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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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(Tununiq)
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Simeon Mikkungwak
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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Saturday, March 12, 2016

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Enook.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors. I would also like to send my regards to my mother and to my family.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and fellow members. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19. Are there any nays? There are none. We will proceed to Item 19. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the

Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 16 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask members to remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook) (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier, (interpretation) and Nunavummiut watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

Before we go to the orders of the day, I would first like to recognize Maatali Okalik, who is in the gallery. Welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

Also, Joeline Sangoya from Clyde River, welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

Let us proceed. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3).

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College, followed by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Department of Environment, the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Justice, and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates for Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa, before we go ahead with your department, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, my colleagues. Yes, I would like officials here with me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to let Minister Quassa's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Quassa, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me to my right is Joe Kunuk. I had to look at him twice. He is the president of Nunavut Arctic College. Sitting to my left is Elaine Uppahuak-Prusky, Senior Business Officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kunuk and Ms. Prusky, welcome to the House.

Yesterday, we started with the opening comments from Minister Quassa. Further, I believe that we also heard the reasons for most of the pages we are set to review and I think we can debate them at that time. Nonetheless, if there are any general comments related to the opening comments, I open the floor. Are there any general comments?

If there are no general comments, let's start with the page-by-page review. Page M-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$34,382,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that Nunavut Arctic College is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa, if you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues for reviewing and approving the main estimates for Nunavut Arctic College. Further, I just want to inform my colleagues that we will implement the action items in our plans.

I also want to thank my officials with me at the witness table, Joe Kunuk, Elaine, and also another official standing by, Marcelo, who is here in the gallery, for their excellent work. I thank them all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

We will then move to the review of (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, (interpretation) but while we get the documents prepared, we will take a five-minute break. His officials are also not present yet. Therefore, we will take a five-minute break while we get prepared for the next department. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 13:42 and resumed at 13:47

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed with the committee

meeting. We will be dealing with the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I would like to ask (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna (interpretation) if he has witnesses that he would like to bring to the table. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna would like to bring his officials in. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Premier Taptuna, please introduce your officials. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Cabinet Secretariat and Deputy Minister David Akeeagok and to my right, Corporate Services of EIA, Les Hickey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickey and Mr. Akeeagok, welcome to the House. Mr. Premier, if you have any opening comments, please proceed. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon and thank you, colleagues and committee members.

I welcome the opportunity to present the 2016-17 Main Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the 2016-19 business plan.

Today, accompanying me is Mr. David Akeagok, Deputy Minister, and Mr. Les Hickey, Director of Corporate Services.

As a central agency that provides support to cabinet, it continues to lead interdepartmental coordination on *Sivumut Abluqta* for departments and agencies and the overall work of the public service. Besides interdepartmental coordination, it continues to move the Government of Nunavut's policy discussions to ensure these interests are represented at the national and international levels.

There are five lines of core business:

- Directorate;
- Strategic Planning;
- Sivumuaqatigiit;
- Intergovernmental Affairs; and
- Devolution Secretariat.

Prior to the divisional details, I am pleased to report the department's main estimates for the 2016-17 fiscal year, which total \$27,886,000. As well, I am pleased to present the departmental business plan.

The main estimate amount is comprised of approximately \$17.5 million allocated toward salaries and benefits, \$190,000 for grants and contributions, an increase from 2015-16 of \$90,000, and \$10.2

million for remaining operations and maintenance costs. The changes as they relate to the core business areas are as follows.

The Directorate, as you know, provides the overall management and coordination of activities for the Executive Branch of government. As secretary to cabinet, the deputy minister provides cabinet and ministerial support. The branch also provides advisory services regarding access to information and privacy protection issues, communications, and administrative support to both the department and the Utility Rates Review Council. The Directorate also supports the Senior Personnel Secretariat function.

In addition to providing broad advice on government business planning, strategies, policies, legislation, and the support on collecting statistical information, the Strategic Planning Branch has been responsible for working directly with the Department of Finance to oversee the operational audit, as committed to in *Sivumut Abluqta*. We have received the consultant's report on the first phase of a comprehensive operational audit to understand which of our programs are working and which need improvement to better serve our public.

The Sivumuaqatigiit Branch is responsible for providing human resources planning and direction on initiatives aimed at increasing and maintaining Inuit employment in the government and for providing assistance and support to departments in training and developing their staff, including interns. The branch is also responsible for leading and coordinating initiatives

to support the government's decentralized model. The Sivumuaqatigiit Division has also launched the Hivuliqtikhanut Program. This is a program geared to enhance leadership development within the Government of Nunavut. The Supervisors Series was launched in September of 2015 and the Senior Managers Series is slated to start in May of 2016.

In fiscal year 2016-17, Intergovernmental Affairs will dedicate funding of \$300,000 to Protocol. While the overall budget remains within Intergovernmental Relations, it is traced by cost centre. This will provide support and first-point-of-contact services for visits from foreign dignitaries and government officials.

This division will also coordinate with departments the overarching approach to matters related to seniors. As well, the division continues to manage relationships with aboriginal, circumpolar, and international organizations. To assist with the management of relationships, Aboriginal Affairs has dedicated an additional \$90,000 to grants and contributions for the next three fiscal years.

As a result of the settlement of the lawsuit filed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated against the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut will see an increase in the amount transferred through a third party agreement to implement varied provisions within the land claims agreement. The settlement agreement has also set out specific funds to implement Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. It should be

noted that the funds to implement the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* are categorized as Vote 4/5 funds and are not reflected in the general estimates.

The transfer of authority over Crown land and non-renewable resources in Nunavut is a priority for this government and essential for the territory's long-term political and economic development.

The Devolution Secretariat leads both the Government of Nunavut's preparation for and participation in negotiations with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In fiscal year 2016-17, \$339,000 in additional funds were allocated to the operation and maintenance for the secretariat to support ongoing negotiations, which is included in the overall departmental budget I mentioned at the beginning.

The Devolution Secretariat has moved forward in a reorganization of their present complement of positions to allow for much-needed financial expertise within the secretariat, to initiate strategic planning and prepare for transition and implementation, to increase research and analyze activities undertaken in-house, to ensure the secretariat's activities are supported by a strong project management foundation, and to align managerial reporting structures.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the departmental main estimates and business plan. I welcome comments and look forward to answering questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: 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 2016-17 main estimates and 2016-19 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$27.88 million has increased by approximately 1.2 percent since the introduction of its 2015-16 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 139. That is an increase of one position from the 2015-16 main estimates.

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

The *Sivumut Abluqta* mandate statement, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Premier on March 20, 2014, indicates that one of the primary goals of the government is to "Review government programs to determine what is working well, what needs improvement, and what we should stop doing in order to focus our resources on enabling Nunavut's success."

In 2015, the government awarded a contract for its "operational audit" initiative. The department's draft 2016-

19 business plan indicates that "Phase one of the external review has been completed. The department will provide government-wide guidance with regard to the recommendations from the final report of Phase One. The department, in partnership with the department of Finance, will identify the scope of review and issue the Request for Proposals for Phase Two of the external review. The Second Phase of the external review will take place between January 2016 and October 2016."

The government's 2017-18 main estimates and business plans will be introduced in February or March of 2017 and the next general election will, under our new fixed election date legislation, take place in October of 2017. The ability of the government to incorporate findings and recommendations from the operational audit initiative into its 2017-18 budget is unclear, as is the extent to which the operational audit is actually considering which government programs, if any, should be discontinued or scaled back.

The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it is "Currently planning for the next cycle of the Food Price Survey to be conducted in March" this month, 2016. In light of the Auditor General's recent report to Parliament on the Nutrition North Canada Program and the new federal government's commitment to its "expansion and improvement," it is important for the department to work closely with federal authorities to share data that could lead to improvements in this important program.

I would also note that information from the 2016 *Nunavut Food Price Survey* can

be expected to be of use to the Department of Family Services in evaluating the adequacy of food allowance rates under the *Social Assistance Regulations*. Section 8 of the territorial *Statistics Act* requires that the annual report of the bureau of statistics be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee notes with concern that the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 annual reports of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it has been "working with the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Quality of Life to coordinate Government of Nunavut services to Seniors provided by all departments. The department is also working with the Department of Health to coordinate GN's participation in the Ministers' responsible for Seniors Secretariat. The department is working to conclude an internal MOU to streamline services for Seniors."

As members will recall, a number of interventions have been made in this House concerning the need for the government to address this issue, including the question of whether to harmonize the age at which residents are considered to be seniors for the purpose of eligibility for certain programs and services.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has assumed a number of functions and responsibilities that were previously exercised by the Department of Human Resources, which was dissolved on April 1, 2013. Other functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance.

It is important to acknowledge that progress has been made in increasing Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut. Information that is contained in the government's quarterly employment reports indicates that a total of 1,272 beneficiaries were employed by the government in September of 2005. By September of 2015, that number had increased to 1,643. This constituted an increase of approximately 30 percent over the course of a decade. On average, the government gained approximately 37 new Inuit employees each year.

It is important for the government to develop realistic and achievable timetables for achieving full representativeness 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.

Information contained in the government's December 2015 quarterly employment report indicates that there were a total of 4,655 positions across the government's departments and Crown agencies; 3,342 of these positions were filled, of which 1,673 were filled by beneficiaries. Assuming that the government could fill all of its positions, it would need to hire 2,283 new beneficiary employees to achieve full representativeness.

