concern. In 2008, the GN announced a rollback of staff housing rents to January 2007 levels. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue and notes that one of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year is to “Conduct an internal review of the Staff Housing Policy.”

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Before I open the floor for general comments, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott a question. On page 3 of his opening comments, just above the last paragraph, he stated, (interpretation ends) “approximately 15,000 students,” (interpretation) but in the paper, it’s just 1,500 students. For the record, did you state that incorrectly? Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Yes, in my opening comments, it’s approximately 1,500 students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I would like to remind you that we’re on page D-4. If you haven’t turned to that page, that’s what we will

be reviewing, but the floor is now open to general comments before we start with the page-by-page review. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to acknowledge the hard work performed by the hon. minister’s office. I would like to speak to a certain particular branch from the hon. minister’s speaking notes. With the particular branch I wanted to speak to, I have a follow-up question and I’ll be brief with this. The Employee Relations and Job Evaluation Branch, as what the minister has stated, I believe there are a variety of programs under this branch and one in particular is workplace wellness and that’s what I would like to speak to and ask questions.

I think we all acknowledge that it has been an exciting year for the office of Human Resources. In his statement, on the last page in the final paragraph, the minister talks about implementation of a number of initiatives, including a harassment-free workplace and conflict management training. This is where I would like to ask.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. minister: have there been any complaints at all since you have taken over the office of Human Resources or even before, if you’ve had information brought forward to you by the office of the former Minister of Human Resources, any complaint at all by any of your employees that there have been, in fact, harassment taking place in this government? If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, what progress have you made to try and eradicate this kind of behaviour in the workplace? If there

is no progress at all, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Ningark for that question. In regard to workplace harassment and conflicts, there have been a total of four formal harassment complaints since April 1, 2011. Three complaints have led to an investigation and the fourth one didn't meet the definition of harassment.

What we have done is we have put a policy in place and we work through a committee with members, including the HR Employee Relations, Planning and Strategic Priorities Division, and with the NEU, developing a revised harassment prevention policy and a directive in addition to a workplace conflict management directive and guidebook explaining the use of it all. All of these new resources and materials created incorporated best practice principles. All of these materials have been approved by the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister for his response. Now, the answer leads to the introduction by the minister about Code of Values and Ethics for the public service. Where are you and where are we in this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. We were reviewing the Code of Values and Ethics and of course, we cannot implement any of that because that's part of the *Public Service Act* and we can't implement any of that until the union negotiations are complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. I don't have any more names on my list for general comments. Directorate. Branch Summary. Human Resources. D-4. \$3,935,000. Do you agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to get further clarification on what percentage level is for the targets under a particular article under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that was mentioned earlier. I don't have those figures here. I just want to know what percentage we're at now and it would be appreciated if that information could be tabled, but for the time being, it could be provided verbally. I'm sure the minister has the information on the number of civil service jobs and how many Inuit work for the government and it would be good to hear that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there are two formulas we're using here, unfortunately, but it's actually at 51 percent now. They're using two different methods. One is to do the actual percentage of the actual jobs that are profiled, which works out to 48 percent. If you actually look at the

jobs that are filled, then it works out to 51 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That is clear enough. When would the Inuit employment report be tabled? Can you elaborate further on when the report for the previous year would be completed? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going to cabinet in March and it will be tabled in the next session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing with the issue of the Inuit Employment Plan, it usually reports on every position and which positions will be the priority, particularly as it pertains to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries.

If there are open positions located in the communities, I wonder if it wouldn't be better to have a local hire preference policy. Some local applicants are ignored all too often whenever there is an open position. When Inuit applicants are not qualified, non-local applicants are hired instead. Can this be made flexible to enable more local hiring? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member there. We have re-profiled some of the jobs there to make sure that we put it to the minimum requirements so that more Inuit can apply for these positions. Like I say, we do have the Priority Hiring Policy, which is, first, we look at the beneficiaries and, if they meet the criteria there, then they are the first ones to be interviewed. That is our target because we want to increase Inuit employment in the GN. Of course, if there's any possibility of any direct appointments, they are basically done to beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I understand his response, but maybe the minister can clarify the issue further. He stated that they put in minimum requirements for some jobs so that more Inuit can apply. Why is there a need to reduce requirements just for Inuit? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the first thing we do look for is beneficiaries. Of course, if we have someone locally in the community who qualifies, we look at that because it would save us in moving, etcetera. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'm going to speak in English. When the minister indicated that they would lower the

qualifications and everything else, probably as well as the job descriptions to a bare minimum, in my opinion, my understanding is so that Inuit can qualify. I don't think we need to lower the standards so low that only then will Inuit apply. That inference, in my language, is one I object to.

Could you be a little bit more, at least, respectful to our culture, those of us who are trained in old fashioned Inuit ways, that in some cases, we may be more qualified than someone who hasn't lived up here? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not what I meant. What I meant is some of the jobs had such a high qualification that wasn't required for that job, so it has been the bare minimum that is needed for that job. For some of the applications, you pretty well had to be a doctor in order to apply and it didn't mean whether Inuit or anybody else was applying. We just re-profiled it to make it suitable for that job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I was actually quoting you because I heard you say, "so that beneficiaries and Inuit can qualify." I'm glad you clarified that. That is really quite important.

I have another question. How do the bilingual bonuses for local communities actually work? What are the criteria for

qualifying for a bilingual bonus? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let the deputy minister answer that one. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Deputy Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently the process that we follow in determining who qualifies for the bilingual bonus allowance is the employing department's deputy minister writes a letter to me recommending that the employee receive the bilingual bonus allowance, at which time we review the information and if it's approved, the department then needs to identify that Inuktitut is a requirement in the job description, including skills and abilities in the job description that is written. So the deputies of each department will write to my office and recommend approval and if it's approved, the employee starts receiving their allowance. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Kunuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So do I understand correctly then that not all positions qualify for a bilingual bonus provision? Am I correct in that?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Even if, for instance, I get a job in the public service as a bilingual individual, I would not necessarily get a bilingual bonus allowance. Would that be correct?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct if it wasn't part of the job description. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Would it be possible to review that policy? I think it is being used as a confusing policy, that you call it a bilingual bonus provision, but I don't think it's a bilingual initiative whatsoever in my opinion. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are reviewing it at the present time with CLEY. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Is the bilingual policy, if any, working within HR? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let the deputy minister answer that one.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Deputy Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently, as the Department of Human Resources, we administer the bilingual bonus allowance. Like our minister just said, we are reviewing it and it's one of our priorities for the upcoming year. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Kunuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. What I'm trying to get at is if we believe that we should have a bilingual public service, I don't think the bilingual bonus provisions have nothing whatsoever to do with it. I think the government, at least HR, should be leading in the development of a bilingual public service in Nunavut at all levels of government, whether it would be directors, managers, or senior managers. Why isn't HR taking leadership in promoting a bilingual Inuktitut and English public service within our government? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why we are and that's why we're reviewing it with CLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I don't know why CLEY would have anything to do with that provision. What I'm trying to get at is even the deputy ministers, in my view, should be bilingual. It is all part of the ability to communicate with Nunavutmiut and I think bilingualism is exactly that with Inuktitut and English. Why not accept and promote policies that a bilingual public service is important and essential, not only with the translation services area but throughout the whole public service? Would you not agree? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why we're promoting Inuit employment in the GN and hopefully by 2020, we will have 85 percent Inuit employment. I do agree with his analysis there and that's why we're reviewing the policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With respect to those who qualify for the bonus part of the provision, who actually determines that the position qualifies for a bonus allowance within that job? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's done by all the departments when they do their job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I understand that. I think all the departments do that, but at what level is it signed off that the bilingual requirement is not needed, let alone just trying to decide whether it should be a bilingual position? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's signed off by the DM of the department and the DM of HR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. When studying positions whether they should eventually become bilingual in all aspects, at what level and whatnot, is there also a higher level discussion with respect to senior managers and the fact that they should eventually be bilingual or is it completely stopped at lower level clerical positions and some essential services within the public service? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not yet and that's another thing that we're working with CLEY on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister indicating to the committee that the bilingual policy is being studied. Could you give the committee at least

some understanding of when that could or will be done? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully by September of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My last question is: which departments do you know, if you do, require most of the bilingual positions in the public service? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I would have thought that Education as well would probably require bilingual services. That's why I asked the question which department. I don't think it's a single department in my view. Would that be correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're right. Education is the next one. I was just looking at the amount of employees. That's why I said

Health, but definitely Education is also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the people of Pond Inlet. Good afternoon. I want to speak about this, Mr. Chairman, on the same page where it talks about the bilingual language bonuses for employees.

This past winter, we reviewed this as a committee where we heard that it would be dealt with and I take pride in this initiative. Furthermore, the department, CLEY, I keep forgetting the Inuktitut name for the department, *Illiqqusilirijikkut*, anyway we heard they were being consulted. This is laudable to hear that the department is being consulted and involved in this process.

Mr. Minister, if I could urge you further, in my opinion it would be much better while you are researching this issue if you were able to consult with all of the departments?

We have future expectations of our government that every position is bilingual and we want employees to speak Inuktitut eventually. I strongly urge the minister to consult every department during this review so that when it is completed, then it will not need future revisions later on.

And, now I have expectations that we can see the report, as we heard it may be complete and ready for review possibly by this fall.

The question I wanted to ask, Mr. Minister, currently is it clear, hold on. Based on reports in March 2011, at that time there were 1,480 Inuit worked for the government, full-time. In comparison with today, has this number changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For March, which is the latest that we have, we have a total of 3,808 positions and 1,480 hired beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I don't think I heard the numbers. Can he repeat them, please? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Could you repeat the numbers, please, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 3,808 positions and of that, 1,480 are beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): In March 2011, it states that there were 1,480 beneficiary employees. So the number hasn't change at all for 2012? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quoting you from March 31, 2011. The new one is going to cabinet in March and it will be coming out in the next session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. If I could raise a question on the same page and Mr. Chairman, you may correct me if I raise a question that is not relevant to this page. I had read this before and now that I'm in a hurry, I probably won't find it.

The legislation or policy related to employees being able make complaints about their workplace, I believe, was going to be included. If an employee sees anyone breaking the rules or not following the legislation to the effect, there would be whistle-blower legislation to protect an employee. If it was under D-4 and I could ask that question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to get a response as to whether that would apply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you're on the right page. It is going to be part of the *Public Service Act* and it will be reviewed in June of this year. Of course, we can't comment on anything on the *Public Service Act* or make any changes here until the negotiations are complete with the union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. I have no more names

on my list. We're on page D-4.
\$3,935,000. Directorate. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Page D-5. Recruiting and Staffing.
\$6,949,000. Do you agree? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I don't want to just bring
up a trivial matter, but I was wondering
how the minister would respond to this
question if I were to raise it. When we
talk about every position that is created
by the Nunavut government, you have to
open them up for competition, right?
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I'll let the deputy minister
answer that one. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Deputy Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. These positions that are
advertised in various media, such as
newspapers and radio announcements
are for the public. The positions that are
not advertised via the media are usually
interim transfer assignments where
existing staff members move
temporarily. Additionally, when we get
direct appointments requests by various
departments, we also appoint an
employee directly through this process.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy
Kunuk. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I don't like to just seem
as if I am unhappy with the system while
asking questions, however I want to
understand and have it answered for the
benefit of my fellow Nunavummiut and
that's why I raise these issues from time
to time. I am not necessarily against the
government's processes.

Now, when there is a direct appointment
requirement for a department why do
they need a direct appointment? What
causes these positions to require a direct
appointment procedure? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I'll let the deputy minister
answer that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Deputy Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. A variety of reasons are
used for these requests for direct
assignment. If the position has been
vacant for too long, or if the position
extremely important or if you need an
employee immediately then this
becomes a priority.

Sometimes, as the minister stated earlier,
some positions are vacant for 131 days
for different reasons. Positions are
placed into the priority file and the
position is then filled with these
processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy
Kunuk. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that very understandable response. Up to today, if you have the figures or information handy, how many positions have been assigned or filled through an interim transfer assignment and how many are held by Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the fiscal year 2011-12, there were 14 approved, 11 were beneficiaries and 3 were non-beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. This question I want to ask next is one that I don't know whether it's true or not, but I think that I'm not the only one who has heard about this issue. Sometimes we have heard that a lot of positions, such as when a non-beneficiary employee gets a position from outside of Nunavut such as from the south, all of a sudden, it seems the rest of his relatives can come up and obtain jobs, especially when they're holding higher level positions. I hope this isn't true, especially when it was stated that sometimes these positions are vacant for a long time and have to be filled. I would like to hear from the department that this does not occur in these types of situations, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not the case. We do use the Priority Hiring Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. I have no more names on my list. We're on page D-5. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I want to ask a short question. As your department is considering a bilingual policy, does this include preparations for the *Public Service Act* upon agreement or is this a separate bilingual policy for the public service of the Nunavut government that we would approve? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we deal with the NEU on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Now, does that mean we can state to those Nunavutmiut who are bilingual both in Inuktitut and English that this particular department does not have a bilingual policy applicable to them to date? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Yes, there is a bilingual bonus policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I understand that (interpretation ends) it's a bonus policy. It's not an Inuktitut-speaking job required. It may be bilingual, but it is not a Nunavut-wide policy. It is probably applied throughout Nunavut, but you cannot convince us, I don't believe, that it is a bilingual policy for Nunavut. It only is an essential kind of service. Whether we have a bilingual policy, I hope that provision will always continue to exist. That's what I'm trying to get at. I think the priority of the government should be that we clearly establish a policy at all levels of positions of the public service. You indicated that it will be addressed through the *Public Service Act*. Am I right? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Yes, we have to review it first, and then we have to go to the union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. We are on page D-5. Recruiting and Staffing. \$6,949,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Community Operations. D-6. \$3,111,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Training and

Development. D-7. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7 million. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can raise a question on page D-7, Mr. Chairman, it's enjoyable to hear about the various mining companies and exploration companies that are trying to develop mines and minerals in Nunavut. A lot of people wonder whether they will be able to get a job with these mines. In particular, a lot of youth are expecting that there may be job creation possibilities since we're so short of jobs here.

When we look at the possible mines, a lot of them require higher qualified positions, such as drivers, electricians, and it also calls for what I consider less difficult jobs, such as a cook. However, a cook would probably say that you need more education than a driver to be a cook. So with these positions that may be opening up in this sector, does the Department of Human Resources look at the kinds of impacts it may have on the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Well, all of these programs that he is talking about are with ED&T and Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Perhaps I wasn't very clear, Mr. Chairman. What I was trying to say is isn't there any kind of number that shows whether or not... I imagine there's a central database for

all employees. Does every department have their own database about their employees? If there happened to be a central database about every Government of Nunavut position, I was trying to ask: looking at the employment figures, has it become clear as to whether or not your department has lost employees due to other jobs being created, let's say, in the mining sector? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the Bureau of Statistics and that's with the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. We are on Training and Development. \$7,279,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. D-8. Employee Relations and Job Evaluation. \$2,846,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go back to page D-3. Detail of Expenditures. Department Summary. Human Resources. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$24,120,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Schell, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the committee with all their good questions. I also want to thank the officials for doing all the hard work and getting ready for this Committee of the Whole. Hopefully we will see you next time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. It is obvious that once you have been in this portfolio for several months that you will have learnt the workings of the department so members will want to hear reports from your department. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out as they are blocking the next review plus they are done. Thank you.

My mistake. Thank you.

We will now begin our review of the Department of Environment. Does the Minister of Environment, Mr. Arreak, have opening comments?

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Please proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2012-13 is \$22,353,000. This represents a \$75,000 increase from the 2011-12 fiscal year. The increase is required to keep pace with an increase in fur prices and the volume of furs sold through the Fur Pricing Program. Prices for long fur species (fox, wolf, wolverine, and polar bear) have increased steadily over the past three years and are currently at record high levels. This program, which supports Nunavut's traditional economy, exists as a service to hunters and trappers by facilitating the shipping and marketing of their harvested furs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment works with various organizations and by partnering with these organizations whenever possible, we have continually been successful in maximizing the impacts of our funds. In the 2011-12 fiscal year, we obtained over \$1.9 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in leveraging funds again in 2012-13.

In order to maximize the benefits of our funding to Nunavummiut, the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Tamapta*. They also uphold specific obligations and areas of responsibilities under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that relate to the management of natural resources.

Wildlife harvesting is of critical economic and cultural importance to Nunavummiut and the stewardship and maintenance of healthy wildlife populations are two of our most important responsibilities. We continue to work with partners, including hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife organizations, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, to ensure sustainable management.

One project of particular note is the ongoing Baffin Bay polar bear study, which employs biopsy darting, a method that gathers the necessary data but does not require that bears be drugged or handled. This follows on the heels of developing a new aerial survey technique that was used in 2011 to assess the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. These non-invasive research techniques were developed and implemented in direct response to concerns raised by Nunavummiut about wildlife handling.

Other projects that will take place in the coming year include a caribou survey of all of Baffin Island, disease monitoring of caribou and muskoxen in several parts of Nunavut, and a report on the availability of wildlife for local consumption.

Protecting the environment and mitigating possible adverse impacts of development continue to be key areas of focus. Through proactive pollution prevention initiatives and inspection and enforcement activities under the *Environmental Protection Act*, we will continue to minimize environmental impacts.

This coming year, several major development initiatives, including the Baffinland iron project and the Areva Kiggavik uranium project, will be undergoing review by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The Department of Environment will be participating in these reviews to ensure that all possible impacts are identified. The number of exploration and development projects requiring review has increased substantially in recent years and we are currently reviewing the human and financial resources dedicated to this activity.

For the past several years, the Department of Environment has been working to help Nunavummiut adjust to the potential impacts caused by climate change. We have been working with our partners to develop community-specific adaptation plans and this year, we will coordinate implementation of *Upagiaqtavut*, Nunavut's strategic direction for climate change adaptation.