The standing committee notes that the government's proposed 2016-19 business plan indicates that its current government-wide Inuit Employment Plan target is 51 percent Inuit employment by March 31, 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the ongoing gender gap within the public service. The 2014-15 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that approximately 38 percent of the public service is composed of beneficiary women. Approximately 26 percent of the public service is composed of non-beneficiary females and an additional 24 percent is composed of non-beneficiary males. However, beneficiary males compose approximately only 12 percent of the public service.

The 2014-15 *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that 2,300 employees were receiving a bilingual bonus. However, the annual report does not provide a detailed community-by-community breakdown of the number of positions that are eligible for a bilingual bonus. Future editions of the annual report would benefit from the inclusion of this information.

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...”

The Government of Nunavut’s new *Human Resource Strategy*, 2014-18, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014, indicates that “A Language Incentive Program will be introduced in 2015-2016 to actively encourage employees to improve their oral and written proficiency in Inuktitut. The program is currently being designed, including the finalization of proficiency levels, assessment tools and recommended compensation for each level.”

The 2014-15 *Annual Report of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* (Inuit Language Authority), which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 21, 2015, indicates that the authority has “collaborated with the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Pirurvik Centre on developing [Inuktitut] competency levels for the government’s proposed language incentive. (...) As part of the project, three levels of Inuktitut proficiency have been proposed.”

The standing committee supports the introduction of standardized language proficiency testing that is objective and consistent.

On June 5, 2012, the Government of Nunavut’s *Decentralization Action Plan* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The *Decentralization Action Plan* states that “The current model can be strengthened by shifting focus on the number of positions and communities they go to and maintaining a commitment to allocating and maintaining over 60% of the public service outside of Iqaluit.”

The department’s draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it “reviewed the Action Plan that was initially developed by the (former) Department of Human Resources. A revised draft was developed to update timeframes and clarify lead departments for action items. Departments are currently being consulted to finalize the revisions.” The standing committee urges the minister to table the revised action plan in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's 2015-18 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year was to "...work to finalize the devolution Agreement-in-Principle for transfer of authority over, and administration and control of Crown lands, water, and resources from Canada to the Government of Nunavut." The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that "[Devolution] Agreement-in-Principle negotiations commenced October 3, 2014 and [were] suspended during the federal election period."

The standing committee encourages the government to publicly clarify the number of federal positions that are envisioned to be transferred to the territorial public service as part of the devolution process. It is also important to be mindful that the transfer of significant numbers of federal positions and personnel may not necessarily have an immediately positive impact on the government's efforts to achieve a fully representative workforce.

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. On October 31, 2014, the Premier tabled *A Northern Vision: Building a Better North* in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee supports Nunavut having a strong voice concerning such issues as the need to enhance federal search and rescue capacity in the north.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 main estimates and 2016-19 business plan of the Department of

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. We are on page B-4. Premier Taptuna's opening comments are covered in the pages we are going to deal with. You can ask your questions as we go page by page. I would like to ask if there are any general comments on the opening comments. I don't see any. Let's go to page B-4. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Premier, staff, (interpretation) and those people watching in Gjoa Haven. If my grandchild is watching, I love you.

(interpretation ends) In 2015, the government awarded a contract for its operational audit initiative. The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that "Phase one of the external review has been completed. The department will provide government-wide guidance with regard to the recommendations from the final report of Phase One. The department, in partnership with the department of Finance, will identify the scope of review and issue the Request for Proposals for Phase Two of the external review. The Second Phase of the external review will take place between January 2016 and October 2016."

How many recommendations were contained in the final report of phase 1 of the operational audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just get that figure right now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. The phase 1 report, which I am tabling on Monday, does not have any recommendations. It's leading up to phase 2 to lead into recommendations. At this point, phase 1 was to determine how these programs are actually functioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 4 of 2015, you announced in the Legislative Assembly that the recommendations from the final report of phase 1 of the operational audit were being reviewed. What were the main recommendations in the report and how is the government responding to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. There are five focuses on attention to key groups of programs to improve effectiveness. That's one of the things that we are trying to action item out.

Again, improve on how programs are administered to increase efficiency is more or less to determine if the investment we make as a government has actually done some things on the positive side for the people of Nunavut.

To explore our opportunities to deliver some programs and services differently

is all about the opportunities to improve our programs to benefit Nunavummiut. These are the things we are trying to find out.

Four is to plan strategically and report on the results of Government of Nunavut programs to Nunavummiut; Nunavummiut have to understand these programs that are available; and strengthen the strategic capacity to deliver commitments and obligations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2013, the Government of Nunavut underwent a significant restructuring, including the division of the Department of Health and Social Services into two different departments.

Will phase 2 of the operational audit include a review of the government's current organizational structure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Sivumut Abluqta* mandate statement, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20 of 2014, indicates that one of the primary goals of the government is to "Review government programs to determine what is working well, what needs

improvement, and what we should stop doing in order to focus our resources on enabling Nunavut's success."

Did the final report from phase 1 of the operational audit recommend the ending of any specific programs and, if so, what were they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. No, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more. Your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that "The Second Phase of the external review will take place between January 2016 and October 2016."

The government's 2017-18 main estimates and business plans will be introduced in February or March of 2017. The next general election will take place in October of 2017.

How does the government plan to incorporate the results of the operational audit into its 2017-18 budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do continue on work, even throughout the general elections. On completion of this work, we should

be able to set the baseline work, but we are going to continue on.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we do have strategies and policies out there that carry on from government to government. We see if there are effective changes that we have made, I'm sure that there's no reason going into the next election that these will be changed once we establish the programs that are doing well.

Mr. Chairman, we see that throughout every government where we inherit programs, we try to improve them and it's no different. We will put in our improvements for efficiency and we have found that most of the programs have actual ownership from departments, so there are reporting structures that are in place already.

Again, we will ensure that some of these changes are communicated to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Premier and your officials.

The other day, I was trying to ask the Minister of Finance a question that was under your portfolio, apparently, that had to do with the operational audit that Mr. Akoak was questioning. I'm going to ask it here again.

Last week, Minister Savikataaq was introducing his budget in front of us and explained that there are so many PYs they need for IT. He was explaining that

it was a result of the operational audit. I believe it was the first phase.

I understand you indicated that you will be tabling that portion on Monday. Why has it taken so long to table this report? Before this year's main estimates, you could have maybe got advance copies of the first audit. Why are we seeing that there were action items coming out of the audit before any results were tabled? We haven't seen them yet. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that. We have many programs within the government and, of course, through our Crown agencies. There's a lot of work put into that. Again it's phase 1 of the audit review. We want to ensure we cover all the programs. It does take time. There are over 300 programs that the Government of Nunavut administers. With that in mind, there is still a lot of work to be done. We want to ensure that it's done right.

The second phase will come up with more action items that will ensure that our programs and the money we invest in Nunavut have actual benefits to Nunavummiut. I guess, at the end of the day, we talked about best possible bang for our buck, simply put, to ensure that our programs are working effectively to ensure our programs are working effectively, efficiently, and actually benefiting Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I guess I was taken aback with the announcement when Minister Savikataaq was talking about that. It's a response, as a result of the operational audit/program review, that they had to put in 21 new PYs.

You indicated there are five key areas that there will be recommendations on. Can you elaborate on what those five key areas would include? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the committee member for that question. I am glad we are spending some time on this to ensure that our investments are worthwhile for Nunavummiut.

The five key things we are focusing on are to ensure that we align responsibility to, of course, improve effectiveness. These programs have to have ownership within the departments. We've got to ensure that there are correct evaluations on the reports and we've got to take action on, of course, the program deficiencies.

We also have to improve program administration. We do have to ensure that all the financial contributions that are given out there are accounted for, and explore opportunities to deliver some programs in other, different ways.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have to make plans to strategically report on results of these programs to all Nunavummiut. That's a key component

of this audit, to ensure that funds invested out there are transparent and benefiting Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. In your business plan on page 3, you talk about exploring “options regarding municipal access to information and protection of privacy legislation.” I’m just wondering if you can update us here today of where your talks are at when it comes to engaging them and all municipalities at the community level. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We continue to have discussions with the communities. We know that the municipalities have a huge workload. They have told us that they want to work with us under a less stressful arrangement. We’re still in talks with them and we haven’t really settled anything yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Minister. Ms. Akeeagok.

>>*Laughter*

My apologies, Mr. Akeeagok. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: It’s the A’s; too many A’s.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about compliance in regard to information and protection of privacy, what are the major areas or should we all be concerned of the sharing between government and municipalities? Which kind of programs, for example, are we doing that with the municipalities at this point where we really don’t have legislation in place with them? Maybe you can talk about that and some of the challenges that you’ve had in ensuring that information is being protected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll defer that question to Deputy Minister Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The municipalities, by right, are their own standalone governments and they have their own records management systems and protections for the work that they do.

We do communicate, on our side, our roles and responsibilities for access to information and requirements for protection. We have a good working relationship from what I would consider and they have good protections.

It would be the municipalities to respond to the specific question, but from our standpoint, we are working to ensure and provide training to those who want training on access to information and privacy protection. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked that is because I know there has been sharing of information on some more sensitive types of programs, such as through adoption. I know the regional Inuit associations are also quite involved in this, but I think also the hamlets. When you talk about, let's say, adoptions, social services, and income support, that is a lot of very private kind of information that the government provides as a service. That's why I'm bringing that up.

How do we ensure that kind of protection to people's information without this legislation? It's not mandatory about ATIPP, if communities want it, and you were saying that they have their own way of dealing with things. I think it's also the government's responsibility to give those kinds of responsibilities to the municipality to ensure that they do really have proper mechanisms in place to ensure that privacy is protected at all levels. I understand that it must be a challenge, but I would like to know how you are dealing with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer that question to Deputy Minister Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When the municipalities or any organization is going to provide service on behalf of the government, where there are contribution agreements or service contracts, within each of those agreements, there are certain protections that we provide through our agreements and directions and instructions on how to keep the privacy for those individuals.

In every agreement, there are components on access to information and protection that we provide guidance to. Each of those agreements is within the sponsoring departments and to the municipalities or any organization. That is paramount in providing the privacy and protection.

Within our department, we do have the privacy manual that we provide to the departments to ensure that if we are going to outsource, there are protections in place for individuals or organizations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that comes to mind, if there was such a breach and somebody felt that there was a breach, how well do communities know where to call? If I feel that my information was not protected and somehow my private

information was leaked out, even if it's not on purpose, how would somebody know what to do with that? Do you have like a hotline that somebody can call? How do they go about doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer that question to Deputy Minister Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) All of our ATIPP coordinators within every one of the departments are listed in our Government of Nunavut forms. Also, within our department, we do inform our government liaison officers of who to contact if there are any concerns, specifically to a department, if there are any breaches. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many phone calls have you received? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer that question to Deputy Minister Akeeagok. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Each of the breaches that are identified, we do it through our annual report and that gets tabled in this House. I don't have this year's current numbers in terms of how many are breached or potentially breached, but we do report it through our annual report that is provided to this House on an annual basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I want to go to something different that was referred to earlier by my colleagues about the audit. I understand there are two phases, but I'm wondering if you have any thought now as to whatever the outcomes are, if there are programs and services where, through the audit, you become aware that it's something that you should not be doing, the government should be stopping this right away; we're wasting money. How are you going to deal with the staff or people who work in that area? Would they be able to go to other jobs? Have you thought along that line yet of how you are going to deal with the changes due to the outcome of the audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the phase 2 audit will determine that. If there are any programs identified that may require a change or even deletion of that program, we will certainly have to

come up with a transition plan to ensure that, as Ms. Angnakak has said, the employees of the department running the program will certainly have to come up with an acceptable transition plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Again in regard to the audit, when phase 2 comes out with its recommendations, is this something that cabinet will say, "Okay, this is a recommendation, so we're going to do it," or is it going to be, "This is the recommendation; we need to talk about this"? Would you go against certain types of recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, there are always many recommendations. As elected cabinet members, we do have to scrutinize and determine which is the best option that is suitable to the people we serve in Nunavut. Of course, there are many recommendations that do come. As the cabinet, we do have to ensure that the best possible option, whether it's a program change or any other type of recommendation, that we pick out the best option that is most suitable for benefiting Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Just while we're on the topic, is the review also covering arm's-length entities of the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, are you finished? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Premier and his officials. (interpretation) Good day, residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) My first question will be on page 2 of your business plan regarding the Utility Rates Review Council. In looking at that, the Utility Rates Review Council does make recommendations to the minister responsible. In looking at and reading the whole paragraph, URRRC, I believe, is under EIA. At the same time, there is another minister who oversees another department; the Qulliq Energy Corporation is under another minister.

When you look at the recommendations that are submitted by the committee, who has the final say on the recommendations as to what recommendations are going to be followed through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee

member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation has that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all know and it has been brought up in the House here, when we look at general rate applications that are submitted by URRC, after they have reviewed and after having some meetings, are there any meetings that are held by the Utility Rates Review Council within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are discussions and meetings for the Utility Rates Review Council in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his response. On page 4 of your business plan, Priorities (2018-19), the second bullet, "The URRC expects to review Qulliq Energy Corporation's next General Rate Application."

My question here would be there are some communities within Nunavut that have received energy audits and other communities within Nunavut that have not received energy audits. When we look at the next general rate application in 2018-19, will that be taken into

consideration and how will the adjustments be made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, that's why we have the Utility Rates Review Council to determine all the facts that are put into the application and all input from the public. If energy efficiency audits have been done in some units, I'm certain that the council will review that and make recommendations on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess when we look at energy audits and electricity, there are some communities that are a little bit more advanced than other communities. How will that impact general rate applications proposed in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These energy audits are done by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and/or the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Once they do that, the information is usually shared with other affected departments. For these energy audits, we don't have that information within EIA at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the same line of questioning, but I would like further information on page 2. It says here that the Utility Rates Review Council provides advice and recommendations.

We have rates that are set out and electricity is usually generated with fuel, which is expensive. Will the Utility Rates Review Council look at or have they looked at alternative methods of generating energy in the north that is less expensive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the Qulliq Energy Corporation does that in trying to find alternative energy or greener, efficient, alternative energies. It's not the utility rates review that does that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got part of my question answered, but not all of it. In the north, the generators use fossil fuels. Are you looking at alternative methods that use less fuel that can be used in the north? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has the ability to do audits on alternative energy. That practice has been done through Community Government and Services where there are government assets and government buildings that have been retrofitted with solar panels and other forms of energy and collecting heat off the generators. Mr. Chairman, that's not necessarily the utility rates review prerogative. It's done through Community and Government Services and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. (interpretation) We are on page B-4. It reads, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,654,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page B-5. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 6, fourth bullet from the top, you're "Currently planning the next cycle of the Food Price Survey to be conducted in March 2016." Has that been done already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're planning on conducting the food pricing in March. We haven't done that yet, but we're currently in the plans of doing that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. Maybe some of these employees are working too fast.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, GLOs have collected that information and the collection of information is done at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you be able to tell us which parts of Nunavut have the highest cost of living in all of Nunavut, which area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the committee member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, the Kitikmeot region has the highest overall cost between the three regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these surveys, we are all trying to find ways to help. We do all kind of surveys and they don't seem to help any. With a survey like that, how is the Government of Nunavut going to be helping the Kitikmeot region to lower the cost of living? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very excellent question. Mr. Chairman, as members all know, the Nutrition North program is going to be reviewed by the new Minister of Indigenous Affairs. That's one of the things we are going to be participating in as a government. With a food survey like this, that is data that can be used to point and pitch our issues forward to a renewal of the Nutrition North Canada Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. Part of my question is the new federal government has announced it is reviewing the Nutrition North program. Can you describe how your department will contribute to the review of the Nutrition North Canada Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We intend to have discussions with the minister. Of course, we intend to use the survey to absolutely make it clear what it costs for daily living just on the food baskets alone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. We just had a meeting with the three airlines last month or a few months ago. Did you have any discussions with the airlines on how they can help reduce the cost of

living in the north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, in every community, all our foodstuffs are flown up; all the fresh stuff is flown up. There is no doubt that Minister Bennett will be including airlines on the review of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am on page 6 of your business plan and my colleague did ask a question about this and, that is, to conduct the 2016 Nunavut Food Price Survey. I want to know how exactly that was carried out. How did you do it? Did you hire people in the communities? How many people? What happened? Did it all happen at the same time? They all went to NorthMart or Co-op? Can you talk about how that was carried out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The food price survey was done through GLOs. Mr. Chairman, I can have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond in more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is a spreadsheet that has 118 food

items and 17 non-food items that each of the GLOs have and they go to the Northern Store, the Co-op, and whatever store is within those communities on a fixed date. Tuesday was the day that all of our GLOs went to the stores and got all those prices of that day. That has been going on for the last three years. We are having good, significant data as a result of this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite a few years ago when we had the old Food Mail Program, one of the challenges that the federal government had was to be able to provide oversight on prices. They would be very limited in knowing what was actually going on.

Sometimes the director of the program would come up to the north to one of the communities. The problem is NorthMart and the Co-ops knew that he was coming, so sometimes the prices were actually marked down.

Was this a surprise thing or did you NorthMart know that you were going to be choosing this day or did the Co-ops know? How was this carried out? Was that something that was taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, retailers knew that they were coming in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us why you chose that method? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information with me, but I'll certainly share it once I get that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will look forward to it. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was referring to was why did you use that method where there was no element of surprise? Why did you tell them, "By the way, we're coming in to check your prices"? Why would you do it like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're doing surveys, we do have to give notification, as with every other survey. If there's any improved way of collecting food prices, we will certainly look in that and make efforts to improve that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't say this is for sure, but I'm sure if they knew that you guys were

coming in, some modifications were done. I would suggest that you talk with Feeding My Family. They had a way of going into the stores across Nunavut and finding out what the prices were. Were they consulted at all in the methods that you were going to be using to collect this kind of data? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they weren't consulted. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest that it would be beneficial to talk with them because they have gone through this before and they have done it in a way to get the true prices. It's just a suggestion and I hope that you could be open to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're certainly open to any improvements that it would do. On behalf of Nunavummiut, we will certainly look into that and find ways to improve the survey of food price collection. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that very much. We all want to get the true cost, exactly what we are dealing with, at least then we know how to deal with it.

I want to go on to the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics that I included in my opening

comments. If I remember correctly, in the decentralization study report, I think the recommendation for that office was to move it to Iqaluit out of Pangnirtung. I could be wrong, but I think I read that somewhere. I want to ask the Premier if there had been any kind of consideration for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we have these divisions out there in these smaller communities, we plan to keep those positions there for employment in the smaller communities, but we are not aware of making any plans of moving the division into Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us why they are late in tabling all those annual reports that are due? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As departments, we do our utmost best to try to table documents on time, especially the legislative documents. I'll be tabling all the documents that were mentioned this week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many people staff that

office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member clarify which office? Is it the Department of EIA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Can you identify which one, Ms. Angnakak?

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics office. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for that. Mr. Chairman, we have nine employees within that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of those, how many beneficiaries are working in that office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get back to the committee member on the numbers there. We have overall numbers of beneficiaries working within that department.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just been informed that there are four beneficiaries in that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priorities, I'm assuming, was under strategic planning, but I'm not sure and maybe you can clarify if the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics office is doing this and that is working with Statistics Canada.