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, we will advance our development plans for potential parks in the non-decentralized communities of Kugaaruk and Clyde River and continue with feasibility studies for possible parks in Sanikiluaq, Arviat, and Axel Heiberg. In addition, we will look at the potential of having the Back River nominated as a candidate for Canadian Heritage River status.

To ensure residents and visitors have the best possible experience while in Nunavut, we will continue to upgrade facilities at all of our existing parks and campgrounds and will complete promotional work for territorial parks and Canadian Heritage Rivers through

the development of brochures, websites, maps, and displays.

We will also continue to work with the fur industry and value-added producers to develop markets and actively represent Nunavut's interests. In 2012-13, we plan to initiate inshore fisheries projects in all regions and conduct assessments to determine the need for fish processing and handling regulations for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2012-13 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and provide real benefits to Nunavummiut.

Thank you and I will be pleased to take any questions you may have.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Arreak, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, and to my right is Niki Nweze, Director of Corporate Services of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I welcome your officials. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Proceed, please.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget of \$22,353,000 has increased by approximately 0.3 percent since the introduction of the department's 2011-12 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 124.5. This is the same number of PYs as in its 2011-12 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

The department's proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one

of its previous priorities. It indicates that "The Elders Advisory Committee has been engaged and provided input into all major DOE initiatives." The standing committee supports the department's continuing efforts to integrate Inuit societal values into its programs and look forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Members note that on February 11, 2011, the Government of Canada announced that it had taken formal action at the World Trade Organization against the European Union's ban on trade in Canadian seal products. The news release indicated that the federal government would request the establishment of a World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel on this issue. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that the World Trade Organization has not yet reviewed this issue and that the department has provided funding to assist with the legal costs associated with this issue. Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. Although Wildlife Transitional Regulations were published in Part II of the June 2005 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, a comprehensive set of new regulations has not yet been approved. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has held a number of hearings since 2003 on proposed new regulations under the Act. The department's proposed 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2012-13 is to "Complete implementation of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations." The standing committee encourages the

department and its partners to work on resolving any issues that have delayed finalizing the regulations and looks forward to the *Wildlife Act* regulations being approved.

Mr. Chairman, on December 19 of 2011, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release titled "Narwhal Tusk Trade Restriction Partially Lifted." The release indicated that the "Department of Fisheries and Oceans partially lifted international trade restrictions on narwhal tusks this week." It also indicated that "Inuit in Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit can now resume international trade in narwhal tusks and are no longer going to be economically penalized by DFO's former data." On February 15 of 2012, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release titled "NTI to Participate in DFO's Narwhal Consultations." The release indicated that "NTI will participate in community consultations with officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in order to gain feedback on a draft Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for narwhal, and to discuss the total allowable harvest levels for narwhal." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The standing committee notes the announcement in October 2009 regarding the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Greenland and the federal government on the Baffin Bay polar bear population. The department's 2011-14 business plan indicated that "The joint committee expects to finalize an action plan by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Pilot studies including a feasibility assessment of aerial surveys are expected to be reported on in winter

2010-2011. A new recommended harvest level should be available by early 2012-2013." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2011-14 business plan also indicated that "One full scale and two pilot aerial surveys were conducted in 2010. Preliminary results from aerial surveys in the Foxe Basin indicate the method will work for that population. Aerial surveys are planned in 2011-2012 for the Western Hudson and Baffin Bay populations. Research and development of alternative less invasive research methods is ongoing." Members are encouraged to see that the department is incorporating concerns from elders and hunters to use less invasive methods for wildlife research in Nunavut and look forward to the minister providing the results of the aerial surveys in the western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay polar bear populations with members at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that the territorial polar bear management plan "has been initiated and it is anticipated to be finalized and in place by 2013. Community consultations to be conducted in spring 2012." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Section 177 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. On June 8 of 2010, the minister tabled the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 annual reports in

the Legislative Assembly. The department's 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to "Build the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund as a permanent source of funding for promoting awareness and wise use of wildlife and habitat through initiatives such as education, research and conservation." It indicated that the "Terms of reference have been drafted." The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2009-2010 and 2010-11 annual reports under this section of the Act.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities concerning caribou management. It indicates that the department "Completed all community and stakeholder consultations. It is anticipated the" Caribou Management Strategy "and implementation plan will be completed prior to the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year." Members look forward to the completion of the Caribou Management Strategy and encourage the minister to table it in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that "Work continued on each of these initiatives. Under the Nunavut Fisheries Science and Research Agenda, DOE continued to implement research programs of offshore and inshore projects. Detailed multi-year branding and marketing strategies were developed for the Nunavut Fisheries and Nunavut Seal and Long Fur sectors." On January 19, 2011, the minister issued a news release titled "Minister Shewchuk

promotes Nunavut products in China." The minister announced that "China demonstrated a significant level of interest in both Nunavut's fur and fish products which could potentially develop into real opportunities for the fishing and sealing industries." The standing committee was pleased to note that the minister and his officials are promoting Nunavut's seal and fish products internationally and looks forward to ongoing updates on this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that the department is "Supporting major multi-year Arctic char research project with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) aimed at increasing commercial supply in all regions. Also working with fish plants to support commercial fishing trails in new communities/areas." The standing committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and activities under its Fisheries Diversification Program, Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy Program, and Fisheries Training Consortium Program and looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Members note that on October 31 of 2011, the minister delivered a statement in the House detailing the 2011 Commercial Fishery Results. The minister indicated that "Nunavut holds more than 9,350 tonnes of turbot quotas in these adjacent waters, which will be fully harvested in 2011, providing income and jobs for Nunavutmiut." He also indicated that the new research

vessel conducted “research in Cumberland Sound and areas near Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.” The standing committee was pleased to note the department’s efforts to support a sustainable fisheries industry in Nunavut and looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities, which was to “Develop a Spill Level II Course (Environmental Investigations for Enforcement Officers) for Nunavut.” It indicates that “With the recent staffing of the Enforcement and Compliance Manager this priority is expected to be complete in 2012.” The department’s proposed 2012-15 business plan also indicates that the department will “Develop Used Oil and Waste Fuel Management Regulations.” The standing committee is pleased to note that the department is working on enforcement and compliance issues and looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

The standing committee also notes that the Department of Environment is working with the Department of Community and Government Services on an inventory of all sewage and waste management facilities in Nunavut and looks forward to the completion of the Waste Management Strategy.

The standing committee notes previous issues relating to the water use inspection licences prepared by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in all Nunavut communities. These water use inspection reports clearly illustrated Nunavut’s lack of adequate sewage and waste management facilities.

The standing committee notes that the department’s budget for grants and contributions for harvester support programs has remained largely unchanged for a number of years. Members encourage the minister to review the adequacy of these funding levels.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments on the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we go to the page-by-page review starting on page I-4, the floor is open for general comments. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want a bit more information on the minister’s opening comments. On page 2, in the last paragraph, it speaks about planned population studies. It talks about a particular study that’s planned for the Baffin Bay polar bear population. Could I get some more information on why this is different? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is the first of its kind. The reason why it’s different is because for the study of the Baffin Bay polar bear population, they will utilize biopsy darting, which excises a little piece of their skin and blubber that can then be used for sampling the DNA. That is why it’s different from the other population

studies that have been conducted in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. If you go to the next page, there are other activities related to population studies. Mr. Chairman, I apologize because I'm reading them directly from the English version and I'm translating them in my own mind.

It talks about other projects that will take place in the coming year, which includes a caribou population survey of all of Baffin Island. Just for our information, animals do walk and they can go very far, and Baffin Island is a very large area to be studied. How are they going to be conducting this caribou population survey on Baffin Island? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard many times about caribou moving away from a lot of communities in Baffin Island to different areas. There will be an aerial survey on the caribou population. Due to the immense size of Baffin Island, it will take more than one year to complete such a study. I believe the population study will be initiated this month, starting shortly in South Baffin. We will have a separate population study for North Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask another question so that I'll be clear on it. Baffin Island is a very large and immense island. For instance, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq could be looked after with one portion of the survey, and then they could do another survey from Cape Dorset up to Pangnirtung. During the summer, will the survey on Baffin Island be separated in that manner? With these two separated, are there plans to meet in the middle? Is that how you plan to conduct it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is indeed the way we have planned it. From the time they start, it will take a year to complete the aerial survey on Baffin Island caribou. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Anything else, Mr. Enook? Please proceed.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's going to be completed next year and I believe the minister mentioned that it would start this month, does it mean that the survey will continue all throughout the year, from the spring, summer, fall to winter? If he could elaborate on whom they will be conducting the survey with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned that the first aerial survey would be

initiated in March. This issue has been discussed with all community HTOs. When we conduct the aerial survey, we will also have representatives from the HTOs. It will not be our department, but biologists will be on the aircraft. I don't know if it will occur throughout the winter and I doubt that it would last the entire year. What I do know is it will start this month. I know for a fact that they would not conduct this survey throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the minister because I understood that he meant a year-long survey. If I put words in his mouth, I apologize.

I have a question on the same page in his opening comments, the third page in the English version. An issue that Mr. Ningark and I spoke about yesterday related to global warming and its impacts. It says here that the Department of Environment has made adaptation plans. When we were speaking about this issue, all of Nunavut heard the minister's response that we all have to try to be aware of the changes that are taking place in our environment.

The people most involved in this particular adaptation, who we call wildlife officers in our dialect, I'm not sure what they call them. I believe they call them conservation officers now. The minister stated they would be one of the resources that could be used for climate change. Have the conservation officers undertaken training on the different types of changes that they have to be

observant of? Have they already received training to be able to discern the impacts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This training takes place over a couple of years and a lot of the things they are required to know they learn from the Environmental Technology Program. As well, every year, the conservation officers in the regions get together and they include further training on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to turn to page 4, the last page in the English version. Mr. Chairman, based on the response I receive, I believe this will be my last question. I just don't want to state that this is my last question because another question may pop up once I get a response. This may be my last question.

It states here that the department plans to "initiate inshore fisheries projects in all regions and conduct assessments to determine the need for fish processing..." Mr. Chairman, I don't think this is really a question but more of a request for information for my own understanding as to what is meant by this statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeeagok, elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Deputy Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to fish, if the fish will be sold commercially, the lake has to have had prior research, and we try to provide funding for conducting research on lakes in order to expand the number of lakes that can be coined as commercial. This will be our focus, to work with the communities to increase the number of commercial lakes. Our fish are in demand outside of Nunavut, and due to our marketing as well as our management techniques, the demand is increasing. We have to work together in order to grow this fishery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy. (interpretation) I believe his answer piqued your interest as it seems obvious that you have another question. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am smiling since I remember earlier when you also kept saying it was your last question.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I had worded my question properly, I wouldn't have had to raise another question.

With respect to fishery studies, it talks about regional initiatives. Does it state,

for example, here in the Baffin region, how many lakes will be surveyed, this many in Kivalliq as well as this many in Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get requests for fish surveys, we try to comply with these requests, wherever they may be. Additionally, another member referred to a ship. That ship will be conducting surveys throughout the marine areas of Nunavut, and at this time, it has completed a survey on several marine areas as it started the survey last year. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure whether I missed it or misunderstood the response. The deputy minister inferred that the lakes will be surveyed with our fish being in great demand. Additionally, that ship is an actual ship. I am kind of confused, since we seemed to be talking about two different subjects. I just want clarification on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was using the English definition of fish in my mind and just heard fisheries as opposed to Char. Yes, it is done the way it was stated, when we get a request to conduct commercial fishery surveys for Char in

the lakes, or if a community wishes to increase their commercial fishing quota in an identified lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. This is for my own clarification. It is written here and I unfortunately can't find the Inuktitut version, but in the English version, it states that they are planning to initiate a study. Does this mean that it may not proceed if they don't receive a request from communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this population study will continue. If the funding we're trying to obtain is approved by the House, then it will proceed. There will be several studies undertaken once the funding is approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Are there any more general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In early winter, the news media had several stories about caribou, and concerns were expressed about the population decrease, at least the suspicion was that it is decreasing. Further, I believe it is now noticeable that it has decreased.

The hunters and trappers association initiated a plan to limit the harvest to ensure that they conserve the caribou. It's not really stated in this document, but caribou are a concern in Coral Harbour in particular. The department has to reconsider their position, at least according to the chairman of the HTO. I happened to speak to him over the phone. If indeed this will occur, can they make plans for an early spring population study, if it is possible, since the HTO is looking at limiting the harvest?

We have to know exactly the status of our caribou of Southampton Island. Since it is an island, this causes the biologists to be even more worried. The chairman of the HTO wanted the status changed to "special concern" for our caribou. Although he did not ask specifically for this, perhaps it is too late but I wonder if a population study could be undertaken. We have found that whenever a population study is undertaken, even when it is not an aerial survey, these ground surveys are not as expensive. I wonder whether this matter can be reconsidered by his department to conduct studies in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was indeed becoming a concern, with the caribou of Southampton Island. Actually, it has started to become a concern to date, and we all know the history when the caribou population crashed, and it showed that the caribou on Southampton Island can crash. Previously, 80 percent of the cows used

to bear calves. Now the birthrate has changed and the number of cows that can bear calves has dropped to 40 percent.

This is part of the reason, as well as what was thought to be an over-harvesting of caribou, so it started to become a real concern, and at one point it was really worrisome. The HTO held a meeting with the departmental officials yesterday in Coral Harbour and once we have our officials' report on the decisions, then we will know what the HTO requested to manage their caribou population. Additionally, we are cooperating with the Coral Harbour HTO as they want to deal with this issue and they will also be meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik wildlife officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I would like to remind you that we're on general comments at this time. I will allow you to ask your question on page I-5 at the appropriate time. I don't want to keep going back and forth and I would suggest that we stay with the general comments and then ask detailed questions during the page-by-page review. I would like to remind you once again that we are now on general comments and it seems like we're starting to ask questions that should be asked when we get to the appropriate page. However, I'll give you the floor, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes indeed, that was why I brought this matter up, since there was nothing mentioned in his opening comments and due to the fact that this issue is not included in the document. That was my reason. As per the

minister's response, yesterday's meeting between the HTO and DOE was expected to result in a decision regarding the caribou of Southampton Island and the agreed to plan to manage the caribou. That is our expectation, and although I am not being fearful of the chairman's admonition, I will stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just a general comment on the minister's opening comments. As the minister stated, they are partnering, in English (interpretation ends) community-specific adaptation plan. (interpretation) The minister commented, Mr. Chairman, and additionally, it is mentioned in the *Upagiaqtavut* document. Further, I believe that it impacts all federal, territorial, and local government mandates for the Nunavut territory.

Further, it states that Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are included in the study. In English, it states "Monitoring Station." It speaks about permafrost and whether the permafrost is melting due to the changing climate I'm happy if that was true, and thankful that Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk were included in this study and that they're part of the partnership if included. I wonder how many stations are in Nunavut for this project, which in English is called: (interpretation ends) Nunavut Permafrost Monitoring Network. (interpretation) I believe that there may be several more, but I am just commenting on this matter.

Also, within his opening comments, it also talks about Kugaaruk's potential park. I wonder if this includes the current situation as I believe access to the potential Kugaaruk Territorial Park is impossible. The mineral exploration companies have the license for that land and that may be the barrier. I'll just hold my questions for now on that. If he wants to respond, the minister is always free to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Further, Minister Arreak, I will give you an opportunity to respond, however we have been stuck on general comments for quite some time and I think that in order to ensure a smooth review we should move to the page-by-page review. I will provide you with an opportunity. No matter, I will set it aside for now and ask that the member direct his question when we reach page I-5. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): The minister isn't looking currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, I have a few general comments related to funding within the Department of Environment when he first started reading his opening comments. Yes, they are identified and I want an effective outcome from the funding that is appropriated and approved by this Legislature. I would like to see the department fulfill their program objectives, especially where it relates to the fur purchasing program, both short fur and long fur, I believe the term now used is *Turrujut*.

Many communities are no longer taking advantage of this fur purchase program, so I want to see further efforts or development to encourage more Inuit to

harvest furbearers and I would like them to consider that. In the past, the program was used by a lot of hunters, since the price was quite high and it helped people to increase their income. Some people were able to purchase snowmobiles through the long fur program without being a full-time hunter and have transportation in the community.

I want to see more promotion of trapping to our younger generation. Some people are taking advantage of this, but not all communities are taking advantage of this program. This shows some revenue can be obtained and would allow some Inuit to remain off the welfare list, so I would want to see more promotion by DOE for this program and would support that. I'm trying to limit my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I want to comment while on general comments, which I will keep short.

I keep hearing about the wildlife matters, especially related to polar bear studies, however, we are also privy to announcements about future planned studies in such and such a management area.

With respect to these announced studies, we ought to also receive the results of these studies from the minister responsible, especially when the department is being reviewed in committee.

As an example, last year's polar bear studies should at least be reported as a draft, since the members can at least

have an idea of how the study panned out, including the status of the population, whether it is incomplete or if inadequate, at least the department could present them to the members to outline their plans for the future, and not just make a statement about another planned study to announce to the members. To analogize, last year the department conducted population studies last year on several species, including some caribou herds. What were the results of these studies?

We need to have (interpretation ends) that information. (interpretation) Especially for polar bears, at least I would say that in relation to the Kivalliq region, and I will have questions later on about this issue. The other aspect is historical. Last week I heard on the news about the Coral Harbour concerns about their caribou population declining drastically, and that the hunters were over-harvesting caribou to sell to other Inuit elsewhere. We have to carefully delineate these accusations. The department sponsored a commercial harvest for the last ten years, with the harvests sometimes exceeding 8000 caribou, with some harvests passing that level, and this was just for that commercial harvesting.