I guess my question is: who would be in your...? Maybe I'll back up. On page 5 of the business plan, it says here, "Preparations for the 2016 Census of Canada – work with Statistics Canada to promote the census in Nunavut communities to ensure that Nunavut residences are enumerated." It's a hard word to say. Who would actually be doing that kind of work? Who would be providing them with that support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The director within that office communicates with Statistics Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In what way would they provide support? What are they doing? Providing background information that has already been collected by the department? How are they assisting? I'm

curious. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have operational information at this time, but we will certainly provide it to the committee member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will look forward to it. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that have come about with all of this census taking which I have heard on the radio and I have heard people talk about is the issue of language. We have census takers coming into communities, but they don't speak Inuktitut. A lot of people who are unilingual have refused, obviously, because they can't communicate properly. Has that concern been passed to you as Premier? What's your level of engagement with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Nunavut statistics bureau, we do have beneficiaries that speak all our official languages. Under Statistics Canada, of course, we try to engage them in ensuring that they have bilingual employees. I understand that at one point, they did put out ads in the paper for assistance in that, to hire people who are bilingual to assist in their surveys. I understood that there were no responses to their ads. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that something then that Statistics Canada could go to the Nunavut Kiglisiniaqtiit office and maybe coordinate a better coordination of this so that some elders that were on the radio weren't faced with that kind of awkward situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Mr. Chairman, that's absolutely right. There's another federal office here that do have bilingual employees that could assist with Statistics Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again on page 5, the last bullet of your business plan, it says, "Revise methods and examine potential sources of data to improve community population estimates and projection models." I'm wondering: is there a problem with the way it's done now that you want to revise these methods and, if so, what are the problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will find ways to improve

our methods. I'm not sure exactly what they are at this point, but there's always ongoing work to improve finding ways to ensure that we have more accurate data that we can analyze for numerous, different programs that we administer as a government. Population numbers are key and it's critical for our government to ensure that we are putting out the right amounts of information and funding for our populations that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I do appreciate his response, I don't think it really answers the question.

Obviously, somebody put "revised" there because a change was needed. I'm just curious what kind of change is needed there to improve community population. Statistics for us is very important since a lot of our funding from the federal government goes by how many people we have in Nunavut and what kind of situation we're facing. I'm always very cautious when I see things like that. It sort of tells me that maybe the way we have been doing it hasn't been correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that excellent question. We are always trying to improve. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I'll have Deputy Minister Akeeagok get into more detail of the operational things we do within

the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For professions such as statistics, much like accountants and other professions where they have models and tools in place, there are times that you revisit those models and data to see if there are improvements. Once they have a standard in place, it does take a while to make some corrections and there is need for revisiting. I don't have the specifics in terms of what exactly was reviewed, but those are ongoing improvements that professions such as statistics do for this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. One of the things I have often heard about Nunavut - I don't know if it's true or not and your department under that division would be responsible - is that we don't have enough data. We don't have enough data to determine outcomes or what we should be doing next.

For example, when we were talking with the finance minister about the few million dollars that were taken away, it came to statistics and data and how they evaluate it. It was very different and stuff like that. I'm just wondering what your response would be to that.

How are we doing with our statistical information? Is that office growing? Are

they actually doing more things? For example, were they involved with this price survey thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee member is absolutely right. Statistics are important. That's why when Canada is doing their survey of the population and demographics, they are trying to get information to base their programs and funding for all jurisdictions. That's why it's really important for the people of Nunavut to participate in these surveys.

Yes, our statistics bureau is growing. It does a lot of work. At times, there is ongoing work for improvement. There is work to improve how data is analyzed and shared. One of the key factors is that, of course, when our funding was cut to a certain amount, it was based on statistical information from 1988, I believe. That's why it's very important that, as citizens, we do participate in surveys that are conducted out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ms. Angnakak, I believe you're done. Let's take a 15-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 15:14 and resumed at 15:31

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are ready to proceed again. We are on page B-5. Let us proceed. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question I have is about the food price survey. The data was collected for the food price survey. Can it be tabled in the House when it's ready? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can table that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I have questions about Statistics Canada. Although it was already discussed, why was it set up like that? I heard in the news as well that the elders were visited, but they were unable to answer the questions because of the differences in languages. However, your office helps the people from Statistics Canada. What's the problem? Is it not set up right? Do they not have proper Inuktitut-speaking staff in all the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Yes, it's Statistics Canada's census surveys they conduct. Exactly how that's rolled out, we try to assist them in collecting information. Yes, I indicated earlier that there was an ad that went out from them to hire bilingual Inuit to assist them up north. From my understanding, there

have been no responses to their ads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 of your business plan, the funding for the Policy and Planning Division for the 2015-16 fiscal year was \$1,421,000. For the coming year, you are requesting \$2,263,000. What is the reason for this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were changes of \$397,000 and various changes in compensation levels; of course, the two new additions of policy analysts, an increase in service contracts has to do with operational audits, and a \$5,000 decrease in purchased services. Mr. Chairman, on the operational audit, it was a \$450,000 increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize that I don't really understand. Did you talk about PYs? Did you add some positions? How many positions were added for the \$397,000 increase? Was some of it used for a position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry if I didn't make myself clear. There are two new policy analyst positions that were filled that amounted to \$397,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we divide the \$397,000 into two, they're going to be earning almost \$200,000 each. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it's that much, but I'll have our director of finance for corporate services respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difference in the salary levels are the addition of two policy analysts. We estimated that to be about \$350,000 for those two positions. We also, in 2015-16, upgraded the position or re-evaluated the position of an executive director for the associate deputy minister. We estimated that increase at \$80,000. The difference of \$90,000 were various increments of remaining positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess they will be making a very good salary.

Let me move on to something else. On page 6, it states, "Expand on (interpretation ends) Occupational Demand model..." (interpretation) I wonder what that means. It's being done by your department. Is it to create positions? Is it a person who divides up the PYs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the operational demand model, the member is correct. That is what positions are out there to determine which sectors they're in and that will allow us to provide more statistical information at regional and community levels. It's looking at positions and identifying which area that they are in. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he explain further which jobs people want the most or what kinds of jobs people mostly apply for? Would this be for government? It also talks about the private sector. One of your priorities for 2016-17 is "to incorporate the private sector occupations..." I would like clarification on whether it is mainly for the government or both. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeegok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to redefine the way all the positions available in Nunavut are categorized so that people will have a better idea of what jobs are out there and where they are. Once they are compiled, we want to be able to show what kinds of jobs are taken the most. With the jobs better defined, it should make it easier and more helpful to the regions as jobs become available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the response. On page 7, in the Priorities (2016-17), the last bullet states, "Disseminate and analyze data files from the Nunavut Government Employment Survey (NGES) and other survey data related to Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement." Can you explain that further? Have you compiled the data already and can you explain that further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister

Akeegok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the previous year, the Nunavut government employees were surveyed and some of them applied to Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. We have been categorizing the jobs that fall under that. We collect the questions and use them to help us in our planning process and training plans. It helps us put things like that together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Can you give us an example of what kinds of questions were asked of the Nunavut government employees during the survey? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information with us at this time, but we're willing to share it with the committee member once we have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will expect that, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I will be expecting the contents of the survey or the scope of the survey to be tabled as well. I will stop here for now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that was a general comment and I didn't hear a question. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. The first question that I would like to ask is on page 5 of the business plan in strategic planning for 2015-16. It states, "work with Statistics Canada to promote the census in Nunavut communities..." It states that next year, they will provide more help "to ensure that Nunavut residents are enumerated..."

That is good news, but I think they need to change the process that they use, especially when there are unilingual Inuit people out there. The data they are collecting will contain huge gaps and therefore affect our incomes. I am very concerned that many things will not be included. Will you be informing the federal government that the data they collect are incomplete as far as Nunavummiut are concerned? I would like to ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we talked about that earlier. That is quite correct. I am encouraging Nunavummiut to participate in the [enumeration] when it comes around on census Canada. If there are ways to assist Canada in getting all the information, we will certainly be looking at how we could do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The statistics people came to my home. Although they asked me a question, I wanted to see what was going on, so I answered in Inuktitut, even though I could speak English. They said that they would come back with an interpreter. I have been waiting for approximately a month for them to come back.

How many unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people have we met so far with the census? It seems like the statistics are going to be missing a whole lot of people. Will it reduce the number of funding that we will get from the federal government? I encourage you to tell the federal government to do a full census, without missing anyone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be working with our Nunavut MP on this. It's absolutely critical that Nunavummiut participate in the census gathering by Canada. We will certainly have that discussion to find out how we could ensure that Statistics Canada get bilingual Inuktitut-speaking census takers while they're up north here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe a lot of the communities have been visited by these unilingual census takers already and a lot of data was not collected from a lot of our communities, perhaps already. Those numbers will be

used to determine our funding as a government. I think we have to be ready to explain that this census is not complete according to our figures. Can we at least warn the federal government that these figures will not be complete until they have bilingual services for census taking? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll certainly pass that concern to our Nunavut MP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any additional questions, Mr. Okalik?

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I'm done with that topic because I was quite concerned and I'm glad that they will do more work on it. I'll move on to other topics later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was referred to earlier in another question related to food price reductions. It was referred to early in the opening comments, so I want to ask this question so that I understand clearly.

For those of us who live in smaller communities, we don't always see the price reduction listed on the food prices. The reason why I am asking about this is because even though we are all Inuit, we all have different capabilities. As an

example, some of the older generations cannot use English, although some people are functionally bilingual. Even those of the younger generations don't always have proper mathematical skills to decipher the tags while some Inuit have disabilities, such as blindness or deafness.

I know it will be slowly improved, but I want to clearly understand the food price reduction program. Now, if this is implemented, when residents go shopping who are either deaf or are unilingual Inuit, how will they understand the price reduction in the food they are trying to buy? When they can't see the reduction on the foodstuffs, how can they know that the product they are buying has had its price reduced? Will a list outlining the price reductions be made available to them that are not listed at this time? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a very complicated question and we do encourage the entities that are out there to assist people with disabilities. That's exactly what some of these companies, industry, and retailers try to do to accommodate people with disabilities by building ramps or even assisting them. Of course, if they don't have any family members, they do try to assist the best way possible. I can't be certain of exactly how's that done at this time, but when people are blind and grocery shopping, I'm sure there's somebody there to assist with their shopping. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the Premier really understood my question, so I will ask again by citing an example. A product that is for sale, with the price reduced, how will I know that the price is subsidized? The price tags don't list the reduction of the price, so how will I be able to see the subsidy put towards that product? That is my question. Some Inuit are unilingual or have very basic math skills. When will they be able to understand the subsidies applied to the products they intend to purchase? Not all Inuit have disposable incomes from a salaried position here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. It's a very difficult question to answer. That's why people that don't fully understand what items are on sale, I'm sure they have family members that they take along to assist them in their purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have additional questions? Are you done? Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask you firstly. We have seen in the past when the questions become too similar to previous queries, the Chair has the authority to stop the questioning, especially when members understand the issue and they continue to probe further.

This issue holds a personal concern related to the Statistics Canada census survey where the surveyor arrived into our community. Mr. Chairman, if you can provide me an opportunity to voice my concern about this census, I first ask for your discretion to allow my question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. I will provide that opportunity based on the reasoning that many concerns from various communities have been expressed about the survey. If we provide this information to our Premier, it will be beneficial for his submission of concerns, so I will allow you to voice your concern. Please go ahead, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Premier, my *ningaukuluk*, and your officials. Welcome.

This matter highlights one concern I have regarding the current census surveyor and the process, as he came to our home when I happened to be completely alone. We had a brief discussion when I asked him who he was and what he was doing. His response was that he was conducting the census.

He asked me if I spoke English and I replied, "Just a little," and I informed him that I knew a very capable interpreter that I would call. He responded that he would return at 4:00 p.m. I started expecting to see this person who provides most of the local interpreting services and whether the surveyor would come in with this person. He arrived with an interpreter who wasn't as capable when they arrived to conduct the census.

Now, with the extreme importance placed on this census and future funding levels related to the data, including identifying the elders who qualify for senior citizen benefits, in my community where I was elected, many residents decided not to participate in this survey. The reasoning was that they didn't share the same language and since they were alone without an interpreter present, even though this census is one of our most critically important surveys as this is a very significant process.

I now direct our Premier to send recommendations for all future census surveyors to be multilingual so that they don't require an interpreter. I wonder if this can be accommodated. Does this government have the ability to recommend that change or will it remain being conducted in this manner where the surveyor comes in unexpectedly to conduct the survey without an interpreter? This can be disconcerting to some residents. I would like to know if a decision will be made. Will this process continue in this way? Let me get an answer to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Although I know (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier (interpretation) had responded to some earlier questions related to that matter, due to the importance of this survey, I allowed the member to ask the question. Although you may have answered some parts of the question, I will allow you another opportunity to respond, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the member asking about this

matter. Earlier, I had responded that in Nunavut, our elected federal representative is the MP as well as a federal minister, Minister Tootoo. I will ensure I bring up that concern, as perhaps qualified Inuit surveyors are in short supply here in Nunavut that many residents did not complete the survey, especially unilingual Inuit residents, either in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, and their personal data was not collected.

They have replied that they have searched for workers who are bilingual and requested qualified surveyors, but they haven't seen any applications. I will ensure that I forward that at my next meeting with Minister Tootoo about that concern and ask him what he thinks would be the best way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Shooyook, are you done? Yes. Thank you. We're on Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Strategic Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,605,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page B-6. It reads, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,643,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please be aware that I'm reading the Inuktitut version. If they're wrong, it's not my fault.

>> *Laughter*

Turn to page B-7. It reads, Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$297,000. Do you agree? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might not have too many questions here. I'm sorry, I'm wrong. I agree too.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): For clarity, I'll go over it again. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$297,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to the next page. B-8. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In your business plan on page 12, your department's draft for 2016-19 indicates that it "has been working with the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Quality of Life to coordinate Government of Nunavut services to Seniors provided by all departments. The department is also working with the Department of Health to coordinate GN's participation in the Ministers' responsible for Seniors Secretariat. The department is working to conclude an internal MOU to streamline services for Seniors."

Is the government looking at the issue at harmonizing the age in which residents are considered to be seniors for the purpose of eligibility for certain government programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Yes, we are working on that. As members are well aware, there are many different ages that are considered seniors or elders and there are many different programs that have different age categories. We are working to ensure that it's harmonized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it is "working to conclude an internal MOU to streamline services for Seniors." Can you describe in detail what is planned to be included in the internal MOU? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, I'll have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the internal MOUs in the regions and who will be working together and what their tasks will be, which the Premier

mentioned and have given direction on, we are tasked with completing a number of this during the year. The work being done and the services provided to elders are under different rules. Under the internal MOU, we are looking at how we can streamline them. We need to have a common understanding as regions and as departments in order to work together better. From there, we want to provide elders with programs and services that are available to them. That is what we are currently doing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Last November, you appointed yourself as Nunavut's Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate. How do your responsibilities differ from those of the Minister of Culture and Heritage, whose department has responsibility for certain elders programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, as the advocate for seniors, I have started some initiatives to ensure that all our seniors throughout Nunavut understand that there are programs available within the government in various, different departments. We are putting together a resource manual or resource book to be distributed to the communities through our GLOs. That's one of the initiatives we are doing right now because there are so many departments that have programs for seniors. We want to ensure that seniors

throughout Nunavut understand that there are programs out there that might be able to help them. There are programs in the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in the health department, Justice, and other departments, including Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, we want to ensure that we find a way to have our seniors apply without getting confused. In some cases, it involves two or three different departments. We want to ensure that we advocate to ensure that they have assistance in getting through the programs they are applying for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 22, 2015, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the establishment of the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation. You and the Minister of Education sit on the corporation board of directors. As of today, how many meetings has the board of directors held and what was decided on at these meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The board has conducted one board of directors meeting. A second one is scheduled for some time this month. The initial meeting that we had was to set up the priorities, including the by-laws of the corporation, and the second meeting will fine-tune that. Once again, it is finalized by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The Minister of Education and I will be certainly

participating in the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The May 2015 settlement agreement that you co-signed with the federal minister of northern affairs and the president of NTI provided in part that the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut will each establish a central Inuit employment and training coordination office. As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, I would like one of my officials to appear at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have another witness go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. *Iqsuqtii*, can you escort the witness in?

Thank you. Premier Taptuna, can you introduce your staff?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Virginia Lloyd. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Alex had a question. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer that question to Ms. Lloyd. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the provision within the settlement agreement articulating the centre for Inuit employment within the respective governments, for the Government of Nunavut, this office is held within our department at Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs through the Strategic Planning Branch, which oversees Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, before I ask my questions, I would like to acknowledge the Premier. When he did visit the community of Baker Lake, he met with the elders' society in Baker Lake, which actually gave the elders' committee a chance to voice their concerns and the issues that they face.

In line with that regarding the senior citizens and what my colleague had asked, I would like to take that to another step. When we look at the harmonizing of the age, presently I understand, according to the information in the *Hansard* that was provided by you and your office, that there are three key departments here: the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the federal government.

When I look at that, I know there are a lot of legal aspects in regard to harmonizing the age. If we are to look at harmonizing the age for our senior citizens, is there an anticipated timeline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. I am anticipating that we have something that's workable before our general election. Mr. Chairman, we will work with the other departments. That's why we talk about the MOU. We want to ensure that it's harmonized within the Government of Nunavut. It's going to be very difficult to change anything with the federal government, but within Nunavut, we certainly want to do that. We will certainly be consulting with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to see how best that can be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess when we look at advocating senior citizens, considering Baker Lake has one of the larger populations of senior citizens, when I look at and consider that, some of them do get benefits from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. When we look at the federal government, the Old Age Pension and stuff like that, when we look at these benefits, will there be legal consultations occurring between the three government entities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. It's something that has yet to be determined, but we are working on that. Mr. Chairman, our initial target is to ensure within the Government of Nunavut that we give it

our best effort to harmonize the seniors' age for our programming within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholeheartedly acknowledge the work that is going to be required to deal with the harmonization of the age. There is an MOU in place and before harmonizing the age, will there be further community consultations with elders to actively hear their concerns and their point of view on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will certainly be talking to the MLAs representing their communities. Hopefully, we will come to a conclusion where there's agreement in ensuring that seniors are capable and able to access our programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another thing here. In your department's draft 2016-19 business plan, it indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Conduct a 360' evaluation of the Government Liaison Officer program with the intent of improving service level expectations." Can you describe what is meant by "a 360' evaluation" and can you indicate who will be conducting this evaluation? Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeegok respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I didn't hear that. Who? Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A 360 assessment is when we're reviewing that general program, we will ask all the users, the staff, the people that run it, and you have a whole, all-around look and we get input from everybody, from the users to the staff to the management. That's what a 360 assessment does. It isn't just reviewed by one stream; it gets input from everybody. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you're indicating all the parties that are involved, is that internal within the government or are you also considering external sources, such as municipal councils and citizens of a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be including the municipalities, as all the GLOs are within all our small communities

throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. When I look at this evaluation of the government liaison officers within our territory, is that evaluation separate from the government's overall operational audit initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is separate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As MLAs, we communicate with each other. In some communities, there are no government liaison officers and in some communities, they also have municipal liaison officers. Is that different from the government liaison officer positions in communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that. I believe Kugluktuk is the only one without a GLO officer, but I'll update that as soon as I can. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have Deputy Minister Akeegok respond to the committee member's question. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding some of the things you have mentioned, some communities still have municipal liaison officers, but when we were creating government liaison officers, we had to come up with an agreement. The communities that kept their municipal liaison officers deal only with municipal matters, but the government liaison officers deal with government services. That is the agreement. Some communities went ahead and some communities dissolved the other liaison officer and had only one liaison officer. We have agreements in place with those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at communities that have GLOs and some communities have MLOs, and in listening to the response, if I'm hearing correctly, some communities currently have two of these positions, one is a GLO and one is an MLO, as stated by an agreement. Are their career objectives identical? Maybe it could be elaborated what the difference would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The (interpretation ends) government liaison officers (interpretation) deal with Nunavut government issues and if they're asked to deal with other governments like the federal government or a municipal government, they deal with issues that need to be dealt with. The communities with municipal liaison officers deal only with municipal matters and they don't deal with government matters anymore. Most of the agreements are different from each other and their duties are set as such, but municipal liaison officers deal only with the municipal office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are still under (interpretation ends) Intergovernmental Affairs, (interpretation) if I am right. Yes? I haven't approved this yet.

>> *Laughter*

I wanted to ask questions on this earlier related to Minister Quassa's statement that I ought to have submitted questions regarding Arctic College. The Premier also alluded to it, specifically the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated court case, which resulted in compensation, and the funds were transferred through an agreement and created the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Since the Premier sits on this board, what does he envision happening in, let's say, the next five-year period of the

kind of operations this organization would undertake to train Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for the excellent question. Mr. Chairman, we were approached by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, through discussions, to appoint us onto the board. As a government, we do have a lot of initiatives and a lot of programs in training, especially through Article 23. It seemed like a good fit that we can share best practices, absolutely, on some of these programs that we do run.

As members are well aware, the training initiative, Sivumuaqatigiit, is in EIA, Intergovernmental Affairs, and of course, we want to increase Inuit capacity in the government and throughout the whole territory, whether it be industry, Inuit organizations, and even into the federal government. We see this as an opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, with this multi-year funding, we can actually make plans for multi-year initiatives. It was very difficult in the past with one-year funding available. Through this, we intend to have more Inuit in employment within the government, within industry, and within the Inuit organizations. Looking down the line here in five years, I see more Inuit working at all levels, not just with our territorial government, but everywhere throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's called Makigiaqta. I'll refer to it as the Makigiaqta board. Have you come up with a strategy on which positions will be trained in the public service? There is Sivumuaqatigiit and Nunavut Arctic College has different programs on career development. Will there be additional training where employees are lacking? What is the goal of Makigiaqta? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the committee member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, our goals are we want Inuit in semi-professional and professional positions throughout Nunavut. As we have indicated, our mandate is to ensure that we get the best training possible for beneficiaries. Again, we want to ensure that we have more professionals within Nunavut.

One of the things that we talked about is that Nunavut does have high-quality water within the territory and more water than some countries, but we do not have a water chemist in Nunavut. We want more biologists, geologists, and engineers. We want professionals within our communities.

With this opportunity, we can plan long term. That's our goal. That's our initiative. It's our goal to ensure that we come up with the best possible solutions when it comes to training and ensure that our trainees, the Inuit that participate in our training programs, succeed. We want to ensure that at all different levels. Whether they're employed now, there

are opportunities for training in better professions, higher professional positions.

Looking down the line five years from now, we do have a lot of graduates that we will need jobs for. Certainly, with an educated, well-trained workforce, Nunavut will have a better quality of life throughout. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to Makigiaqta, the Premier talked about how it was initiated after NTI had taken the federal government to court, with more money now going to the Nunavut government with the third party agreement, as the Premier stated. Can the minister tell us how much more money we would get through that agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Lloyd respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the settlement agreement that was signed last year by Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Nunavut for the implementation of Article 23, there was \$50 million set aside for the contract period, which will end in 2023. Of that \$50 million, approximately \$40 million is available to the Government of

Nunavut to help increase Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) She used the word "available." Is that on an application basis, or how will that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Lloyd respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the \$40 million that I referenced is for the time period which will end in 2023. The way in which the Government of Nunavut will access the funds will be through a mechanism overseen by the Nunavut Implementation Panel, where submissions will be made by the Government of Nunavut in identifying priorities as to how to spend the set-aside dollars to implement Article 23, whether it be specific training and development programs, educational leave opportunities, or other measures that the Government of Nunavut would put forward to the implementation panel. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank her for

the response. Who would be on the (interpretation ends) implementation panel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be all three levels: the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has it been decided who the actual people will be sitting on the panel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Lloyd respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Implementation Panel is a body that has existed since 1993 to oversee the overall implementation of the land claims agreement. Representatives from the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Government of Canada are identified throughout the years. Currently, the Government of Nunavut's representative is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Nunavut Tunngavik also has representation from their implementation

division, as well as the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. In regard to the training positions for Inuit, we spoke about the (interpretation ends) occupational demand model, (interpretation) which is intended for jobs that need to be filled. Would they use that to set up these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I will have Ms. Lloyd respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Models such as the occupational demand model will definitely assist in determining factors such as gaps that may be targeted for educational programs for beneficiaries, both within the public service as well as outside of the public service. The occupational demand model is one component or one tool that we will be utilizing in addition to others to assist in determining how to best utilize the funds that have been set aside to implement Article 23. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for

answering my question. Let me move on to something else. On page 13, under Priorities (2016-17), a question was asked earlier about the elder programs run by the government. They were talking that they want elders to be handled by one department, perhaps to have a (interpretation ends) minister responsible for seniors. (interpretation) If that happens, will the other departments start to release their responsibility for elders, such as the Premier, and have that one department deal with elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, we know that the seniors programs are going to be staying within the departments that they're designated to. As seniors' advocate, I'll be coordinating to ensure that any requests from seniors are taken into account.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of difficulty in seniors accessing their own programs, as they're in seven different departments. With this advocacy position, I'll be able to coordinate and assist the seniors that are having difficulty in accessing these programs. As I have indicated before, it's more or less a coordination of ensuring that seniors that are requesting assistance do get it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question will be just a request for clarification on the priorities for 2016-17 on page 13. Maybe if I read what it states in English. It states, (interpretation ends) "Conclusion of guidelines for the use of the EIA gift bank." (interpretation) Perhaps we can get an explanation of what that means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeegok respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This bullet is to finalize our guidelines for the EIA gift bank. The EIA gift bank is equivalent to our protocol. When we do have visiting dignitaries from foreign and abroad, we do have funds so that we can provide gifts to our visiting dignitaries. We are finalizing that guideline for that program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any more questions? Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. How much money has been set aside for the gift bank? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was in the other note. I would like to bring in a witness to the table here, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official from the table and bring in the other official.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. I assume Mr. Hickey has been brought here to answer the question. Can I give him the question, (interpretation ends) Premier?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: In the next fiscal year, we dedicated \$300,000 to protocol. That includes the gift bank, but it also includes any functions that we might have for visiting dignitaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that money depleted every year? That will be my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Hickey respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In past years, it hasn't been depleted. This year, however, we dedicated \$300,000 for tracking purposes, but in the past, no, we haven't used all of that money in respect to the gift bank. We have absorbed it. We just absorbed the surplus that we had into the whole intergovernmental budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Before I go to my question, I would just like to mention that not only do we have GLOs and MLOs; we also have CLOs. These are people who represent the Kivalliq Inuit Association in our Kivalliq communities. That's just so you know. Thank you.

Your department and NTI have been working on a new protocol since the 2014-15 fiscal year. What specific issues have prevented a new protocol from being finalized and signed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member point us to the page number? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok, can you indicate what page you are on?

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I had it earlier and then I switched pages here, so if you can just give me a moment. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may explain how I came to this question, your 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to "Renew the protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and continue to work on matters of mutual interest to Nunavummiut."

Your department's 2015-18 business plan indicated that "A protocol and work plan has been drafted for review by both parties." Hence, that is what I based the question on that I asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe the question is clearer now, Premier Taptuna. I believe it's on page 11. I was told that it's on page 11 of your business plan. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The protocol and the work plans have been drafted. We continue to work under that protocol when issues arise. We are continuing with that.

One of the things that we are doing, which is still overarching and is as a result of the settlement, there were agreements to make some changes to

certain articles, Article 38 being one of them. We're working on that. Any kind of changes in there would have an effect on the protocol. We're incorporating that.

Also, the three parties had agreed, which are the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik, and the Government of Nunavut, to see if both governments can develop an implementation policy that would assist in this framework. That is a number of works that we are working towards in lieu of having a signed protocol yet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe everyone heard that if you have your cellphone here, please put it on mute or shut it off completely. Who was asking questions again? Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. You may have already answered this. However, for the record, on what specific issues do the GN and NTI currently have disagreements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member clarify that question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok, please clarify your question. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: I think my question was pretty clear, but I'll repeat it again. On what specific issues do the

GN and NTI currently have disagreements on finalizing and signing this protocol? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no disagreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming then that it will now be finalized and signed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have Deputy Minister Akeeagok respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned two questions ago, the protocol is still in the works. There are other factors we are incorporating that are sort of overarching this. There is no disagreement on the protocol itself. It's the work that's around it that we're working very closely with NTI on to finalize this. I hope that's clear, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is on

page 11 of the business plan. It lists the actions that our government will be taking as well as what others will be doing.