We started to have expectations of change, based on our observations that the wildlife division was not cognizant of the effects of the commercial harvest impacting the caribou population. In my opinion, this commercial harvest was a bigger factor in decreasing the population, not just the subsistence harvests. We know this subsistence hunts were part of the issue, but the commercial harvests were purely for southern markets and it ran for quite a

number of years. I doubt that the small number of caribou sold by the Inuit contributed to this decline.

Another mitigating factor is the diseases suffered by the caribou, such as brucellosis. What we have to also keep in mind is the size of Southampton Island, which is fairly small, although compared to Baffin Island, which I consider to be small compared to the mainland which is a huge swath of tundra. I believe Southampton Island is approximately 1000 square miles in size. (interpretation ends) or less.

(interpretation) The caribou herd original to the island disappeared in 1953, and this fact is obvious. Inuit did not cause the herd to disappear, however in those days, the dog teams had to be fed but huskies can eat almost any type of food 365 days a year. In those days, the dogs consumed more meat than the Inuit. In that generation, dog teams were iconic and hunters fed them caribou meat since there was no wildlife management system or any government presence which caused the caribou to disappear. In this day and age, I don't think we should just blame Inuit harvesters because government policies can exacerbate the problem. The commercial harvest initiated by the government led to many hunters from the community working for this commercial harvest with numbers close to ten thousand per annum when it was first started as an economic development activity.

Additionally, the same applies to our polar bear studies. The members require this information to make proper decisions. I know, for a fact, since I grew up in Coral Harbour and (interpretation ends) I consider it my

home. (interpretation) I live in Rankin Inlet today, and not in Coral Harbour. Back then, Inuit harvested more polar bears without the advent of the quota system as there were numerous polar bears everywhere. The population has increased to this day. These are my opening comments. The research approved and conducted in the past, should include tabled result reports on the population studies, including all of the commercial harvest data from the past ten years. If we have that information, then we would note that Inuit are not the only party to blame when we are dealing with wildlife issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We are on Corporate Management. I-4. \$4,277,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, let me understand first. Are we on page I-4? Mr. Chairman, if I could raise a few questions on this page because I would like a bit more clarification. First of all, when it talks about jobs and training, I imagine it refers to current employees, so my question could be in this category. I don't wish to give a long preamble, but let me at least provide a bit of a background so that the minister can give me a response without misunderstanding where I am coming from.

I wonder if the majority of the communities have just the one conservation officer, whom we used to term wildlife officers. Pond Inlet has one conservation officer and I believe every community is in that same status. This becomes a big problem when the conservation officer, who is the sole

conservation officer in the community, has to leave because they have to go for more training in another community or if somebody in another community is sick and they have to substitute for that position. The office completely shuts down.

The hunters who really depend on the conservation officer basically have a shut door and cannot be assisted while the officer is away. It may be that you never heard of it. Have you ever thought about trying to make improvements so that there are people available? Let me ask that question first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have heard about this issue previously and we have heard it on a number of occasions. I can't recall whether it was during a prior committee review, when this matter was brought up as a question. It was expressed as a continuing concern by the members and it is a priority of the department to resolve this.

Additionally, with respect to this, several communities, I believe that we have two communities where courses are being taught. Three communities, actually I believe, where we are trying to offer these courses to alleviate these shortfalls in the number of employees. Whenever a community has not had an officer for a protracted period, then we look at an interim transfer of an officer to that community to provide services, usually from a community close by. Our main obstacle is the lack of funding to offer salaries to officers, since many

communities do not have two officers employed. I can't recall the other question the member posed, but this challenge is continually being reviewed to try to resolve this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that response, and if I understood the response properly, the department notes these concerns from the communities, that it is concern, that it is a problem, that they are aware of this challenge. How is it then, with the department fully aware of this concern and problem and understanding the factors causing this, how is the department resolving this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we don't see a continuing problem created by this matter; however we are apprised of local concerns whenever a community has not had an officer to provide services. In communities that are clamouring for an officer when an officer hasn't been hired, then we send an officer from another community to serve that community temporarily. In those cases, where we don't have that luxury, we can appoint a local person to undertake certain duties within that community. When we hire a temporary local person to provide this service, this is usually to cover the period where the department is trying to hire an officer. Some of them have continued to serve

even after the officer is hired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his reply. The communities with conservation officers or renewable resource officers, in my opinion, suffer a serious problem and to hear the minister claim there doesn't seem to be any major problems conflicts with my observation. That is not what I hear from my community. All I hear is that it is a chronic problem. I wonder who the minister hears from. It is a serious problem for people who need documents approved.

My involvement is to try to help find a solution, so I'm now curious as to how it has been addressed in the past. When a conservation officer goes out of town for brief periods or extended periods, claiming that they can assign a temporary replacement, who is able to fill that need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for relaying more of those concerns and the problems they face in his community. When there is a pressing need for conservation officers, we are able to send one of our officers into that community. We will sometimes appoint a temporary officer who is paid hourly to fill in while the officer is away. We generally look for someone who can do all the paperwork. So whoever can do all

of that paperwork is someone we hire.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. If they're going to appoint temporary conservation officers, does the temporary officer need to have all the training required of the position or are you basically getting someone who can do the paperwork? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The temporary conservation officer does not fulfill all the duties of the conservation officer. They're basically dealing with paperwork and selling or buying sealskins. They are basically doing the mundane type of activities that a conservation officer undertakes. So anybody who can undertake those duties can be appointed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I would like my constituents and fellow residents to fully understand, therefore, when a temporary officer was sent to our community, if our conservation officer is required to be out of town for sometime or for a long period. If a replacement officer is sent to our community, does the department have a list handy for that community whereby people can act in that capacity if the officer is going to be

away? Here I mean names from the local community who can act in that capacity, even if they have another position elsewhere? Does the department have a list of names for every community who can fill in temporarily? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, they only perform part of the duties of a conservation officer. They don't carry out the full duties of the incumbent. Every time we need to search for a temporary officer, we advertise it through the local radio as well as consulting with the HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to ask is: since there can be temporary conservation officers in the communities, do we already have those individuals living in the communities who can assume part of the duties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, if we need to find a temporary conservation officer, we go on the local radio station to advertise and we consult with the local HTO. We did that in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and found a temporary officer who happened to be the chair of the local HTO.

We don't have people in the communities readily available to take on the duties of a conservation officer. If there is no conservation officer in the community, we send one in from another community to help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I wanted to become a temporary conservation officer in Pond Inlet, what qualifications should I have? If you went through our local radio station looking for a temporary conservation officer, what qualifications should I have? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're looking for a temporary conservation officer, we inform them of what qualifications are required. They should hold an FAC if the officer is required to use a rifle. The job description is also advertised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. As I understand it, if I have an FAC, I would qualify. That's good.

The second question I want to raise is: am I correct in saying that there is more than one conservation officer in any given community in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't say that an FAC is the only qualification we require. We identify the types of duties that are involved. It's not just an FAC.

Yes, there are some communities that have more than one conservation officer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I believe Pond Inlet is one of the largest communities on Baffin Island, perhaps even in Nunavut. There are about 1,600 living in the community. I know for a fact that there's another community in the Baffin region that has 10 less people than Pond Inlet with two conservation officers while Pond Inlet has never been able to get more than one conservation officer.

What qualifies a community to be eligible for two conservation officers as opposed to one? What is the reasoning for having two conservation officers in any community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, if Pond Inlet has a population over 1,600 people, additionally it is also a regional decentralized office for DOE regional staff. If they are required to assist the community, they should be able to provide assistance. I imagine the

member will respond that this office has no connection to the services provided by a conservation officer.

An hon. Member (interpretation): Indubitably, I will ask that.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): I expect that question from the member. When a community qualifies for more than one conservation officer, they review all of the needs of the community including the criteria. It is also tied to the different species that require wildlife permits and paperwork. Even when a community has over 1,600 people, this is not the deciding factor as various criteria involving wildlife matters are all considered in this determination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As he is unwilling to direct himself, I will instead provide him some direction. The staff of DOE that the minister referred to, have absolutely no connection to the local people of Pond Inlet. If the staff members have any connection to the community, and can provide assistance occasionally to our community, does that mean that since the regional office is situated in Pond Inlet, that our community will never be able to get a second conservation officer ever? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, they would qualify once certain criteria

are met. Therefore, I cannot say that it will never happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two communities where there's a difference of only 10 or 20 and their population numbers and the number of harvested animals are roughly the same. What is the defining factor or the difference that allows one community to have two officers and only one officer in another? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the workload demands that there be two conservation officers. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What does "workload" mean if two communities have exactly the same population? For clarity, what does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our conservation officers don't just deal with wildlife issues, but they also deal with environmental issues. Based on the workload in the community, we decide if there will be more than one officer.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Who determines that Pond Inlet should get another conservation officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once Department of Environment staff is aware of the need to do so, they make that decision. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, do I understand then that even if the HTO requested for a second officer and as long as the Department of Environment does not agree with them, they will never get one just because the department has the final say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work closely with local HTOs. Once they have made a request, we review those requests to determine if they need additional conservation officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. We're on page I-4 of the departmental appropriation. Mr.

Enook, do you have a question?

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just this one item, I want to provide direction to the larger communities currently stuck with one conservation officer, which causes hardship and difficulties to a community in that situation. This applies equally to the smaller communities, obviously.

I want to urge strongly, if I am able to do so, that the minister and his department, if they haven't already provided this information to the community HTOs, that they provide the rules and guidelines outlining the criteria to fulfill the need for a second conservation officer or when they have the right to request this second position. At the very least, they should provide this information to all communities. I shall stop there, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please be advised that you are out of time. I'll understand if we need to get back to you. I don't mind you asking only if it's on that page. Just remember why we're here today. We are here to review the main estimates for the Department of Environment for 2012-13 and the details are listed in the business plan. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I just wanted to ask a brief question in regard to staff development and training. First of all, I believe the Environmental Technology Program is very good. I would like to hear from the minister if they will continue to provide funding to Arctic College to deliver that program and how many years the Environmental Technology Program is. Can the minister please provide me with more

information so that I can ask additional questions? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't have an opportunity to respond to Mr. Enook. We take his comments well and we will be able to review this issue along with the HTO.

In regard to Mr. Curley's question, our department provides funding to Nunavut Arctic College to deliver the Environmental Technology Program and it's a three-year program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That is what I wanted to hear. Also, is the Environmental Technology Program a diploma or degree program? Do you have any information as to how many students are taking the first, second, and third years of the program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a diploma program, as currently offered. As I stated earlier, Nunavut Arctic College is responsible for that program, so we don't have the numbers you are seeking at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, it would be better if you had access to this information, as other departments are privy to this information and your department, I believe, provides funding for this program. Please pass this along to your staff. When you do get this information, perhaps you could report to the members since these students, many of whom are younger people, enjoy the courses and how they are working towards protecting their homelands and this is particularly poignant for these students. So, we would want a full report on this program and hence, in the future, we want this information as to how many students are in this program and how many of these students are on the verge of passing the program. These numbers are important for members to hear, and in particular, elected officials like to hear about successful students in their constituencies who are taking the Environmental Technology Program. And further, will these students be able to fill these positions after they have graduated this program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would be able to provide that information, even if it necessarily doesn't stem from my department, but from the minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College perhaps, when we reach the Minister's Statements during our Orders of the Day. Yes, these courses are ones that we provide funding for, and when we require outside agency assistance, we also collaborate with them. Yes, when student complete this Environmental Technology program in it's entirety, then they are fully capable

of filling the position of a conservation officer in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I believe you provide funding to Nunavut Arctic College. How much funding do you provide annually? Nunavut Arctic College is provided funding annually through other sources. Do you provide funding and how much do you provide them with to support this program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just informed that we don't provide them with funding. This program is run by Nunavut Arctic College and while they're taking that program, Nunavut Arctic College is responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand that. In spite of that, the Department of Health and Social Services provides funding for the Nursing Program and also for their accommodations, and so on.

I would like to know how many students are taking the Environmental Technology Program. My earlier question was quite clear. Can the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College provide a brief answer? Many of our constituents in the communities are

taking that program. I would like to hear from the minister responsible. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Shewchuk, the member would like to hear from you.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer that question. The environment program that is offered through Arctic College is offered in two locations: one is in Iqaluit and the second location is in Pond Inlet. It is a great success. I am very proud of what is taking place with that program. There are 22 students in the Iqaluit program and 12 in Pond Inlet, and over 90 percent of those students are beneficiary students. All I hear is good praise and very good things about the classes that are going on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Curley, do you have any more questions?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): This is my last question on this topic, Mr. Chairman. For the graduating students, is it possible for the minister to identify where the students come from? Can they discuss which of them will announce the students graduating from this program? Elected members like to hear about constituents, who succeed and additionally MLA's like to announce their successes, and it is clear that members also have children in school, who have to work really hard to pass the courses. I thank the minister for Nunavut Arctic College, as this program is thoroughly enjoyed by our youth, and they always seem ecstatic about learning, although I suspect that is not

always the case. However, students work extremely hard to pass the courses and I wanted to let both ministers to know since we are proud of their accomplishments and with the possibility of employment after graduation in the future. Thank you, that is all, this is primarily a statement and if the minister could agree, members would like to hear about these students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As ministers, we have the opportunity to make statements in the House about various matters; however, I can't speak on behalf of my honourable colleague, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. He indicated that he has agreed that he would be able to make that announcement. (interpretation ends) Right? Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. We're on page I-4. Minister Shewchuk, did you want to say something?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to Mr. Curley's question on where the students are from and that we should let all of Nunavut know where these students are from, I can provide that information. I do know that they're from right across the whole territory that are involved, except for the program in Pond Inlet, which are basically Pond Inlet students and very successful too.

I would just like to say that the program in Pond Inlet would not have been

possible unless it was for private industry taking partnership in that and several other partners too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, when the Hon. Shewchuk was the Minister of Environment, his department came up with a document which we now call *Upagiaqtavut*. This document deals with climate change impact and adaptation in Nunavut. This document, I think, has four components to it.

Understanding that global warming is eminent and it's happening now, we need partnerships at every level of government, federal, territorial, and the people of Nunavut. We also need every scientist that we can have working for us.

The components I spoke about are, one, partnership building objective, two, research and monitoring. This is where our partners in Nunavut communities come in like Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. Objective No. 3 is education and research. A very important component, to my knowledge and to the knowledge of Mr. Curley, which he has been stressing all along, is the government policy and planning. This is a very important component of what we have in order to deal with global warming in Nunavut. And finally, again Mr. Curley has stated a number of times, is report to the House and subsequently to the public of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are part of this government document in partnership.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, last week, I directed a question to the Minister of Environment. Perhaps now that he has his officials with him, he can respond to my question about the permafrost monitoring stations that include Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay. I believe they're called Nunavut permafrost monitoring stations in English.

I believe there is a network established in Nunavut and I am thankful that the stations were based in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. Does your department have any further information on this network? Is there any information on the changes to the climate? I ask because they have other research projects.

I might be mistaken and that these are simply just monitoring stations collecting data. There is other research done specifically for seismic monitoring primarily in the southern latitudes. Do these stations have any benefit? Here I ask about the permafrost monitoring stations or perhaps your department is not party to this information. Based on what we have been told, there are monitoring stations in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk.

I believe it is on I-4, planning and preparation for the future and integration, where communities and governments work together, coordination. As an example, you have to have a clear plan to work towards meeting the future challenges. What kind of benefit do these stations provide or are these stations checked from time to

time? Apparently there is one in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We're on page I-4. Corporate Management. Environment. Members should stick to the pages we are reviewing. Some of the questions are completely off topic, but I do recognize that people require information. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for reminding us. With respect to the monitoring stations the member referenced that I was unable to respond to yesterday is still being looked into and I cannot respond as of yet. This is because they are not part of our research projects and I am unsure as to which government or department is responsible for them. We could always speculate as research is undertaken by few departments. We can look into that as to who authorized the permafrost monitoring stations that the member wants to hear about. At this time, I still cannot respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his eventual future answer on this issue.

Climate change is something we have to prepare for and try to adapt to, as per the statement contained in I-4. It speaks to planning. We need to have a climate change adaptation plan that provides direction to our communities. The different levels of government need to

collaborate on these issues to prepare for climate change, including integrating community, government, and Inuit responses, and coordinating it to develop a strategy. What has the government undertaken with respect to strategic planning, as per I-4? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeeagok, to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Deputy Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We developed the strategy called *Upagiaqtavut* in June. With respect to our plan of action related to climate change, it's hard to plan out for the long term, but at least it's a strategy to initiate planning. That is why it is written in that manner, especially since there are many research projects.

Researchers are required to present their findings in their projects if they will be conducted near or within a community. Even if the research project was not under the auspices of the GN, they are included in the computer database which is available to the global community. However, research requests and research reports have to be sent to the communities as to their findings.

Only through partnership with various research bodies can we ensure that we do not all research the same issues. Nonetheless, if we are aware that this body is going to be researching this aspect of climate change, it allows us to

concentrate on the areas not being researched. That is how we have tried to alleviate miscommunication and to ensure proper cooperation in this field. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Akeeagok. (interpretation) At this time, we will take a 30-minute break and we will be back at 6:30 p.m.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:00 and resumed at 18:34*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for returning. We will try to complete the Department of Environment. We are on page I-4. \$4,277,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page I-5. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though we may be off on a tangent, we thank you for acknowledging us.

I will try to stick to the details in I-5. If I'm correct, the legislation is included in the summary. Indeed, it seems they are included. If you have a copy handy, on page 147 of the Department of Environment's business plan, I have a question on one of the priorities.