The new federal government was recently elected and their position is to focus more on aboriginal issues. How will we take advantage of this? I don't see any real plans in place, although the agreements with the federal government are said to be important and properly coordinated. The federal government still hasn't fully complied with some of these agreements. What kind of lobbying will be done with the federal government within this plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many avenues that we are looking at and they are listed on page 10. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe that's the point. It's not in there. The federal government that was elected last fall promised that they would honour agreements with aboriginal people. We have outstanding issues still with the federal government in terms of gun issues and other matters that relate to the land claims agreement. How will our government push those matters that were promised by the current government if it's not on there? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per our House rules, Article 2(n), I'm not responding to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's rather unfortunate.

(interpretation) Also on reviewing those, the federal government says that it's very important to deal with mental health. I have said that I will always push the issue of mental health. Although our government has said that mental health is important, I don't see any mention if their offices will be used in their plans. How are you going to lobby the federal government in this regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have many levels of departments in our government. With the Department of Health, through consultations, we will be looking at these. Unfortunately, that's one of the things we have to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik, do you still have questions? Go ahead.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): With the importance attached to the plans that are being drawn up on page 11, I would like

the issue of mental health included because of its importance to us. I would like our Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to include this and start making plans on mental health. We have to lobby hard for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the federal government on all different levels. With the help of the Department of Health, we will certainly be looking at that. Mr. Chairman, we do have lots of external organizations that we work with when it comes to that. Mr. Chairman, with the federal government, we will certainly be looking at these things with the new Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik, do you still have questions? (interpretation ends) Go ahead.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the issue of mental health, the federal government has stated that they wanted to work out a Canada-wide plan. It would be good to participate in that plan, especially since we all have been impacted by mental health issues. If you can add that to your priority list for the federal government, we would be better heard outside our territory. That is why I would prefer that this be included in this plan as it is of extreme importance to us. We will continue to lobby for this in the current year as well as in the future. It would add credibility to our position if our own government made that action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Although I did not hear a question, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With our Government of Nunavut departments, we will certainly be looking at these issues. We do have working groups that are already set up out there.

I am one of the committee members who sit on the Council of the Federation on Aging. We do have the priorities that are set out in the circumpolar council. There many levels of other outside entities that we work with to try to find the best possible solution and the best possible way of helping our people who are in need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik, any more questions? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will not release this issue anytime soon and I will continue to push for this, especially since the newly elected federal government is trying to renew its relationships with aboriginal peoples. While the opportunity is there, we have to lobby for these initiatives by utilizing our relations with them and in conjunction. That way, if we could insert the issues that benefit Nunavummiut within this plan, then obviously it would help expedite the process so that we can work with our federal counterparts to realize our needs. If this can be included, then I would be happy with that or some time down the road, if it does not happen now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question, but I'll allow you to comment, Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a new federal minister. I have a good working relationship with the Prime Minister. There are many issues we deal with, such as aboriginal issues, Inuit issues, and medical issues, including mental health, from all levels. That's one of the things we continue to push to get assistance on. Through the Department of Health, we will certainly be doing that at the top levels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to moving on to the next person on my list, let me remind the members that I can only fulfill my role as the Chairman if I grasp the intentions related to your questions. When you get responses to your questions, but you have further questions, please indicate it by show of hands so that I will be aware and properly conduct my duties as the Chairman. Let us move on. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a brief question on page 11 of your business plan, the top paragraph referring to aboriginal and circumpolar affairs. It lists the budget, but seemingly with a drastic decrease of approximately \$600,000.

I would like to ask this question to our Premier related to Inuit specifically as it is written. Is it due to losing employees or is it because it is no longer considered a workable or relevant issue? That is what I would like to understand, so I am

asking about that reference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, there is a decrease of \$630,000 in service contracts and a \$11,000 decrease in materials supplies and purchased services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems that with the decrease, social issues are included in here. It seems almost astonishing that there will be a decrease when it comes to such issues. What is going to be happening? Are there going to be any changes made here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many social issues. To our best estimates, that decrease is on service contracts that do operational audits on grants and contributions. Mr. Chairman, although there are many social issues, we do have working plans that decrease in some divisions or increase in other divisions. That's why these plans are put forward, to ensure efficiency is still there when we carry out our work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will proceed. We are on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total

Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,338,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page B-9. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 9 under (interpretation ends) Priorities (2015-16), (interpretation) I will first ask my question there.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut's *Decentralization Action Plan* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2012. Your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it "reviewed the Action Plan that was initially developed by the (former) Department of Human Resources. A revised draft was developed to update timeframes and clarify lead departments for action items. Departments are currently being consulted to finalize the revisions."

When will an updated action plan be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like your permission to bring in a witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Has that witness been at the witness table before during the discussions? Okay. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort

the witness in and escort the other witness out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Do I understand that Ms. Lloyd will be responding to that question? If you agree with me, Ms. Lloyd can immediately proceed with the response.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Revisions have been completed to the action plan and we are awaiting final feedback from departments before tabling of this revised Decentralization Action Plan. It is anticipated that this will be completed shortly and be ready to be tabled in the House in the coming session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being one of the decentralized communities, I look forward to that information.

I guess my follow-up question to that would be: have the appropriate hamlet organizations of the decentralized communities been involved in the consultations of the action plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I'll have Ms. Lloyd

respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review of the previous action plan had been an internal government review of the items, more specifically pertaining to the expected outcomes from specific government departments. Our review had been in correlation with those respective departments identified in the first version of the action plan. We have not gone out to hamlets for consultation pertaining to the documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has a total of approximately 459 decentralized positions. As of today, how many of these positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information in front of us, but we will get that confirmed and we will certainly provide it to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut's *Decentralization Action Plan* states that "The current model can be strengthened by shifting focus on the number of positions and communities

they go to and maintaining a commitment to allocating and maintaining over 60% of the public service outside of Iqaluit.” Which decentralized positions is the government considering transferring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is already 60 percent maintained outside of Iqaluit and that’s the level we want to keep it at around, 60 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Premier is very familiar, I have brought this up in the House. Being one of the decentralized communities, one of the top executives who currently is not in Baker Lake and that position was identified in Baker Lake. Is there an action plan to maybe do an equivalent trade-off of the position and authority in respect to the decentralized model? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like Ms. Lloyd to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lloyd.

Ms. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to the possibility of moving or taking a decentralized

position and moving it into a centralized location, there is a requirement to ensure that a similar position, similar level, or an opportunity is then made available in that community that has been affected. This responsibility is up to whatever department or corporation that is proposing to move positions. They have to ensure that there are mitigation efforts put in place to allow for job opportunities to remain within that affected community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I look at decentralized positions in communities, would the information on vacant positions be provided to the members as to how many are in competition right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will work with HR to get that information out to the committee member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We look forward to that information. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps to start off with page B-9, I think a similar question was asked related to this subject. Here I refer to the Inuit employment plans. I know these plans are reviewed by our government through the Department of Finance, which has that mandate.

In the December 31, 2015 report, it states that in total, there are 4,655 positions within the public service and Inuit public servants comprise 1,673. The other 1,669 positions are stated as being filled by non-beneficiaries. It also states that there are 1,313 vacant government positions. If we were to achieve the 85 percent Inuit workforce within the public service, it means that only 698 non-beneficiaries could be employed by the government.

Nonetheless, if we want to achieve the 85 percent representative workforce, the government would have to immediately hire 2,283 Inuit employees and not lose a single current Inuit employee. How do you envision meeting this challenge to try to reach that 85 percent level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee for asking that question. Mr. Chairman, we have been talking about this for a long time. We want to get to 85 percent capacity of Inuit beneficiary employment within the government. Mr. Chairman, we are hoping to improve rather rapidly once we have this Inuit training corporation up and running and actually training Inuit at all different levels.

It's 2016 and that target was there since 1999. It seems like we are stalled at 50 percent. With more educated graduates coming out of our schools, we will certainly hope that the target of 85 percent will be realistic. Mr. Chairman, I can't realistically assume that I am going to make up a timeframe. We have been

at this for 16 years and we're still at 50 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I ought to change direction and ask a question within the same page related to the Inuit employment plans.

Currently, the rate of Inuit employees sits around 50 percent and it seems to be stuck at that rate. That percentile has not moved much, without any large decreases or increases, as this rate seems to be where it stands currently. Further, within your existing plans for 2017, it states that by March 31, your expectations are that it will reach 51 percent, which is barely a 1 percent increase.

Maybe I could ask this question with respect to positions currently vacant. Are there any plans to have Inuit trained to eventually assume the positions held by non-beneficiaries? At least I believe that some work has been done to that end in the past, particularly with the upper-level management positions. How many positions are planned for this type of training?

I believe some employees are aware that their position will be assumed by an Inuk upon completion of their training on a forecasted date, let's say in 2018, as that has been the practice in the past. How many positions are scheduled for replacement, perhaps, in the next five years? Does the government have these types of training plans in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, we are always trying to improve our numbers in beneficiary employment within the government. We can't necessarily control where beneficiaries want to work. Some try it out at the government level and then they move onto other organizations or industry.