Mr. Chairman, it states here that one of the priorities for 2012-13 is to "Complete implementation of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations." My question is, Mr. Chairman: when will the *Wildlife Act* and regulations be implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be implemented during this current year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said this year. Can he narrow that down to a certain time, such as the spring, fall, summer, or winter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): We still need to consult with several bodies and get agreement from the other parties we are dealing with on this issue, particularly NWMB and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. At this time, we have not totally agreed on the details. We will work on closing the gap once the discussions have been completed. I cannot narrow it down any further by putting a date on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further, on page 148 of the same plan, one of the priorities listed for 2009-2010 talks about continuing the polar bear co-management agreements in Canada. It states that the cause for delays in finalizing this initiative is a lack of response from the other jurisdictions, particularly Quebec and Newfoundland. Can the minister provide an update on

what the status of this priority is today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working with Quebec, Newfoundland, and Manitoba and we're still in negotiations with them in regard to the Act and regulations. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister state what the problem is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These regions are all separate, all with different agreements applicable to their areas. As an example, in Quebec, for the lands on the provincial jurisdiction under their JBNQ land claims. Further, the provincial government has different legislation governing their jurisdiction, that is why we have to include them in our negotiations and we were able to come to an agreement on these matters. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I move on to another item, I would like to ask another question on this issue. The minister said that they are at an impasse, although

discussions are ongoing. Do we have any expectations as to whether this process will move ahead with actual results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're continuing with the negotiations and we have some agreements. It's progressing. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question on a different topic. On October 29, there was an agreement that was signed between the federal government, the Nunavut government, and the Greenland government.

Under 2011-14, it indicates that "The joint committee expects to finalize an action plan by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Pilot studies including a feasibility assessment of aerial surveys are expected to be reported on in winter 2010-2011." Were those aerial surveys completed? Additionally, is the department in a position to produce the results of these past studies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeegok, respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) Deputy Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. This agreement stems from the Greenlandic and Canadian governments. This agreement was agreed to in this year, to conduct aerial surveys in Baffin Bay, as well as further north on Ellesmere Island, even though it is my old island I can't remember the proper name. Kane Basin is the other area where they want to conduct these aerial surveys. Both the Canadian and Greenlandic governments have been impacted by the polar bear ban on exporting skins or products. Once the survey has been completed, the results will allow both governments to develop a position. Further, they will continue to cooperate on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll ask this question. Have the aerial surveys that were to happen been completed and, if so, what results do you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Yes, the Baffin Bay survey is one I believe the member is asking about, with respect to the aerial survey and DNA sampling program. The survey was planned to continue for a period of three years, which was initiated last year, will continue this year and for the third year.

At this time, it is still ongoing and hasn't been completed yet. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a question about the nations who live across the Atlantic, with respect to the sealskin issue. On February 7, 2011, the Nunavut government released a press release outlining their concerns about the position of the federal government with respect to the WTO, the World Trade Organization pertaining to the European Union anticipated sealskin and whale products ban fomented by the animal rights activists. This press release outlined their support for the industry and of individuals as well as various organizations that depended on these animals and products, highlighted their rights to subsistence, the fact that these were renewable resources that could sustainably be harvested. This is part of what makes Nunavut unique, particularly our cultural attachment to seals, sealskin preparation and it forms a major part of many Inuit lives.

I would like to know the status today with the federal government's application to the WTO, as I imagine you are collaborating with the federal government on this issue respecting the EU sealskin ban. What is the current status of this application? Perhaps the minister can provide a quick update, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This process

continues and is still in the system. We continue to work with our federal counterparts on this issue, and further, we are provided with a quarterly report on how this process is unwinding. There is also the pamphlet I released a while ago that is trying to garner more support for this initiative. I imagine most of the members have already read it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your ministerial colleagues stated that the European Union isn't concerned about the selling or marketing of liquor here which was banned via a motion by this House, as all EU liquor products were banned in Nunavut. What are your thoughts on the ban as you seemingly stated that their position has not changed? The ban continued, so what are your thoughts on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't say that it was at a standstill. What I did state, was that this process is ongoing and is still underway. The sealskin issue is something we continue to fight for, via correspondence with our federal government as well as with other organizations to fight this ban. This is still underway, we are collecting reports on the progress, and it is slowly progressing as the matter is still being worked out. Yes, with respect to the motion that the member referred to, that banned wine and other liquor products from the EU to Nunavut is still in effect.

It has had an impact, and shows our efforts to fight this sealskin ban symbolically that currently is in place to ban all sealskins to the EU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On January 19 of last year, the GN issued a news release concerning the GN's effort to promote seal products in China. Is the minister able to let us know what the department has done to date on how it has increased the promotion of seal products in China? What types of initiatives has your department introduced in China to promote Nunavut's sealing industry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can speak to this summarily, and if I don't finish, my deputy can provide the rest of the details. Yes, with respect to the seal promotion, it involves sealskin, seal meat that we can try to sell to China, which they are currently sampling and we are in the midst of negotiations to come to an agreement to sell these products. Yes, we can market sealskins to the Chinese, and furthermore, I believe that they are the largest purchasers of sealskins at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): On page 155 of your 2012-15 business plan, one of your priorities for 2011-12 is to "Review the

Fur Price Program and seal marketing programs and initiatives." After your department has conducted this review, what types of programs are you contemplating? This I believe will change based on this review, at least to try to introduce a better system for pricing furs. Does this apply only to sealskin and long fur sales? This strategy you are currently using, will this assist our future attempts to sell furs? And further, you have asked for a marketing brand to be added to the pelts to identify the origin from Nunavut and there have been several brands discussed for various types of seal products? Can the minister provide an update on exactly what is entailed in this strategy? Further, will you be tabling this strategy in the House down the road? When will this strategy be available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the review process is slowly reaching completion, once our review has been completed, and then we will provide this strategy to this House. Indeed, the prices for long furs are high, these long fur prices are quite high, however, with respect to sealskins, the prices have plummeted and when sold, the batches are quite small with an average price of about \$22 per pelt.

Whereas when our government buys these pelts, we pay \$50 per pelt on average. Even though this is costing money, we will not contemplate stopping this program. Additionally, once we get the sealskins tanned from the south, we repatriate them and offer

them for resale in the communities. Once the skins are tanned and dyed. This is a program that is well used here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What can we expect, in terms of changes based on this review you have undertaken under your mandate related to sealskins or the sales thereof? What about the long fur program that is part of that review? What can we look forward to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Yes, we are trying to look forward to renewed marketing efforts to improve sales of sealskins. This marketing strategy is nearly complete, where we are looking at ways to improve sales of furs and that is what we are trying to expect, and expect upon the completion of this program review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, to turn to Greenland, what type of initiatives has their government undertaken and has your department ever tried to research their efforts to combat this ban? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have undertaken research trips to Greenland, but they are also experiencing slow sales of their sealskins, with low demand. The market for sealskins has also collapsed in their jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Do you have any more questions, Ms. Ell?

Ms. Ell (interpretation): I have no more.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let me look at my list here. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question I want to ask, relates to the page 151, actually it starts at page 150 of your business plan, under Environmental Protection.

My question that I wish to raise, relates to the proposed budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and up to 2015.

For the proposed budget for 2011-12, the dust control budget is \$563,000 and based on my review of these figures, it remains the same all the way to the fiscal year 2015. Not just this line item, but the budget amounts for environmental protection remain the same, even though these are very important to us, the budgets proposed don't increase and that is the purpose of my question. I want to know why these figures have not changed, that is my question. This is a very important value to Inuit, protecting our environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pollution control is something very important, obviously, to our department. It is increasingly important worldwide as well.

Department of Environment employees do have consultations with the federal government and the \$563,000 annual budget allocated by the Nunavut government for expenditures is the result of our partnership with the federal government. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, are you saying that the operation of the environmental protection division is the only area not increasing in costs? Is that why, since if the business plan outlines these figures, that the line items within this budget, although they are all different figures, when they are placed in the annual budgets, such as climate change which lists \$140,000 as the annual amount. Is this due to having a light workload or is this because the division hardly does any work during the year that the planned budget is unchanged?

This is related to my first question regarding the pollution control budget which lists a budget of \$563,000, which when it is already expended and no progress is made, the budget remains the same, so did the department consider that no progress would be made since the budgets are static? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget items the member is referring to aren't the only amounts within our planned budget. The budget line items we are reviewing are not static; everything is increasing in costs, so there is built-in inflationary cost index. At this current time, we are requesting the funding for this fiscal year, and in the next year we will also be asking for more appropriation funding. However, these figures are set for a three year period, based on how we envision it panning out. These are only estimates of how much is required to operate, that have been listed in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was two years ago that I asked the same question and it's in regard to the regional wildlife organizations. There has been no change in the numbers for several years now and they do have to keep up with the cost of living and everything else. I had asked the same question a couple of years ago and I would like to urge your department to reconsider the amounts that are allotted for regional wildlife organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding

the member is speaking to, is specifically for core funding of these organizations. Additionally, when they request further funding, we can usually provide supplemental funding. Our government is not the only funding body for these regional wildlife organizations. This includes Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board for the Baffin region, and in the Kivalliq, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board that are provided core funding. They also access other funds from other sources, not just from our government since it is a joint effort to fund those organizations. We have not heard of any funding shortfalls at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been the same amount for I don't know how many years now, even though they want to expand some of their activities. Perhaps, we can get that information either via correspondence or otherwise, since you stated that the RWOs can request supplemental funding, that they can access more funding, you can provide this information. I will take this information home with me. That is all for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I think that these two are exactly the same, that we will review on page L-4 and I-5. I initially thought the questions would apply to I-5, but I will direct my questions to this page, as they seem to be interchangeable.

First of all, with respect to the comments made by my colleague from Nanulik regarding the HTOs in the communities, we have to acknowledge our partnership since they are undertaking a lot of activities related to issues not just in Nunavut but from other jurisdictions. This is especially true to species requiring permits and scientists looking for permission to conduct research.

We have to appreciate these bodies, and in some cases, these organizations are constantly busy especially during certain times in the communities in dealing with wildlife concerns. They are extremely busy and sometimes require emergency meetings to deal with the issues. Some Inuit volunteer to provide services, since they are quite familiar with these species, so I wanted to thank the HTO is Rankin Inlet.

The reason why I wanted to comment was with respect to the country foods, as the community hunt program is commendable for which I wanted to thank the minister. This program is utilized in Rankin Inlet and is carefully managed, especially with respect to caribou. The harvested caribou are butchered and the meat is carved up into pieces like the traditional manner of cutting pieces for boiling and they are put into boxes for the elders and delivered to those in need.

Although the freezer used is quite old, during the winter, it does not require power and it remains cold. The elders are well looked after through this program and I wanted to express our appreciation of this exceptional program and in particular, the manager. Although he is not making a large salary, Norman Ford, the brother of Levinia Brown, who

used to be a MLA here, manages this program and he is conducting an excellent program and looking after the board's needs. I would like to thank them very much for all the help that they provide in our community, and members can send an email, which will be answered. I wanted to say "thank you" to the organization.

Mr. Minister, I have a few questions. Just a few years ago, perhaps within the last four years or five, the HTO as well as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board accepted the conclusions of a female scientist who insinuated that the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population was in deep decline. With that type of scare-mongering, which was quite compelling reasoning at the time, she stated that due to this decline that the population may disappear. They used this argument to slash the polar bear quota of the communities, starting with Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Arviat.

The quota used to be quite high, for example, Rankin Inlet had a quota of about twenty polar bears per annum and it was slashed to four tags. This caused consternation and a huge problem for these three communities, Mr. Chairman. This was a hurried decision, since Inuit kept maintaining that it was untrue. In hindsight, their assertion was true, in that the polar bear population was not in decline. As a matter of fact, they pose a huge danger, especially for Inuit who want to camp in the summer. People can no longer camp due to the dangers posed by the polar bears in the Kivalliq region. It is far too dangerous nowadays. We have 24-hour a day polar bear monitors stationed at the beluga whaling camp when they are in their tents on the land.

In 2011, the previous minister stated that there was going to be a population study and it looked good and positive at that time. In 2011, the study in western Hudson Bay was completed. Can the minister provide a brief update on the survey results for the polar bear population study that I was referring to? Is this population in decline? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're asking questions on page I-5. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the organization that you mentioned in Rankin Inlet. We're very proud of our hunters and trappers organizations in the communities. We work closely with them and they also work with other entities.

The polar bear population was counted and the Department of Environment has realized that there is an increase in the population. There are some organizations out there that say there's a decline in the polar bear population. They do that because they're not going to get funding from Green Peace. If they say that there's a threat or danger in the population, they can't expect any money from those organizations.

The previous minister agreed and increased the quota for polar bears. I thank the previous Minister of Environment for the decision to increase the quota. We know that there's an increase in the polar bear population in western Hudson Bay, which is in the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we didn't mention Chesterfield Inlet because they hunt polar bears from Foxe Basin. Rankin Inlet is with the Foxe Basin and part of it is western Hudson Bay. With the increase in the quota, I don't think it's a temporary quota; I think it's a permanent quota. Could the minister give us the results of the study that was conducted in western Hudson Bay?

I believe it was in 2007 or 2008 when the statements were made that there was depletion in the polar bear population. We have that information with us as elected members. Could the minister tell us if he could table the results of the survey that was conducted? I would also like to know where he stands on the recommendations that were made. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Akeegok. I'm sorry. Minister Arreak. My sincere apologies, (interpretation ends) Deputy Akeegok. (interpretation) Please go ahead, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you. I think it has been a long day, my *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Chairman.

We can table the results of the western Hudson Bay study and make it available to the general public. We can table those results. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to that document being tabled and I'm sure that

this issue will be brought up repeatedly. It's something that hasn't been resolved yet. There's no depletion in the population size. I would like to urge the government to be more vocal and make rebuttals to the wildlife activists because the government tends to listen to the statements that they make.

Time magazine and the World Wildlife Fund have made statements on their plan to make changes so that polar bears are not killed anymore, irrespective of an increase in their population in Nunavut. That is their primary goal. What response do you give to the World Wildlife Fund given that they come here and do fundraising to save the cuddly polar bear? Can you talk about that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy make a supplementary response to that question. We are currently planning, particularly in the western Hudson Bay, to conduct community visits by our staff. My deputy can elaborate on the World Wildlife Fund and others, if you can let Mr. Akeegok speak to it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) Deputy Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an excellent question. We try and promote our views on the polar bear in Nunavut on a regular basis. Over the past year, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has made preparations to hold a major conference in March 2014 on

the global trade of polar bear products. We're taking that as a vehicle to put together a publication that explains the history of Nunavut in partnership with ITK, NTI, and NWMB. It will promote how well we are managing wildlife.

The recent study of the western Hudson Bay and Foxe Basin polar bears is being made public and Inuit in the Kivalliq are expected to benefit greatly from the findings of the study. Those findings help us to make counter arguments against fear mongers. We also take your input in the House on the polar bear issue and discussions at the ministerial level so that we can make a multi-level case on that to the world out there and to show that no one else can manage wildlife better than we can.

It's often impossible to approach animal rights groups, many of whom are very well funded and simply will not listen to any opinion different from theirs. Often, they will turn our arguments against us. Our relations with the World Wildlife Fund have evolved to the point where we can have a productive exchange of ideas. They have come around to accept our interest and need for hunting and we can actually come to agreement, although not on every point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Akeeagok. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I am very pleased to hear that. I would like to offer my support to the minister. Animal rights groups from around the world get invited to talk about the plight of the polar bear. I am now convinced that you should always bring a representative from one of the

communities, either from the regional wildlife organizations or the hunters and trappers organizations or that type of organization.

In *Maclean's* magazine, I didn't believe the article that was brought out. It stated that we harvested polar bears because of the high cost of the fur and stuff like that. They stated that the polar bear skin used to be \$3,000, but it's now \$12,000. If a Qallunaaq reads it, they believe that article right away and they believe that we're going to be harvesting more polar bears because of the high cost of the fur.

We have a quota system in Nunavut and we're not going to over-harvest polar bears. In Northern Quebec, they don't have a quota system, but still, it's managed and they use the traditional method of management. That's why there's no depletion in the polar bear population.

Again, I support you, Mr. Minister, and if you're going to be making presentations or if you're going to be on a panel, I would urge you to bring a person who knows about wildlife at the community level. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something we can consider. Of course, not every polar bear skin is \$12,500. The average is about \$5,000 and they're not all \$12,500. Polar bears that are harvested in Nunavut have a tag and we can't sell the ones that don't have tags. We also make sure that we tell the world that polar bears are managed properly.

We recently had a meeting with a WWF representative and they're stating their support to us. We told them that we can decline their offer for financial support if it's just for their own benefit and not ours. Studies are usually very expensive. We're also able to have meetings with the regional wildlife organizations and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Yes, that's a good suggestion you made about bringing an individual to those panels or meetings we go to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I believe the minister and I am very pleased that they're going to be considering that. I know you understand, but people who say that there's a decline in the polar bear population tend to be believed. They're saying that because of the ice conditions up here, they want the polar bear to be listed as endangered or threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*.

I would like to remind you that polar bear populations aren't going to be declining due to the deterioration of the ice. It's only if the food that they eat, such as the seal, is declining, including walrus, narwhal, there would be a decline in the polar bear population. Is it possible for your department to look at other marine mammals? For example, near Repulse Bay, they had seen a narwhal on the ice that had been pulled out of the water by a polar bear.

I would like to hear from the minister about what he thinks about the polar bear trying to be put on the endangered

list under the *Species at Risk Act*. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for making those comments. Polar bears will hunt other animals for consumption. They also thought that because they're running out of food, they're now starting to eat eggs. They have been eating eggs since time immemorial. They have always eaten eggs. I had a discussion with an elder about polar bears. It's not true that they only hunt on the ice. They can catch seals and other animals in open water.

We have worked with Ontario and Manitoba on the issue of polar bears also. In regard to polar bears listed on the endangered list, that's not the case right now. They're listed as a special concern and they're trying to get the polar bear put on the list. We believe that the polar bear population is increasing in the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your time has run out, Tagak. I still have two names on my list.

I would like to remind you that I had asked for general comments before we got into the page-by-page review. We can ask detailed questions when we get to the page-by-page review. If you have questions, please ask them when we're at the appropriate page. Keep the responses brief.

I apologize. There are some excellent questions that could be asked in question

period, but in Committee of the Whole, we have been given direction by the Speaker to deal with these budgets. I have repeatedly asked for general comments prior to the page-by-page review so that we can ask detailed questions at the appropriate time. That's just a reminder. I will now recognize Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, when we were dealing with this issue, I asked a question in regard to the McClintock Channel. Residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven were told that it's very expensive to do a polar bear survey. I would like to get clarification.

In 2011-12, (interpretation ends) "Initiate planning for establishment of polar bear management plan."
(interpretation) For the following year, (interpretation ends) "Conduct community consultations for the establishment of polar bear management plan. Finalize polar bear management plan for Nunavut." (interpretation) Is the McClintock Channel going to be included? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're working on that issue within this year. They will do a consultation tour to the communities surrounding the McClintock Channel to discuss the polar bear survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. There is a moratorium for 25 years. Do you believe that they can lift the moratorium depending on the results of the survey? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The moratorium can be lifted if the population is sustainable following the results of the survey. They can make a decision whether or not to lift the moratorium. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I have one last name on my list. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I have only one question. If there was a mishap where a harvester lost their equipment, there's a competition for 2012-13 for a budget of \$80,000. The budget was the same last year and the budget is not changing. Perhaps the minister can provide me information on whether they always deplete the \$80,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$80,000 that is provided annually for disaster compensation is sufficient. As I stated yesterday, each individual can put in a claim for up to \$10,000. It has been sufficient and that's why the amount for disaster compensation has not changed.

When we realize that funding for this line item is insufficient, we can review it again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask if they can provide me with the information for the last five years. That was my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can provide that information and table it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have one more name on my list. I just want to remind members that we still have six bills to deal with. We have all night to try and finish all of the six remaining bills. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm fully aware of the pressing need to deal with those bills, but we should not be hasty either whenever there are questions to the government. Perhaps the schedule that was set could be changed so that there is more time to adequately deal with them.

In the past, we have dealt with the polar bear issue. I believe we shouldn't always take a negative approach to dealing with polar bears in Nunavut. With respect to scientific expertise, if they are true scientists, they would seek facts and they're aware of Inuit facts in addition to scientific facts.

There is no question that polar bears are increasing in population. There are records that show how the whaling industry nearly wiped out whale stocks, beginning in the 1800s, within a 100-year period. It was a time when too many bears were taken as well. The records are there, from Cumberland Sound all the way to Hudson Bay.

The Hudson's Bay Company has archived records that show how many bears were taken and (interpretation ends) that is factual information. (interpretation) As well, Inuit have observed that areas that never had polar bears are now full of bears. One elder once told me and I truly believed him that in the Kivalliq, it used to be virtually impossible to obtain bearskin. It was rare to find bears then. Traders used to come looking to buy bearskins which Inuit used to make their sleds slide faster.

There is factual information out there. Why didn't wildlife management study the history of polar bears that are contained in records written by local residents? At Arctic Ventures, we can see books that show beautiful pictures of polar bears. They're written by southerners with no connection whatsoever to their history and only serve to present a romantic picture and suggesting that bears should no longer be hunted.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to ask the minister a question that I have asked before. Instead of arguing pointlessly about bears, why not collect historical documentation which can be expertly presented by gifted writers? Would that be something worth looking into? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present, we have a staff member who is focused on polar bear issues whom we recently found from the Kivalliq. We have subsequently started work on that particular question posed by Mr. Curley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Last question. When we were discussing heritage today, we stated that we need to record Inuit. Our elders are dwindling in number, especially those who possess a great amount of knowledge but some of whom are now into their 80's and 90's and are well versed in the history of polar bears. I have struggled hard to the point where it makes me emotional in my respect for the elders and I want to thank you for saying that elders will now be a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to encourage the minister to continue with his efforts.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak, please respond to the question. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): As the member stated, he encourages us and we take that encouragement. We have a polar bear biologist who filled a position and it could be part of that individual's duties. I thank the member for his encouragement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I'll be brief. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on page 158 of the business plan. Let me touch up a bit on why the WWF believes strongly in scientific and technological information. Perhaps it's because they live far away. As Inuit who live on our land and environment, they should believe us more.

My question is regarding one of your priorities for 2013-14. It states, "With the support of residents from Kugaaruk and Baker Lake, develop formal management plan for the Back River..." Is there a mistake? It says Kugaaruk. I believe Gjoa Haven is closer to the Back River. Gjoa Haven people are originally from the Back River. Can you look into that and see if that community should be Gjoa Haven instead of Kugaaruk?

I think Member Ugyuk could agree with me that Gjoa Haven residents are closer to the Back River. Some people who lived in the Back River now reside in Gjoa Haven. I believe Kugaaruk should be changed to Gjoa Haven. Can you please look into that?

For those of us living in Kugaaruk, we appreciate that our community is included here, but everything should be correct. I just urge the department to look into that and I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. WWF is now establishing their office here in Iqaluit and they will be hiring individuals or they will have a worker here in Iqaluit. In regard to the request from the

member, yes, the member is correct. It should not be Kugaaruk; it should be changed to Gjoa Haven. I thank the member for correcting that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I have no more names on my list. We're on page I-5. \$18,076,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page I-3. Environment. Branch Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total. \$22,353,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister Arreak. Do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues for their very good questions and for their suggestions and recommendations. We are part of our wildlife and environment and we have been living up here for thousands of years. That is why we know our environment better than anyone else. Because of the fact that we have lived up here for thousands of years, we have gained this intricate knowledge.

I thank my officials, David and Niki, and David Monteith for being here from

parks. I would also like to thank the staff who work very hard and tirelessly in our office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I also thank your officials for providing support to their minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Thank you. We will proceed with the review of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on page B-4. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, (interpretation) do you have opening comments?

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Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Please proceed.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for 2012-13 and the business plan for 2012-15.

The department has two sides, each with a deputy minister. The executive provides support to cabinet and ensures consist quality of documents going to cabinet. The executive also coordinates the government-wide business planning functions and the achievement of the priorities set under *CLC/Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*.

Intergovernmental Affairs coordinates intergovernmental and circumpolar relations and, in support of the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, addresses aboriginal issues for the GN. The department oversees and provides direction on the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The department's main estimates total for fiscal year 2012-13 is \$20,785,000. This amount is composed of approximately \$14.1 million for salaries and benefits and \$6.7 million for other operations and maintenance costs. This is an increase of approximately \$765,000 over the main estimates of 2011-12. This is largely due to the NTI versus Canada lawsuit, which is budgeted at \$1.0 million for 2012-13. As you know, in 2006, NTI filed this lawsuit against Canada for its failure to implement the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Canada succeeded in obtaining a court order to add the GN to the lawsuit. While we did not choose to be implicated, we are obligated to comply with the order of the court and must defend the interests of the Government of Nunavut.

Devolution remains a special focus for this government. We continue to promote increased awareness and understanding among Nunavummiut and Nunavut organizations of the importance, goals, and benefits of devolution of powers from the Government of Canada to the Government of Nunavut.

The department continues to work on establishing the government liaison officer positions in the communities. We are well on the way to improving the flow of information about government

services to better serve our residents. Recently, we hosted the first GLO conference and training session in Iqaluit and look forward to hosting additional conferences and training sessions as this vital network grows stronger to serve our communities.

An important priority under the department is the creation of a child and youth advocate. Drafting of the legislation for this position is currently underway and I will introduce a draft bill in the June session. This would put us ahead of our original project timeline. My department has received overwhelmingly positive feedback related to this important initiative.

That concludes my opening remarks. Mr. Chairman, I welcome your comments and look forward to answering your questions on the EIA business plan for 2012-15 and the main estimates for 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Madam Premier, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Daniel Vandermeulen, Deputy Minister, and to my left is Aluki Rojas, DM for Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier. I would like to welcome your officials. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have a couple of quick comments. Thank you.

Chairman: You may proceed.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget of \$20,785,000 has increased by approximately 3.8 percent since the introduction of the department's 2011-12 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has remained stable at 120.0 PYs.

During the Premier's recent appearance before the standing committee, members

took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the organizational structure of the department has changed significantly since the introduction of the 2011-12 main estimates. In 2011-12, the department had 8 branches and 15 divisions. The proposed 2012-13 main estimates for the department indicate that it now has 5 branches and 16 divisions.

One of the most noteworthy changes concerns the department's Devolution Division. In 2009-2010, the size of the department's Devolution Branch was 5.0 PYs. An additional 2.0 PYs were added in 2010-11. An additional 2.0 PYs were added in 2011-12, increasing the size of the branch to 9.0 PYs. Last year, the department's business plan indicated that it planned to add 3.0 additional positions in 2012-13, bringing the total size of the branch to 12.0 PYs.

Members will recall that concerns were expressed during the review of the department's 2011-12 main estimates with respect to the need for such increases given that formal devolution negotiations with the federal government have not yet commenced. However, the department's 2012-13 main estimates indicate that the department is requesting funding for only 7.0 PYs and that the Devolution Branch has been relocated within the department as a division within the new Sustainable Development Branch.

Mr. Chairman, last year's Budget Address stated that, and I quote, "A devolution agreement would bring us royalty payments on our natural

resources but it may be many years before we can bank that money.” Members also note that NTI’s ongoing lawsuit against the Government of Canada in relation to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement further complicates progress towards starting formal devolution negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner’s Address of April 1, 2009 announced the creation of a new social advocacy office, which has been established as a division in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. One of the department’s priorities for 2012-13 is to “Complete the review of government social safety net programs and implement structural and policy changes to support self-reliance.”

In November of 2010, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs awarded a \$337,100 contract to the Genesis Group to conduct an assessment of the government’s social safety net programs. The report from this review has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly and the extent to which the government has accepted any or all of its recommendations is not clear.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly have frequently expressed concern and frustration that the reports produced by such reviews are not tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. The standing committee urges the Premier to ensure that such items are tabled in the House in a timely manner so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the opportunity to consider their conclusions and recommendations.

Another departmental priority for 2012-13 is to “Complete the legislation development process for an independent Child and Youth Representative...” The standing committee notes the importance of ensuring that this initiative complements the government’s ongoing work to introduce a new *Child and Family Services Act*.

On October 18, 2010, the GN and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that both entities would be cooperating on the development of a poverty reduction action plan for Nunavut. On November 30, 2011, the GN and NTI issued a joint communiqué following the conclusion of the Nunavut Poverty Summit. One of the commitments in The Makimaniq Plan is for the government to “introduce legislation for the implementation of the long-term Poverty Reduction Action Plan.” Members note that legislation in this area has been introduced in a number of Canadian jurisdictions and look forward to further clarification of the government’s plans.

The standing committee also notes that the department’s proposed business plan indicates that the Social Advocacy Office will maintain an active presence with respect to interdepartmental initiatives to address such issues as suicide prevention.

The standing committee also notes that the 2010-11 annual report of the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council was recently tabled in the House.

Mr. Chairman, the 2006 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly recommended that the GN review aspects of its decentralized

financial structure. On January 14, 2011, the GN issued a request for proposals for a “Functional Review of Decentralization.” The request for proposals for this review indicated that a final report was due by June 15, 2011. The department’s 2012-15 business plan indicates that this review has been completed. The report was tabled in the House on February 28, 2012.

The standing committee again emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the final reports and recommendations emerging from the work of consultants in such areas be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner so that all members have the opportunity to review their work.

Mr. Chairman, last year’s Budget Address indicated that the government’s review of its structure will consider “the number of departments and agencies, their mandates and organizational designs.” This year’s Budget Address announced that the government has decided to move forward on some specific recommendations, including transferring the Energy Secretariat to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes the importance of the government resuming the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The standing committee also notes that the statutorily-required 2009-2010 and 2010-11 annual reports for the department’s Bureau of Statistics have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, there is still no formal system in place for the registration of lobbyists in Nunavut. A recent annual report of the Integrity Commissioner suggested that “The value of lobbyist regulation, introduced by other jurisdictions, might be considered.” Further work in this area could complement the government’s plans to introduce a new *Public Service Act* and a Code of Values and Ethics.

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an affordable energy fund came into force. Its purpose is to “subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable.” The Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, indicates that this fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance. However, none of the GN’s 2012-15 departmental business plans make any reference to the Affordable Energy Fund. The standing committee looks forward to the government clarifying its plans in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2012-13 budget for the Energy Secretariat is \$641,000. Although the department’s proposed 2010-13 business plan indicated that the implementation plan for the Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy was to have been completed and approved before the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year, it has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee looks forward to the government clarifying whether it will move forward on the potential

initiatives that are included in its Energy Strategy, including “a five percent reduction target for government-related travel, the testing of hybrid vehicles, public transportation in Iqaluit, and graduated registration fees based on the size of vehicle engines.”

Mr. Chairman, one of the functions of the department is to support “interdepartmental Sustainable Development groups” and coordinate “GN participation in resource development planning activity and initiatives to improve the regulatory system for land management.” Last year, the department held a number of public consultation sessions concerning the development of a formal government policy on uranium mining in the territory. The standing committee looks forward to an update on the status of this initiative.

The standing committee also encourages the Premier to table in the Legislative Assembly the GN’s formal submissions to such bodies as the Nunavut Impact Review Board in relation to major mining projects that are under development.

On September 5, 2009, the governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon released a joint communiqué announcing the renewal of the Northern Cooperation Accord for a five-year term. Members support the Premier in her efforts to effectively represent Nunavut’s priorities with respect to arctic sovereignty and pan-territorial initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the Clyde River Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

was signed in 1999. On April 20, 2011, a new co-operation protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was signed. Some of the priority areas identified in the protocol are to review the *Child and Family Services Act*, consult on the NNI Policy, and develop new regulations under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The standing committee supports a positive working relationship between the GN and NTI. At the same time, it is incumbent on the government to be clear and candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have disagreements on specific issues.

On April 14, 2009, the Government of Nunavut issued a news release in which it publicly announced that “Based on the European Union’s (EU) proposal to ban seal products, Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak strongly objects to the EU application to become a permanent observer at the Arctic Council. ‘The European Union’s proposed ban on seal products ignores the very real negative impact their discussions already have on the market for all Canadian seal pelts and on the people of Nunavut,’ said Premier Aariak. ‘The proposal to ban seal products is harmful to Inuit interests, demonstrates a lack of knowledge of its impacts on Arctic indigenous peoples, and is inconsistent with the type of partnership we need at the Arctic Council. I call on Canada to oppose the EU’s application for permanent observer status at the Arctic Council.’”

The standing committee supports ongoing efforts on the part of the

government to challenge the European Union ban on the import of seal products. During the Premier's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were frustrated at not receiving a clear indication as to whether the government continues to oppose the European Union's application for permanent observer status at the Arctic Council. Members call on the Premier to make a formal statement in the House clarifying her government's current position on this issue.

The standing committee notes with approval the recent establishment of the GN's Interdepartmental Nutrition North Canada Subsidy Monitoring Committee and encourages the Premier to update the Legislative Assembly on the status of its work.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2010-11 main estimates included \$2.0 million in new funding for the creation of a new government liaison office. A total of 25.0 new PYs were allocated to the division. The division's proposed budget for 2012-13 is \$3,575,000. The division has been transferred to the department's Intergovernmental Affairs Branch.

In September of 2010, the GN filed a statement of defence in relation to the federal government's attempt to have the GN named as a co-defendant in the lawsuit. The GN's statement of defence, which is on the public record, indicates that lack of federal funding is the reason why the GN has not met its Article 23 Inuit employment targets. It is important that the government publicly clarify its position concerning how much additional federal funding would be required in order to achieve its targets.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. General comments before we get to the page-by-page review. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I have a short question in reading the two opening comments, one of which is the Premier's opening comments. I wish to welcome the Premier and all her officials. I believe that it is very important to the public, regional Inuit associations, as well as Inuit to hear the issues mentioned in the opening comments.

You referenced several reasons, including the federal court case and the federal government's position that the Nunavut government was party to the case as a defendant. The NTI court case is over why the governments did not implement certain parts of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It was a decision from the court that the GN was a party to the case and they had no choice but to become a party to the case. In the opening comments, it was referenced as being part of the reason for the delay, specifically with respect to devolution that our government is working to attain. From what I heard, it is part of the reason for the delay. In reading the standing committee's comments, I noted that was their assessment on the matter.

It is now clear that this government's attempts to work on the devolution file is now nothing more than an initiative that

will eat up scarce resources if we pursue it any further and the Premier should consider whether we ought to shelve it until this NTI court case has been resolved. It ought not to matter who started the court case as the government hasn't complied with its obligations under a legal agreement. Therefore, the case has to continue.

Further, I don't think we are just being pulled into this by the federal government as it is also noted that the Nunavut government is also non-compliant with implementation, such as noted by the standing committee on Article 23, Inuit employment within government. Based on the latest data, the GN has now reached 51 percent with its Inuit employees, although it has hovered around the 40 percent range throughout its existence.

What I'm referring to now simply as a statement with respect to the opening comments is in my opinion, the Nunavut government has to look itself in the mirror and see if we are indeed in compliance with our obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Article 24 is a prime example. Once contracting issues surface or if the government attempts to comply, it should have a strategy in place for all of its departments and whether it is in the public interest to sidestep Article 24 and just have one big contractor. It's kind of like this: where one takes pride in sidestepping the contracting obligation imposed by the visionaries who negotiated the agreement by short-changing the small businesses in the private sector into one large contract.

It seems obvious, at least in my estimation, that devolution should be

shelved at this current time as we can always return to it later. We ought to divert that funding to more useful items and I believe the Premier should provide direction on this file. Even if we are publicly screaming out that we require devolution to meet our needs, with the inference that the court case is tied to this issue and thereby delaying the process, it will be an unending cycle, always slightly out of reach. We should abandon devolution because it will not affect our current mandate.

This is primarily just a comment on the opening comments, as per your instructions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any more general comments on the opening comments? I don't have any names on my list. Directorate. B-4. \$5,716,000.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Premier a question on the Utility Rates Review Council included in the opening comments. I still have comments to make on this matter.

Where does the mandate come from? I personally don't think our government has any ability to address this rate increase, especially in light of the electricity rate that went up 18 percent, which impacted private homeowners and businesses, and it has caused hardships for many. This winter has been extremely cold, even though the proponents of global warming maintain it is getting warmer.

We have to keep in mind the 2014 rate increases that are set to be implemented in April 1, 2014. The Premier, who leads

the executive, has to provide better leadership to not allow the deferment of the URRC decision to the next government as they can look at their options, including holding more hearings on the issue. Why isn't the decision to defer the rate increases to 2014 being considered? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I want to clarify that URRC is an entirely different body, albeit it is housed in the same building, with its own offices, and a separate minister is responsible for the URRC. This body has a board that is working on this and they make recommendations to the minister. So they are separately operating from our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That only talks about their location and I'm sure that you can talk about it in the cabinet. If it's not approved by the cabinet, and it obviously has to be reviewed by the cabinet, we have to understand. What I'm trying to say is that in 2014, there's going to be another increase. Just recently, the Government of Nunavut decided that it would be up to the new government to make a decision. All individuals can say that in 2014, there is going to be an increase in the rate. That should be taken out by the Premier. Why doesn't she exercise her power? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for voicing his opinion on the matter. The minister who is responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council has already identified the matter and that is all I can point out at this time. The members of the Executive Council work as the cabinet on top of their portfolio responsibilities that they work on diligently. This matter was subject to debate as we tried to render a decision as a government. However, I don't wish to speak on issues that are the responsibility of my minister, so I will stop at this point, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure they work very hard. What I'm trying to say to the minister is that in 2014, the power rates will be hiked up and I'm sure that it's not going to be a one-time hike. There are going to be other instances where there would be additional hikes starting on April 1, 2014. I would like the Premier to make an announcement saying that there will be power rate hikes in 2014, just to be frank and to say it out loud. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister responsible for URRC made that

decision and it's the same today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Are you done, Mr. Curley? Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: ... (no audio) ... I imagine it would under the social advocate's office but also in the minister's role as minister for individuals with disabilities. I was wondering: what steps has the Government of Nunavut taken to identify the range of disabilities faced by Nunavummiut across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. Within our department, the office the member just referred to, the Social Advocacy Office in English, deals with these matters in their role as policy development and planning, particularly those related to social issues, as this is the office responsible for this mandate.

Currently, they are collaborating with the Department of Justice to conduct research on the residents requiring assistance in Nunavut with disabilities. If I were to say it in English, (interpretation ends) the Social Advocacy Office is assisting the Department of Justice in compiling information that will be incorporated into Canada's first report on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(interpretation) I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2008-09 annual report that was completed by the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal, 13 percent of the concerns brought forward were based around individuals with disabilities and concerns that they had brought forward. Since you had mentioned that the social advocate's office is policy-related and developing policy, I guess the question would be: will the government be taking steps to address this from a policy level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, but if he could repeat his question for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Mr. Elliott, please clarify your question.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no problem clarifying it. I'll try to make it clearer. In the 2008-09 annual report done by the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal, 13 percent of the complaints that were brought forward were dealing with individuals and concerns based around people with disabilities.

You had mentioned that the social advocate's office is a policy-driven office, creating policies for individuals with disabilities. So I'm assuming that you would have contacted the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal and found out

what these concerns were to help create policy to better deal with the needs that individuals with disabilities are bringing forward.

So my question was: what steps is that department, the social advocate's office, doing at a policy level to help individuals with specific concerns that they themselves have brought forward, not what individuals have brought forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that's clearer.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I hope that clarifies the question. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for clarifying his question. It is under the Human Rights Tribunal and they work with the Social Advocacy Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again along the same lines of questioning, with the GN's new proposed Act, Bill 30, the Nunavut Building Code, what types of recommendations will the department be putting forward to address the needs of individuals with disabilities in terms of accessibility and mobility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it will be dealt with by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the Department of Community and Government Services will be dealing with that because they are the ones that are bringing the Act forward. To me, if the government was functioning properly, when the department that's responsible for disabilities sees that there is an Act being created or an opportunity to ensure that there is wheelchair access to homes and whatnot put into a building code when it's the minister responsible for that, I would think that that minister would be contacting the department and passing forward information. Again, I'm assuming, like the minister had said, they have been collecting concerns and issues to help build policies. So what better department to pass on that specific piece of the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to policies and the development of policies, we will have to look at it carefully before we put them together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other than the \$100,000 contribution, what support and resources does the Government in Nunavut direct towards addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide funding for Nunavut Makinnasuaqtiit and we provide \$100,000 to that organization. They work together and they have acquired an employee. They work closely together and they are housed in the same building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the interdepartmental Nutrition North Canada Subsidy Monitoring Committee, I wondered if the minister would be able to give me an update on what's happening with that committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go into my comments, I would like to thank the member for lobbying on the issue of Nutrition North. They just do surveys and they keep tabs on what Nutrition North is doing. If I said it in English, they are a monitoring committee and they have members from Health, EIA, and the Department of Finance on this

committee. They do surveys, (interpretation ends) community nutrition program planning, nutrition educational resources, and training and development. (interpretation) They disseminate information out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) We're on page B-4. \$5,716,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I started off with a good morning to Nunavummiut and now it's good evening. Well, if it's under this page, I would like to have the opportunity to ask a question under B-4 and I think it should be provided with a simple answer.

I know that it might not be under the responsibility of the Premier, but since she's the Premier, I will ask it anyways. I would like to ask a question on one of the bills. My question is: would the Premier support the inclusion of senior officials within the Nunavut government in the *Integrity Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I understood it. I'm not sure which Act he was talking about. I would understand it right away if he said it in English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will follow what I always make fun of. (interpretation ends) Would the Premier support an expansion of the *Integrity Act* legislation to cover senior members of the public service? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): We can look into it if they're not already covered under that Act. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could tell the Premier that the *Integrity Act* only covers Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Premier knows that. Only Members of the Legislative Assembly are under the *Integrity Act*. My question was: would she support the idea of the senior members of the public service to be included in the *Integrity Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that clarification. Yes, it's only for Members of the Legislative Assembly. The senior members of the public service are covered under the Code of Ethics and Values. I would like my Deputy Minister, Daniel Vandermeulen, to make a supplement to my comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The senior management of the public service, as indeed all of the public service, is governed by the Code of Ethics and Values. Particular issues that are probably of particular interest, things like conflict of interest, we're still governed by all of the ethics surrounding conflict of interest; we have to declare conflict. The Code of Ethics and Values is also part of the *Public Service Act*. There's legislation that we fit under there. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to drag this on. What is the difference between the MLAs being covered under the *Integrity Act* and the public service, particularly senior management, being covered under their own Act? Could you explain the difference between the two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct this question to my Deputy Minister, Mr. Vandermeulen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Integrity Act* governs the

Members of this Assembly and that means that this Assembly, in that way, is really self-governing. So if any charters are brought or shown, then you yourselves censor yourselves. In the case of deputy ministers and the rest of the public service, we're governed by the *Public Service Act* and we're subject to the penalties of that legislation. To combine the two together would, in fact, diminish your ability to govern yourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I apologize if I made you misunderstand. I wasn't asking for them to be combined. My question was: why is it not possible for the senior members of the public service to be covered under the *Integrity Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Vandermeulen respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add a comment then, we are subject to equivalent penalties under the *Public Service Act*. For senior officials, such as deputy ministers, to be brought under the *Integrity Act* would require a change of legislation and would actually put us in the same category as you. That's inappropriate.

We're your servants and we shouldn't be put in the category of our bosses, to keep it very simple. That's why we're in with the rest of the public service under the *Public Service Act* and your issues are resolved as under the *Integrity Act* just as Members of this Assembly. So there's no crossing of the two groups. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whatever you want to do, it's possible to change the legislation if we really want to change it.

The reason why I asked the question is because there are a lot of people that think that the senior government officials, such as the ministers, have a lot of power and they can do whatever they want to do. They even have more powers than the ministers themselves. I have seen that myself. The senior government officials have to follow a strong law. We cannot accept any gifts if it costs a certain amount of money. That's why I asked the question.

The deputy ministers are very powerful and they can be persuaded to do things that are not legitimate. I will deal with this some other time. That's the end of my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question, but I hear what he's talking about. He also stated that he will be

asking questions of this nature later on. We will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) We are on B-4. \$5,716,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really see what I'm reading. Thank you, Madam Premier. Under B-4. Directorate. It states that the Office of the Premier looks at, if I am wrong Mr. Chairman, stop me, and I know you want to run the meeting in a proper manner.

When we got the Nunavut government we gave our rights to the federal government and we were supposed to get some funding from the federal government as aboriginal people and land claims beneficiaries. Is that one of the reasons why the federal government wants to take us to court along with NTI, because we got so much amount of money that we got from the federal government?

That money is going to be used for land claims beneficiaries. I think it has been about 14 years that we will be receiving that money. I wonder if that's the reason why the federal government wants to include the Government of Nunavut with NTI. I just wanted to know if you wanted to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Nunavut government brought the federal

government to court, the Nunavut government was not involved, but the federal government stated that the Government of Nunavut had to go to court too and we could not say "no" and we had to try to protect ourselves in court for that reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): When Nunavut was created, I'm sure remembers that the Prime Minister of Canada of the day was really happy to see Nunavut created. The countries were very pleased and proud of the fact that Nunavut was put on the map. Also, he announced publicly that Nunavummiut are his partners. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have no more names on my list. That was just a comment. We're now on page B-4. \$5,716,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. B-5. Sustainable Development. Branch Summary. I don't believe it's *Ikupivvirijikkut* in Inuktitut. That's probably incorrect as that term is now defunct. We're on page B-5. \$2,412,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I referred to this offhand in my comments to the minister's opening comments and it was clarified by the minister in their response. This was with respect to the federal government not living up to its

obligations, which is the cause of the court case.

Furthermore, the Nunavut government has been added to the case, as they have been in partnership with the federal government in implementing the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This also includes implementation prior to the establishment of the Nunavut government, but our government was grandfathered in by the federal government.

Due to this reason, and the clarification contained in the opening comments of the Premier, as well as the opening comments of the standing committee chairperson, that due to the ongoing NTI lawsuit against the federal government, it has caused a schism complicating the progression of the devolution file.

Is this for real? Has it implicated or complicated that devolution talks we have tried to get going due to the court case? I know that the court case has not yet begun but it seems to have an effect. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not the case. We haven't been told that and we haven't received correspondence in regard to that. NTI filed this lawsuit against Canada for its failure to implement the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We haven't heard from the federal government that devolution is going to be stopped.

One issue that validates it is that NTI is negotiating for land with the federal government and others. The negotiations are ongoing, even with the lawsuit against Canada. The negotiations have been ongoing, even though NTI has filed this lawsuit against Canada. For that reason, I don't believe that the lawsuit is the cause for stalling devolution negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. This had to be responded to, since the standing committee's made that inference in their opening comments, such that it seemed to be affecting our situation. I understand the Premier's response.

However, in your business plan, page 21 to be exact, it states that the government wants to progress towards an agreement-in-principle related to resource development. What can we expect? It says on top of the page that former AIP negotiations can only advance once the Government of Canada appoints the federal chief negotiator and it requires their mandate in support of strong land and resource management regime.

The two parties and multiple stakeholders are continuing their negotiations. What kind of engagement do you follow with two parties and who are the multiple stakeholders or parties? What do they do? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. If he can tell me what page that is. It's okay; we found that page in the business plan. Let me read that paragraph.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are in discussions and dialogue with the federal government and NTI. There are three parties: the Nunavut government, NTI, and the federal government. To date, we know that the federal government has to yet appoint a federal chief negotiator because we are unique as the Nunavut government and because we have to discuss these matters with various leaders and also other parties down south. To date, the federal government discussion is becoming more frequent and it's at a higher level.

I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. When the officials are negotiating with other officials down there, we would like to provide support. They're not negotiations; they're just preparing for negotiations. NTI and the federal government have an agreement and they both have bureaucrat departments.

One thing I would like to hear from the Premier is how we can expect the negotiations can go ahead when the Prime Minister had not formally told you that the negotiations will continue. Can you tell us and Nunavutmiut whether we should be expecting the negotiations to occur before our mandate is over? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Just to move further in English in regard to multiple stakeholders, I just want to make a supplementary. We are trying to inform different parties, such as the municipal councillors, and we discuss this matter with the mayors at their meetings, including the Inuit associations, and we keep them abreast of our progress in this regard.

Just last month, the Prime Minister was in Iqaluit and I met with him. He made an interesting comment. In December 2011, I met with him in Ottawa, along with the INAC minister. In February, we had another discussion that was a continuation of our meeting in December about an impending appointment of a federal representative on devolution.

I mentioned that I don't just want a devolution representative, but that we need a bona fide chief negotiator. That is what I told the Prime Minister. When we met in Iqaluit in February, he said that we can now put together a negotiation team. That elevated the status of the devolution issue and we are now discussing actual negotiation teams. That means this issue is going forward and I believe it is firmly on its way to fruition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, that is good news indeed. Once the

Prime Minister made those comments, did you follow it up with correspondence? The issue is no longer in doubt, that devolution has to be negotiated between the federal and Nunavut governments. That is why I'm asking if you have written to the Prime Minister as follow-up and urged him to put his negotiating team together.

It's all good and fine to make preparations for negotiations, but it could end up costing precious dollars, especially if the federal government actually had no intention of naming their negotiators. It sure would be enlightening to hear if you did follow up with the Prime Minister in writing. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we met that is what we discussed along with other issues surrounding increased self-reliance. I have subsequently written to him further to what we discussed at our meetings to ensure that he would have a written record of what transpired between us. I wanted to impress upon the Prime Minister how important devolution is to us in writing and that is what I did. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if that letter could be tabled at our spring session and the progress being made by the federal government on establishing their negotiators at the time. That would

enable us to have Nunavutmiut involved by having those discussions in the House. I'm also hopeful that it would give members an opportunity to come up with ideas and suggestions. That would be a productive way to prepare for negotiating devolution issues, so I wonder if you would be willing to do that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have received a letter. After we had a meeting with the Prime Minister, he wrote a letter to me and I'll be able to table that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I am pleased to hear that. I'm sure we'll be prepared to make statements in regard to that at that time. We'd like to hear NTI's position on that and if you received a letter from NTI, if you can include that when you table the letters.

I would like to raise another issue in regard to your business plan. Although I don't have the page that there are five branches and looking at the chart in your opening comments that there are now seven branches and you just appointed two with the same title. You appointed senior advisors. I would like to ask you where they are in the budget, if remains the same? There's a principal secretary and there are two senior advisors. Where are those positions located? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The positions are here at the Legislative Assembly. Most our staff at the Legislative Assembly did not change. In our Devolution Branch, we have more positions there. One position is in Ottawa, we used to have a position in Ottawa. The deputy minister is now retired and because we want to have a position in Ottawa for devolution so there's a temporary position in Ottawa. The other one is in Iqaluit who works with the devolution office. This position is geared more towards policy and planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Now I have a better understanding. Under policy planning or sustaining development, who do they report to? The Premier works there and I think there could be a conflict of interest so therefore I would like to ask the Premier on the two positions that have the same exact titles and they're both senior advisors and there's a principal cabinet secretary. Who is the senior at the senior level? What do they advise the Premier on? The negotiations are delayed right now, it seems like they hardly have any work to do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The English

title of these employees who handle these responsibilities is "advisor." This term can mean all sorts of different workers in various capacities who are working in our offices who are considered advisors in the English language.

Ever since they became employed in our department, they have worked hard to develop the interaction with the provincial as well as the federal governments revolving around laying out the reality we face by providing information on what Nunavut is, what it needs, as well as the reasons for devolution. Additionally, they provide support to our office with respect to this area of preparation, with various detailed contents, as this is a huge task. Preparation and planning is intrinsic and we are starting to see what requirements we need to comply with in order to begin.

I am appreciative of the workers because we have started to progress towards developing dialogue with the federal government and it seems our determination and commitment towards this goal have been recognized. There are many various aspects of this file that they have been providing assistance with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. B-5. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I don't want to take too long, although I know that I have been elected that I could use my 10 minutes.

Under page B-5, in regard to devolution, devolution activities in Nunavut, the lawsuit by NTI for the federal government for... . The Nunavut government didn't initiate the lawsuit and we didn't want to be part of that lawsuit. With the Premier's leadership, the Nunavut government didn't want to take part in the lawsuit because we wanted to negotiate with the federal government for devolution.

I believe NTI's lawsuit is delaying devolution talks. NTI, I'm sure, wouldn't be helping us when we start dealing with the devolution file. Before the lawsuit is closed, why am I concerned about NTI? Because I'm a land claims beneficiary and they have vast lands in the Nunavut territory. We have been given 352,240 square kilometres of land through the agreement. There are 38,000 square kilometres with surface rights through NTI.

I would be concerned about that lawsuit. Just prior to it closing, when the Nunavut government starts to negotiate for devolution, because NTI is our partner for devolution negotiations. I just wanted to make that comment, but yes, I know that we can negotiate with the federal government at this time. Are we going to have an agreement? No?

I wanted to talk more about the NTI lawsuit. Before the lawsuit is closed, I believe that devolution talks can't go ahead. We have vast lands and we have surface rights to huge parcels of land, too. This is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): We usually ask for general comments before we

review page by page, but I'll give you an opportunity to respond, (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, first of all, I would like to say I appreciate and thank NTI for supporting devolution discussions and thoughts. During their AGM, NTI had moved a motion to support the Nunavut government and urging the Nunavut government to start the negotiations. At our next meeting, I'll table NTI's motion so that everyone can see it.

Also, I looked into NTI's lawsuit. I was wondering if NTI's lawsuit was delaying devolution talks. I asked the Department of Justice and they said it was the case and they said the lawsuit is not going to have a negative impact on the negotiation talks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) We're on page B-5. \$2,412,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page B-6. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Cabinet. \$5,040,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page B-7. Commissioner of Nunavut. \$287,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page B-8. Intergovernmental Affairs. \$7,330,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page B-3. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$20,785,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, (interpretation) if you have any closing remarks, you have the floor.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank each and every one of you and for your good questions and they're well noted. Our constituents of Nunavut need to hear the operation of EIA, especially on devolution talks, and that's our priority. We're progressing well with the talks and I will keep the members abreast of the progress.

I would like to thank my officials with the Department of EIA. I thank them very much because they worked very hard and diligently. Also, the GLOs are increasing in the communities. I thank them because they worked very hard. These positions are new.

I also thank Mr. Vandermeulen and Aluki Rojas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. I thank your officials, Mr. Vandermeulen and Aluki Rojas, for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. Members, we will now move on to the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, if you can proceed to the witness table. Thank you.

Welcome, Mr. Speaker. If you have opening comments, you may now proceed. Mr. Speaker.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you this evening to present the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$16,898,000. This is a small decrease from the 2011-12 main estimates, which were 16,935,000. Members will note that the Assembly's size and budget remain relatively stable. The total number of positions in our organization has not increased in a number of years.

In addition to highlighting our operational priorities for the coming fiscal year, I would like to update members on the status of a number of our ongoing initiatives.

As members are aware, *The Order of Nunavut Act* is now in force. The legislation establishes the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, which I chair in my capacity as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The council's other members are the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Support to the council is being provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

The investiture ceremonies honouring the first three members of the Order of Nunavut have been successfully held in Iqaluit, Arviat, and Rankin Inlet. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the recipients and their families.

At the start of our winter sitting, I announced that nominations for the order have reopened for 2012. Nomination forms and other information have been sent to all members' constituency offices and we are looking at providing information directly to Nunavummiut in the coming weeks through such means as household mailings and notices on community radio and television. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the advisory council as we work towards holding the investiture ceremony for recipients later this year.

In October of 2011, Bill 22 was passed by the Legislative Assembly. This legislation implemented the recommendations of the independent Electoral Boundaries Commission, which submitted its final report last year. Under the direction of the Management and Services Board, work is underway to plan for the expansion of the Legislative

Assembly from 19 to 22 seats at the next general election.

The recent investiture ceremonies in Arviat and Rankin Inlet coincided with the first two events in the Bringing our House to Your Home: Speaker's Parliamentary Outreach Program and Community Mace Tour. It is my intention to continue visiting schools and other facilities in a number of communities across the territory over the coming years and I would welcome invitations from my colleagues to visit their communities.

The fourth Speaker's Youth Parliament will be held later this year. This event, which is held every two years, brings together high school students from across the territory for a week of learning and fun.

I believe that these initiatives will help to improve awareness of our Legislative Assembly's procedures and activities and contribute to a greater understanding of our distinctive style of consensus government.

Under the direction of the Management and Services Board, the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to undertake improvements to the services and infrastructure supporting the work of members. These include upgrades to computer, audiovisual and interpretation equipment.

I am pleased to report that the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to successfully meet our statutory deadlines for the tabling of annual reports and other documents that are produced under the authority of the Speaker and the Management and Services Board.

As members are aware, the budgets for the operations of our independent officers are funded through the appropriation of the Legislative Assembly itself.

In recognition of the significant budget and staffing increases that have been provided to the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut as a consequence of the passage of the *Official Languages Act* and the new *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the Management and Services Board is continuing its practice of inviting the Languages Commissioner to appear before the board to present her proposed budget and work plan for the coming year, prior to my appearing before you today. This provides members with an important opportunity to contribute to the process of ensuring that the Office of the Languages Commissioner's proposed expenditures and activities conform to her statutory mandate and reflect our commitment to the wise use of financial and human resources.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and I welcome their comments, suggestions, and questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Speaker, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, to my right is the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. John Quirke, and on my left is the Director of Corporate Services for the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Mike Rafter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome Mr. Quirke and Mr. Rafter. We are on page A-4. Before we begin with the page-by-page review, do any members have any general comments on the opening comments of the Speaker? While we are dealing with the Office of the Legislative Assembly, are there any comments? Sometimes the ministers ask questions when we deal with the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Does anybody have any comments? There does not seem to be any.

We will go to page A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,058,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I just want to thank the Speaker and the Clerk and all the officials of the Legislative Assembly and the interpreters. They work very hard and I want to recognize all the people from the third floor and to thank them. At times, they don't go home for a long time and the members are assisted very much by the Clerk's office. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member thanked you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) We're on page A-4. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have 10 minutes, so I might as well use my 10 minutes. If I make a mistake or if I say something that I'm not supposed to say, let me know.

I want to thank the Office of the Legislative Assembly for working on our behalf. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to say "thank you" to Mr. Speaker and all the staff of the Legislative Assembly. I have been here since 2004 and their services to ministers and MLAs have been superlative. Keep up the good work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. On behalf of the members, I would like to be able to say "thank you." There's so many of us that we will have to be here all night if we all speak.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. We're on page A-4. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we also have some people who work in our community. I would also like to thank our constituency assistants in the community. They are assisted by the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank

Bernadette Dean, my constituency assistant, for keeping me informed of the concerns of my constituents. All of our constituency workers assist us and we thank them all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I also thank the constituency assistants. I don't see any names. A-4. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ever since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 2010, I have asked them to visit my community, along with the Mace. I'm expecting them to visit in the fall and go to the schools in the Kitikmeot. When schools are visited and they see the Mace, they learn more about the Legislative Assembly. I will be expecting them to go to the Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I didn't hear a question, but I'm sure that they heard the member's comment. If the Speaker would like to make a comment on that, I give him the floor. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know. It seems, when I come up to the witness table, my throat gets dry and I want to cough. I never did that when I was a minister.

Mr. Chairman, last year, the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk had put out a request. I think the initial idea came from Mr. Curley last year to bring the Mace out and do some type of an outreach program. A request went out to all members asking if any members were interested in the program where the

Speaker brings in the Mace to their communities.

We received three requests last year; one was from Mr. Elliott on March 20, one from you, Mr. Chairman, on March 25, and one from Ms. Ugyuk on April 20. The initial intent was to go based on that order. However, because it was our first time doing it and since we were going into Rankin Inlet and Arviat to do the Order of Nunavut investiture ceremonies, we thought we would just piggyback and take the Mace into those communities while we were going in there already. But it is the intent, within the next year and a half to two years, to do all of those communities that were requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on page A-4. \$7,058,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. A-5. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. \$7,515,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. A-6. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. \$2,325,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. A-3. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$16,898,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, if you have any closing remarks, you have the floor.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just echo the members' comments they made about the hard-working and dedicated staff that we have here at the Legislative Assembly. I thank them again for all the work.

I wanted to go on a little bit longer, but I'm going to start coughing right away, so I'll leave it at that and we will see you next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank your officials. I'm sure that we will be seeing each other. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. Please go to your white legislation binder. If you have white binders underneath your desk, you can pull them out. Do you all have them? Go to Bill 24. We will be going clause by clause. (interpretation ends) Bill 24, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Schedule on page 2. (interpretation) Vote 1. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year. \$1,247,076,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 24 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do you agree that Bill 24 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Bill 24 is now ready for third reading.

Before we proceed, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 21:42 and resumed at 21:57*

**Bill 25 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2011-
2012 –Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back, even though it's late in the night. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Peterson of the Department of Finance to make his opening remarks on Bill 25. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*.

Bill 25 appropriates additional funding for the 2010-11 fiscal year to address a shortfall of \$77,000 required by the Department of Justice for their 2010-11 law enforcement contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is Mr. Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are starting with Bill 25. Turn to page 4. (interpretation ends) Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$77,000. Total Department. \$77,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2 on Bill 25. (interpretation ends) 2010-11 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 6. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$77,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill. The bill is in your white legislation binder. (interpretation ends) Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Schedule on page 3. (interpretation) Do you agree to the Schedule?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed to Bill 25 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are we agreed, (interpretation ends) pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 25 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are done with that bill.

We will now go to Bill 26. Minister, if you have any opening comments, you may proceed. Minister Peterson.

Bill 26 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012 –Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*.

Bill 26 will appropriate an additional \$16,307,000 of operations and maintenance funding for 2011-12. Included in this appropriation are:

- \$14.66 million to the Department of Health and Social Services to fund a projected budget shortfall in various programs and to account for base adjustments in medical travel and fuel prices;
- \$2,349,000 to the Department of Finance to provide to the Qulliq Energy Corporation for fuel stabilization;
- A negative base adjustment of \$169,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to account for fuel price changes; and
- A similar negative base amount of \$533,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget to account for fuel price changes.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will now proceed to Bill 26. Page 4. (interpretation ends)

Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$2,349,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,349,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 5. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$1,614,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Social Programs. Total Social Programs. Not Previously Authorized. \$484,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Treatment. Total Treatment. \$12,562,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$14,660,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services.

Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Government Services. Total Government Services. - \$163,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. - \$6,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to the bottom. (interpretation ends) Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. -\$169,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 7. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. -\$533,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom. (interpretation ends) Total Department. -\$533,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation.

\$16,307,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 26. It's in your white legislation binders. (interpretation ends) Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3 and Schedule on page 3. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$16,307,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 2. (interpretation ends) Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are we agreed to Bill 26 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 26 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That is concluded.

We will then go to Bill 27. Minister Peterson, you can proceed with your opening comments.

**Bill 27 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2012-2013 –Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*.

Bill 27 is for capital supplementary appropriations for 2012-13 totalling \$23,036,000. It consists of the following items:

- \$700,000 to the Department of Justice for the design of the proposed emergency overcrowding relief structure at the Baffin Correctional Centre;

- \$2,436,000 to the Department of Health and Social Services for renovations to the old Tammaativvik Boarding Home in order to repurpose it for use by the Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Centre;

- \$4.5 million to the Department of Health and Social Services for the purchase of a CT scanner, patient archive computer system, and digital CR X-ray equipment relating to the patient wait times guarantee;

- \$12.8 million to the Department of Health and Social Services for renovations to the Qikiqtani General Hospital;

- \$2.1 million to the Department of Community and Government Services to address the shortfall for the Chesterfield Inlet Tank Farm project; and

- \$500,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services for the design of a new arena in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Go to page 4 of Bill 27. (interpretation ends) Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Corrections. Total Corrections. \$700,000. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. It's very encouraging to hear that there's a proposed emergency overcrowding not

only for Iqaluit but also for the entire territory.

I would like the minister to give us an overview of the Akausisarvik Mental Health Facility and that's the old Tammaativvik building. The minister stated that it is "to repurpose it for use by the Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Centre" and I'm hoping that they would begin the renovations. So my question is: when are the renovations going to start and when will it open? How will it help out the people of Nunavut? How many beds will it have? How much space will it have? The yearly operations and maintenance of the building...

I was also very pleased to hear that there's going to be purchase of a CT scanner and renovations for the Qikiqtani General Hospital. I'm sure that's going to start soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's a lot of questions, but I decided to ask them all at once. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the supplementary appropriation capital, I had a question about the Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Centre. I would like to know exactly who is going to be the clientele of this treatment centre. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, there would be a number of patients who would reside

in the facility and then there would be day patients. They would mainly be, primarily I would think, from around Iqaluit and the Baffin. We may repatriate some persons with mental health issues from the Selkirk home just outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Akausisarvik Mental Health Treatment Centre would probably be utilized more by the Baffin region and we would like to see one in the other regions like the Kitikmeot. I would like further information on this issue and this evening, we are going to be approving funds that will focus mostly on the Baffin region. We will wait patiently for the other regions to get mental health treatment centres. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. We're doing a page-by-page review and \$700,000 is the first one. If you have detailed questions, please ask them at the appropriate page. Ms. Ell, I apologize. You probably wanted to ask a question on the (interpretation ends) emergency overcrowding relief structure. (interpretation) Do you have a question on that? Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked questions on the opening comments of the minister on Bill 27. Maybe I asked too many questions all at the same time, but I was pleased to see some of the items. Maybe I'll start off with the Baffin Correctional Centre, which is under the \$700,000 slot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Ell, do you have a question on the \$700,000? They haven't been approved yet. Ms. Ell, do you have a question?

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very obvious that the Baffin Correctional Centre is a very old structure and the \$700,000 is going to be used just for emergency overcrowding relief. I think this \$700,000 is going to be just used for the design phase of the structure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, perhaps you can elaborate on that.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Yes, the \$700,000 will be for planning and design. If we get it approved in this sitting, then the Department of Justice can go out to an RFP to hire a firm to work with CGS to do the planning and design early in the new fiscal year, with a view to bringing back a possible proposal for the structure later in this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page 4. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Although the wording says, "design of a proposed emergency overcrowding," am I to understand that the design phase would be to make the facility more modern or expanded, or is it something else? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a separate facility from the Baffin Correctional Centre. I used to call it a sprung structure, but it is type of a tent facility. An example of it would be in Maple Ridge, BC. It would be a temporary facility. Inside it would be designed with a gymnasium, cafeteria, classrooms, other facilities, and it would be close to or near the existing facility right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I'm certainly in support of the new facility. The information provided sort of confuses it as though it's going to be relieving the existing facility and modernizing it. That's not what it's for. This is for the new facility. Am I correct in that? A design phase for a new facility, which you already indicated, will be near the facility, but would some of the funding be used to modernize the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for asking for clarification. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe any of the funding will be for the Baffin Correctional Centre, but the funding would be used to design an emergency relief structure that would help the Baffin Correctional Centre. They would move some of their inmates from the currently overcrowded facility. BCC is only designed for 66. There are as many as 100 and sometimes 105 inmates in there. It's very crowded. We will move some of those individuals to

the new facility and that would relieve the pressure that currently exists. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: One last question is: will the criteria for the requirement of the design, the architectural design... ? Do you have a minimum number of beds that would be required or is that yet to come? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley. I believe those specs are yet to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list for page 4. (interpretation ends) 2012-13 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1. Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Corrections. Total Corrections. \$700,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$700,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 5. (interpretation ends) 2012-13 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1. Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$19,736,000. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regard to that page. The old boarding home is being proposed for renovation for a new mental health treatment centre. When are they going to start the renovations? When are they going to complete it? How are they going to operate in what they're going to do at the mental health treatment centre? Perhaps the minister can elaborate further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the questions. Mr. Chairman, it's proposed that once the budget is approved, the department would acquire the building and almost immediately request an RFP to renovate the facility. It's premature for me to guess on the time of when it will be opened, but the plan is to have it opened by later this year, and then they would transfer individuals from the current facility, building 534, into that facility. The department still has to get some additional funds, probably come back and seek some additional funds through a supp bill for O&M to operate the building.

The programs that they would offer would be similar to the programs they currently offer. I think they would probably expand their operations because, being a larger facility, they probably have as many as 20 individuals who can reside there and as many as 14 to 15 day patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some Nunavut residents have to go outside the territory to get treatment in Selkirk. Will they be repatriated to the new mental health treatment centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, it's hoped that most of the individuals in the Selkirk home can be repatriated to Iqaluit, to this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the future, will you have to get additional PYs to operate the mental health facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we will likely require additional funds to hire more staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other one is to purchase a CT scanner. Is this funding to purchase a CT scanner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there's \$4.5 million in the Patient Wait Times Guarantee Trust Fund that was provided by the federal government a few years ago. This funding would be used to purchase a CT scanner and what they call a picture archive computer system; and digital CR X-ray equipment for health centres across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in the future, we have to send out patients because we don't have that equipment. A majority of the patients will not have to leave the territory because of this equipment. Would that save costs in the future, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We estimate that over a five-year period, it will likely save in the order of magnitude of \$2 million, but more importantly, Mr. Chairman, people from Nunavut would likely not have to be sent south for CT scans if they could do it here and then return to their communities. If the CT scan detects serious issues, then they would be sent south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last and third question is in regard to renovations to the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Are you going to be

renovating the older part of the Qikiqtani General Hospital and what kind of renovations are you going to be doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Yes, the plan is to renovate what they call the phase 2 of the Baffin Regional Hospital or the Qikiqtani General Hospital, but they will renovate that part. I have a list. I wrote it down somewhere, but it would be for primary care, administration, laundry services, office space, and a whole lot of other stuff. The plan is to issue an RFP near the end of this year or later this year and then start renovations as soon as possible and hopefully have the renovations completed by late 2013. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. For the Tammaativvik allocation of \$2.4 million, I would like the minister to at least again confirm that he said in response to one of the members' questions that once complete, that would serve as one of the means to repatriate some of the patients from Selkirk. Is that true? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. That's my understanding with discussions with staff. If the necessary supports are in place once the new facility opens, they will look at the

individuals case by case to see if they can be returned to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With respect to planning that, mainly it has always been to alleviate the small facility currently near that location, mainly to replace the existing facility, which treats people individually, mainly the day program for individuals with mild mental health illnesses, and so on. I never did understand while I was the minister that it would eventually serve as treating severe mental illness patients. Did the program change since the last six months? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. No, the program hasn't changed. It would not be patients with severe mental difficulties. My understanding is that it's for patients who are currently in the facility at 534 and patients at Selkirk if the supports are in place at the new facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mister Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the way I understand the programs that are running with respect to individuals with some mild to severe cases with respect to mental health, the less severe patients or clients from the health facility normally go to Igloolik. Igloolik is one service of continuing care centres that

they do treat not severe mental health illnesses or disabled individuals.

This facility, Tammaativvik, was really to relieve the old facility so that it can be modernized, it can be used as well as for counselling with substance addiction, handicaps, and so on. As far as I know, Selkirk only serves very severe patients. So how can they be repatriated? If that is the case, then I would have to vote for a project that would be a Nunavut-wide facility. So this facility, Tammaativvik, will then become a Nunavut-wide facility. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All facilities in Nunavut, if an individual is eligible, if you're a resident of Nunavut, I think you would qualify to go to any facility in Nunavut if that's the determination of the health department and working with families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Well, the information did not provide that. Selkirk is a severe case treatment facility and it's almost like a maximum-security facility and this facility, if it's going to be repatriating some of the patients from that Winnipeg, Manitoba, facility, the location is not conducive to that kind of individual. It sits right next door. Even some of the Members of the House indicated to us about a year ago that we would have to make that facility, which is important to renovate, that it should be made secure for students who are running around and using that access to

come and go into that high school location.

So the minister appears to indicate that now this is a territorial-wide facility and the information is not sufficient to convince me that it will be a territorial-wide facility. Most of the individuals who are being treated now at the old facility pretty much walk in and out and they use that current location to sleep and eat at that place and normally walk over to the Baffin hospital for treatment. So will the minister provide more information to convince us that either this is a facility, Tammaativvik, to relieve the current facility there or now it is a territorial-wide facility? Thank you. Which one is it?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I toured the proposed new facility with some of the officials from the Department of Health. I noted that it was near a high school. I also toured the 534. I talked to some of the individuals in there, some of the patients. I was assured that the facility that's the new facility would not pose any danger to any of the students. In fact, it was discussed with the district education authority here in Iqaluit in 2010 and they had no issue it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The information the minister provided doesn't say that. I appreciate the minister wanting us to just now approve that with new criteria. It was raised in the House

about a year ago, even less than that. The facility would have to be secured a bit more because the access right now really is something that the minister is taking quite lightly, that there's no risk.

If you're repatriating patients from Manitoba, these are very secure, very seriously ill [individuals] with mental health illnesses. So I need more information that one, it will be a territorial facility and it will be used to repatriate patients from other provinces. If so, will the minister provide more information so that we can be voting on an item with the correct information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure what Mr. Curley is driving at. He was the minister for three years; I'm the minister for three months.

The department is proposing to acquire the facility. The Government of Nunavut and all of us, as MLAs, have put a high priority on mental health in Nunavut. As indicated earlier in my answers, people will be located in that facility if the support mechanisms are there to help them. There are not going to be patients who are going to pose a danger to the community.

Obviously, people with severe disabilities and mental disabilities will probably need some more sophisticated, complicated help and that would probably be the help that they get down in Selkirk or other facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the minister knows quite well that I support this project. I initiated the first set of criteria that were supported by most of the MLAs and so on. The planning has been very important to establish a facility that could also help patients with substance abuse, to help with mental health programs needed, to make it ready for substance abuse programs and patients that would need services. That has been my understanding.

Now, the new information the minister is providing is that it will be used to repatriate patients from Selkirk who have very severe mental illnesses and it's the only facility practically in Canada that handles people with very severe mental illnesses. It is not a joke. I'm trying to make sure that it is now going to be providing both types of people with illnesses. I always understood it to be that it will be used for people with mild mental illnesses and that is what I understood it to be. So I'm not trying to do anything other than getting better information and accurate information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley. I appreciate his concern for this facility and it's important for the facility to support mental health and improving mental health and continuing mental health care in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, as I have already said, if the support mechanisms and programs are in place in the facility and the individuals who might be considered for the facility meet the profile and the facility can support them, then they would go there. If they don't meet the profile and they can't be supported, they would be placed in another facility and more than likely, down south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Final question. You alluded and indicated to the committee here that it will be used to serve the patients repatriated from Selkirk. That will be one of the services that the facility will serve. Am I correct in understanding you on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, I personally don't know any of the individuals at Selkirk. I don't know what their conditions are and what support they require.

As I said before, if this new facility is acquired and if they put programs in place and they have the staff there with the necessary qualifications to support people from Selkirk and they meet the qualifications, then certainly they would be considered for the facility. I'm not saying that we're going to open a new facility and suddenly bring 10 people from Selkirk. They have to be able to be supported by the people in the facility.

That's usually how it works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are you done? Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to be clear in my comments that were in Inuktitut and I also want to explain. I have been in and visited and toured Selkirk before. There are various levels of mental illnesses that are there. A lot of residents from Iqaluit go there sometimes for one month, two months, four months, six months, or a year, patients who are having mental health issues, such as bipolar or schizophrenic issues, and/or drug issues, that have related to them as becoming mental health. There are varying degrees of patients there.

The Selkirk institute has a website that people can look at and take a look at the work that they're doing. They even take day patients from the area of Manitoba itself. They have different levels. Mind you, on the top floor, they do have the absolute severe cases. At the bottom floor, they have day patients. A lot of people from Nunavut who do go down there are on the main floor. There are some who are on the other levels.

When a person is in a mental situation, they require the proper medicine. In Iqaluit, we don't have the proper psychiatrists who will stay here for a month or more. Because of that, they need to be in an institution like that so that they can be provided with the proper medicine to have proper daily lives like we do, when they have the proper medicine. They are able to live the way

we can as long as they have the proper medicine.

That is what I was talking about when I was referring to taking some of the patients away from Selkirk. I just wanted to have that as clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Thank you for the information. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I didn't want to speak to this bill, I do want to make a comment. I want to support this bill.

For a very long time, Inuit leaders have kept saying that we should start having proper infrastructure. If we can work and have infrastructure in Nunavut, then we should do so. I am very proud of this proposal because we keep saying that when patients have to go out of the territory, it creates stress to the family and to the patient. If we can provide support in our territory and if we have a support system, we should provide support to them. This proposal, I believe, is essential.

I know that my colleague, Monica Ell, explained that there are different levels of mental illnesses in Selkirk. I know individuals from my home community go to Selkirk and they return home. I am very pleased now that patients will be able to go to a facility that is closer to home. Also, I am glad on behalf of Nunavummiut that they will be able to stay in the territory if the facility can take them on.

At the time, I use to be a chair of the Divisional Board of Education when they wanted to construct the Baffin

Correctional Centre. At the time when the Ukiivik residence was a residential school for high school students, I was very concerned. As a board for the Baffin region, we were quite concerned about that, but we had to trust the justice minister and his staff because we know that the correctional facility is right beside the residential school.

So that the people living around that facility won't worry, I believe that when they consider this bill, they will be considering the fact that this proposed facility is quite close to the high school. I believe the department will do everything and I know that we want to provide services in Nunavut for Nunavummiut. I also believe that this proposed facility is going to be beneficial to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I didn't hear a question there. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I don't want to be misunderstood. I'm in support of this bill and I initiated this. Listening to the explanation, we need to respond. Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to say to the minister is that if it's going to become a real mental health facility for mild to severe cases, we need appropriate mental health workers and the program should be more detailed.

For the addictions services project, they have provided funding for abuse and drug treatment and they would combine it. That was the proposal, but now we hear that this mental health treatment centre will be able to take on severe cases of mentally ill people and we need

proper support. I'm not opposed to that, but I'm requesting correct information from the minister. We have to provide correct information to the politicians.

I want the minister to further elaborate if this is going to be a mental health treatment centre. Patients with severe mental health issues are not all from the Baffin region. The minister had stated that we can repatriate patients from Selkirk to this new facility. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what I can say to reassure Mr. Curley. Ms. Ell and Mr. Enook said they support it. I indicated earlier that it's a new facility. They have to acquire it first. That's the first step is to acquire it, then we work on renovating it, and then the individuals who operate it would develop the programs and policies to guide the operations. It's my understanding that they would be mostly patients with mild mental health difficulties and many of the folks who Ms. Ell described would be served.

I don't know where Mr. Curley got this idea about severe. All I said is some patients from Selkirk would be repatriated, but they would have to be able to be supported at the facility. We're not going to be repatriating individuals with severe mental problems if they can't be supported. They would be supported in the south. We would be doing them a great disservice if we brought people up here that we couldn't support. He knows that. He was the Minister of Health for three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Well, this is becoming a political debate and I don't want to go into that. I was merely trying to get some information from the minister, correct information, because the information provided to me while I was the minister that it would serve mild patients who are currently being treated by the hospital here, most of them day patients. They come and go for one week at a time.

I know the Winnipeg, Manitoba facility quite well. Normally, and Monica is correct, they're there for a month, two months, while they're being assessed. It takes that long to get a mental health patient assessed by various doctors. When they find a certain illness, they assign them to various parts of the province, but Selkirk is normally the first major location for assessment purposes. Some do take three months at a time.

I just want assurance that this will be a territorial-wide facility, as the minister has indicated to us. That's all I'm asking. I'm not opposing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your remarks, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, I haven't had an opportunity personally to tour the Selkirk facility. I do try to tour the facilities that our department has relationships with or own. I have been to the hospital in Yellowknife and the Larga home. I have been to most of the

facilities in Iqaluit, but I haven't been to the Selkirk home. What I can tell you is that individuals who be served by this facility will be served by a facility that could support them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names. Therefore, page 5. Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$19,736,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$19,736,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. \$2,600,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question concerns the \$500,000 proposed for funding for the design of the new arena for Rankin Inlet. The only reason I'm asking this question is because when the Government of Nunavut issues their supplementary appropriations, they do not attach substantiation sheets. If they did, it might have diffused a lot of the confusion that Mr. Curley was having earlier, maybe.

So I'm confident that the minister will recall that the Legislative Assembly did not approve similar funding requests last

fall during our review of the 2012-13 capital estimates. At the time, the information in the project's substantiation sheets that the government provided to the MLAs about the project indicated that the scope would include much more than just an arena. The minister will also recall that Members of Legislative Assembly indicated that they would be prepared to support the funding request for a more basic arena.

For the public record, can the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Community and Government Services provide some details concerning the revised scope of work for the Rankin Inlet Arena project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Chairman, I have been assured that the \$500,000 would be for the design of a new arena in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his confirmation. The only other question I'll have on this is in the future, it would be helpful for all MLAs if the government would provide project substantiation sheets when it brings forward supplementary appropriations for new capital projects. Will the Minister of Finance commit to ensuring that these are provided to all MLAs in the future when we are asked to approve capital spending in supplementary

appropriations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Chairman, I don't think the government has a problem with providing that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So he doesn't think they don't. So that means that he will provide the information in the future. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see Mr. Rumbolt is not as sleepy as I am.

>>*Laughter*

Yes, Mr. Chairman, we can provide that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names. Therefore, page 6. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. \$2,600,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no problem in supporting item 2 of this particular page.

I only have a question pertaining to the title. About a year ago, I think, the government came up with a plan to replace aging tank farms across the territory. Is this part of the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his question. Mr. Chairman, the government is continuously trying to upgrade our tank farms. This particular tank farm, I think, was built in 1976. It has undergone some upgrades over the years, but it has reached its capacity. So we continue to upgrade all of our facilities; they have to meet the codes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will try again. Page 6. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. \$2,600,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,600,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page 2. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$23,036,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. For Bill 27 to proceed smoothly, (interpretation ends) Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4 (interpretation) with the Schedule on page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$23,036,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back. (interpretation ends) Clause 4 (interpretation) with the Schedule. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Very good. My colleagues, do you agree to Bill 27 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 27 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We still have other items to deal with, so please be patient.

We have another item to deal with. Minister Peterson, you can proceed with your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*.

Bill 28 is for the write-off of 12 housing units by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Nine of these units are beyond economic repair and three other buildings burned down. Eight of the buildings beyond economic repair are in Iqaluit; one is in Kugaaruk. Of the three buildings lost to fire, one is in Iqaluit, one is in Arctic Bay, and one is in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. He made his opening comments on Bill 28. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*.

The standing committee recognizes that the purpose of the legislation is to write off a number of housing units that are beyond economic repair or have been destroyed by fire. The standing committee has no objections to the intent of the legislation. The standing committee notes that that the 2010-11 Annual Report of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 21, 2012, includes information regarding these write-offs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 28 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Are there any general comments? It doesn't look like there is. Go to Bill 28 in your white binders. (interpretation ends) Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to Schedule on page 2. (interpretation ends) Total. \$370,100. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree with (interpretation ends) clause 1, (interpretation) including the Schedule?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree to Bill 28 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 28 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, my night owls.

Minister Peterson, do you have any opening comments on Bill 29? Minister Peterson.

Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*.

Bill 29 addresses a write-off of \$703,280 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*.

The standing committee has no objections to the intent of the legislation, which is to write off petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage.

Mr. Chairman, as members will recall, Bill 43, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, was considered by the Legislative Assembly in October of 2010 during the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly. This bill wrote off petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage during the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. At that time, Members of the Legislative Assembly posed a number of questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole concerning such issues as the rates of evaporation and shrinkage in different communities.

The standing committee would encourage the minister to consider reporting annually to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department, and that such reporting include detailed information concerning evaporation and shrinkage rates in different communities for different classes of petroleum products.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends the passage of Bill 29 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Are there any general comments regarding the opening comments? There seems to be none. We will now proceed to Bill 29 in your white binders. (interpretation ends) *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Schedule 2 on page 2. Schedule. Total. \$703,288. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 1 (interpretation) with Schedule 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree to Bill 28 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 29 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you so much!

>>*Laughter*

We have completed the section for the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the minister if he has closing remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and the committee for their excellent questions tonight. You commented them being late owls. It has been a long day. We have made a lot of good decisions tonight that will benefit Nunavummiut.

I would just like to take the opportunity now, Mr. Chairman, to thank some individuals in town here: Mr. Bernie Schmidt at the hospital, Monte Kehler, Dr. Sandy Macdonald, who toured me around the facility and showed me all the existing facilities in town, and Deputy Minister Peter Ma.

I would like to thank the Government of Canada for the funding for the CT scanner under the Patient Wait Times Guarantee Fund.

I would like to thank all of the ministers, of course, for being here with us tonight to help answer questions when I needed any help. I would like to also thank my Deputy Minister, Mr. D'Arcy, for his staying up late. I think it's well past his bedtime. Of course, I want to thank all of our staff who have worked very hard to put all of this together.

I would just like to give a little shout-out to Mayor Madeleine Redfern, who was on Twitter tonight. Several of us were assisted with her. She went out and got us some Tim Horton's coffee, so that's why I have the advantage of being a little bit more alert at this time of night. So thank you, Mayor Madeleine.

Thank you, Chairman and Committee of the Whole.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you to your witness. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation) Thank you. This will be the last item for us to deal with. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Mr. Speaker if he has opening remarks on Bill 34.

Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Consideration in Committee

Speaker: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Would you like me to proceed right away or do you want me to wait for a little while?

Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to start off by thanking whichever member dropped their Fisherman's Friend on the floor over there. Whoever has lost them, I found them and I'm glad I found them since I won't be coughing this time sitting up here.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have an opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*.

Bill 34 amends the *Integrity Act* to require that all Members of the Legislative Assembly meet in person with the Integrity Commissioner within 90 days of their election to the Legislative Assembly to review their public disclosure statements and to obtain advice on their obligations under the legislation. This timeframe is broadly consistent with other requirements under the Act.

Bill 34 also provides that members' subsequent annual meetings with the Integrity Commissioner may take place by a variety of appropriate means. The bill also addresses the issue of the attendance of members' spouses at statutorily-required annual meetings.

I am extremely confident that all members will agree that these measures will benefit our system of public accountability under the *Integrity Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would you like a witness?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A witness is always good, so I would like to ask for a witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to bring in the witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): If there should be any questions or general

comments, the floor is open. I apologize. I know the witness so well that I forgot to ask for his introduction.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker,
(interpretation) please introduce your witness.

Speaker: It is okay, Mr. Chairman. It has been a long day. It's kind of like déjà vu from my last appearance here anyway. To my right is our trusty Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. John Quirke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Welcome. Are there any general comments or questions? It doesn't look like there are any. Go to Bill 34 in your white binder.
(interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*. Clause 1.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, are we agreed to Bill 34 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 34 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if you have closing remarks. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the interest of progress, no.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker (interpretation) and your witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, for your assistance. (interpretation ends) I will now rise to report progress. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Oh, my goodness! Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34, and would like to report that Bills 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a

seconder? Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 24, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 24 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 25 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 26 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-
2012 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 26 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 27 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2012-2013 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in

favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 27 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-
2012 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 28 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1,
2010-2011 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 29 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 34 is ready for assent.

Before we proceed to Item 22, Mr. Clerk, will you please ascertain if the Deputy Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Assent

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011 – Assent

Bill 26 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012 – Assent

Bill 27 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 – Assent

Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – Assent

Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Assent

Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Assent

Deputy Commissioner Nellie Kusugak (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I am honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- (interpretation ends) Bill 24, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013;*
- Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011;*
- Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012;*
- Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013;*
- Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012;*
- Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011;* and
- Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act.*

(interpretation) Spring is only weeks away and the land is warming.

As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home. Please enjoy your return

home to your families. I agree with your constituents that they request that you have a good rest when you get home because you have worked very hard on behalf of Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 22. *Orders of the Day*.
Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At last, *Orders of the Day* for May 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 21

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. At this late hour, you still delivered the *Orders of the Day*.

Before I adjourn the House, I would first like to take the opportunity to thank the pages who have been assisting us this past week. It has been a long day today, so I'm sure you're all going to have a good sleep tonight.

>>Applause

There are two young ladies from the riding of Hudson Bay, Sanikiluaq, Melissa and Malaya. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

From Iqaluit, Thomas and Robert, I thank you guys.

>>Applause

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the interpreters.

>>*Applause*

And the technicians.

>>*Applause*

Without them, most of our constituents wouldn't be able to hear what we're saying.

And the Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Applause*

With that, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 23:37*