It's one of the things that, again, with training and better graduation rates, we want to see an increase in beneficiary numbers within this government. It's going to take a lot of hard effort. It's going to take a lot of training. We certainly want to see more graduates coming out of our high schools.

Mr. Chairman, I'm quite optimistic, even though we have a small labour force within Nunavut. It's a real challenge. Mr. Chairman, I'm always optimistic that we will get to that number eventually. Again, when we talk about how to increase beneficiary employment within the Government of Nunavut, there is a lot of transition happening and there are qualified Inuit who are out there that, at times, just don't get a position within government.

We make plans, we have training programs, we have internships that create opportunities for beneficiary employees to move up into senior manager positions, director levels, and we certainly want to increase those levels at the senior level positions.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of the day, we do have to ensure that we get the right people. We don't just hire anybody because of their beneficiary status. We want to ensure that when they get employment, they succeed within their position and have opportunities to move up the ladder to higher positions. Again, we really hope to increase that by getting more graduates interested in a career in government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can respond to my own question. It's at 50 percent now and according to the plan, it will be at 51 percent next year. With 4,655 positions, 1 percent is 46 positions. In 2016-17, there will be 46 positions filled by beneficiaries. If my math is correct, 1 percent would be that. If you look at it, that is a small percentage. There are 10 departments and numerous corporations. It seems that it should be higher and there seems to be room there for consideration.

I know there are people out there in the public who would like to earn a salary, which they don't right now. I think there's room for something else to be done or perhaps job sharing. Some positions can be split into two. There seems to be room for improvement to increase the percentage of Inuit employment within the government. Can you try to improve this before the term of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. We're always trying to improve. We have put Inuit training and employment plans into every department. We have tried other things. We have tried to increase our direct appointment levels. We have tried other things. We have tried internal competition. We hope to increase these numbers, certainly. One of the goals of this government is to get those numbers up.

The member is absolutely correct that we seem to be stalled at 50 percent. We have been stalled at that number for 16 years. It's quite a challenge and I have always said that. We have more graduates coming out of the schools, we have training programs that can be taken advantage of, we have Arctic College, and we have signed MOUs with other jurisdictions for training at higher paraprofessional and professional levels. Certainly, we hope to see that increase from 50 percent to at least 51 percent, maybe, as the member indicated. We certainly want to see higher numbers than that.

Mr. Chairman, with our delicate situation when it comes to funding of staff housing and other various things, it's quite obvious that we have put a lot of effort into that. The previous governments put a lot of effort into it and it seems that we are still at 50 percent.

I am quite optimistic with the settlement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that we will have better opportunities in increasing our beneficiary employment levels, not just with the government but in every organization out there that can

have beneficiaries as employees. There are Inuit organizations, industry, and so forth.

Again, we are really trying hard to ensure that we move the percentage of beneficiaries up within the government. Again, at the end of the day, we will have more graduates coming out and we will certainly have more opportunities of increasing our beneficiary employment within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know if my question is in the right context or if it is inappropriate.

This issue of hiring Inuit within government is one of the expectations people have. Nonetheless, within your Inuit Employment Plan, do you think there is... ? Perhaps if I ask it in this manner: are there any kinds of protection measures in place related to when Inuit apply for a position and if the positions have non-beneficiary incumbents? Is there any kind of appeals process relative to this? I hope I was understandable and I asked this question at the right place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): So that we can all understand your question and so that I can see if it's appropriate, can you rephrase your question? Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department handles the Inuit Employment Plan. Do you have any protection measures where

an Inuit staff member or an Inuk trying to get a job... ? This might not be an appropriate place to ask this question. I better move on to a different question.

Regarding the bilingual language bonus, there are 2,200 staff members getting the bonus. If you divided them all up, how many staff members get an Inuktitut bilingual bonus and how many get the French bilingual bonus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize if I didn't understand your first question. When we're talking about staffing, we have to be really careful about how we say things. There are so many rules and Acts that we have to follow. (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have my colleague respond to that question, I see he is pulling out his binder to check those numbers. Mr. Chairman, I don't have those numbers in front of me for that type of detailed question. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Finance has that, maybe he can respond to that question. If not, we will certainly take that question and provide the member with the detailed numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us proceed. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to see the responses corrected.

When we first were in government, we set Inuit employment around the 40 percent range. We really pushed to

improve this. I got out of the government in 2008 when we were at 51 percent. These figures are available. We used to be at 51 percent and then it dropped back to 50 percent Inuit employment and that was unfortunate. It's worrisome. It's so important. There are still not enough Inuit employees.

There was something in front of us during these very proceedings that gave an artificial boundary where real Inuit may not be hired. Maybe we should get a monitor for these jobs, a person who could watch these jobs that could have been taken by Inuit and ended up not being taken by them. There should be somebody working to get rid of barriers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All departments are always working through HR to remove barriers and find ways to increase the level of beneficiary employment. That continues to happen. One of the things that the government can't control is time. It's quite unfortunate that it was at 51 percent. Again, time is something that we cannot control.

At the best of times, we're making our best efforts to find ways and committee members know that. We have worked together in the past to try to improve that. We will continue to try to find ways to increase beneficiary levels within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have more questions, Mr. Okalik? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this will be reviewed. If we're given the opportunity during this sitting, it would be good to see the breakdown of education and job attainment because it clearly is a barrier. How are we going to train these people if this job examiner position goes to a different department? I really want to see this reconsidered because it doesn't really help where it is right now. I'm just making this point here as it touches on education as it's written here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have to say.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe it's just encouragement, as I didn't hear a question. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question and that is on B-9. Contract Services is a little over \$3 million, \$3,462,000. I am wondering if the Premier can tell us what those contracts are for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hickey will respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$3,462,000 in contracts... . Sorry. I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

The \$3,462,000 in contracts were all within training and development and they were all contracts for vendors to provide training and development within that division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And that was your one question? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I didn't say I wouldn't have supplementaries.

>> *Laughter*

Can the Premier provide us with a list of names of who those contacts went to, please, and what they were for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, I'll have Mr. Hickey respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Wait.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: You've got to wait for the red light.

Mr. Hickey: My apologies once again, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information right in front of me of a detailed list of contracts, but I can certainly provide that within a couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And we look forward to the information.

(interpretation) We are on Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Sivumuaqatigiit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,042,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page B-10. It reads, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. It's an information item. Let me remind you that I am just reading the Inuktitut translation. If there is a mistake, it's not my fault. Devolution Secretariat. Total Operations. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the Premier can tell us who the devolution deputy chief negotiator is now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, if I can get a witness brought into the table here. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness from the table and escort the other witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Deputy Minister Akeeagok has returned to the witness table. Mr. Akeeagok is going to respond to the question. Mr. Akeeagok, you can go ahead and respond.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question, you asked about the (interpretation ends) chief deputy negotiator. (interpretation) If that was the question, Alex Buchan and Bob

Carson were appointed by the (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) to be the (interpretation ends) deputy chief negotiators. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Information Item. Devolution Secretariat. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,307,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page B-3. It reads, Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Alex Sammurtok, do you have a question? Mr. Sammurtok, go ahead.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the main estimates, B-12, Compensation and Benefits, Headquarters, \$16,284,000, and Qikiqtaaluk, \$1,240,000, (interpretation) why are there no amounts for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions? I'm asking why it is like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Why is it like that? Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask permission to have Mr. Hickey respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no dollar amount put in for the

Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions for salaries, even though we have some positions there. I believe we have one in each position and the GLO officers. All of those positions' salary dollars come out of the headquarters budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that. We are on Department Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,886,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna, we are done you're your department. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the committee members' work or scrutiny. It's complicated at times. There are a lot of issues that we face.

Mr. Chairman, I realize for a fact that we have been making efforts to improve beneficiary employment within the government and we continue to try to find ways to improve that. At times, it's very difficult to improve that number of 50 percent, but we give it our best efforts

with the assistance of all departments, agencies, and Crown corporations to try to improve that number. Again, we will continue to try to find solutions.

At the end of the day, one of the biggest highlights is that our graduation rates are increasing and with that increase, we certainly hope that we will be able to put more graduates into the government workforce. I'm not saying that we will hire them right off from graduation, but that possibility increases. We want our graduates to continue on to professional levels and work in Nunavut. That's our goal. We want to see Inuit engineers, lawyers, teachers, biologists, and geologists. At the end of the day, all of us are striving for that.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate again the committee's hard work in their questioning and trying to improve ways that the government can benefit Nunavummiut. We will continue to work with the committee to ensure that these things happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Taptuna. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

At this time, we will take a five-minute break to prepare the documents to continue the meeting. We will take a five-minute break while we prepare. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:51 and resumed at 18:00

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, we can resume the Committee of the Whole. We will now review the Department of Environment's main estimates. As we proceed, Minister of Environment, Minister Mike, if you have any opening comments, please proceed. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members, thank you, as well as the people who are watching the proceedings and Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to introduce my department's business plan and main estimates for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2016-17 is \$27,045,000. This represents an increase of \$1,291,000 from the 2015-16 fiscal year. The increase includes \$360,000 funding for climate change initiatives to ensure that the Government of Nunavut is able to deliver adequate climate change adaptation programming across the territory. The department will also receive \$500,000 for continued work on a contaminated sites financial liabilities assessment and review. In addition, the department will receive \$431,000 in funding that will help alleviate ongoing deficit to the Parks and Special Places' core operations and maintenance budget, as well as fund one PY for parks planning and operations in the Qikiqtaaluk region.

The Department of Environment regularly works and partners with various outside organizations, and through these partnerships, we continue to be successful in maximizing the impact of our funds. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, we were able to leverage over \$3.5 million from outside sources for various projects, and we expect to be equally successful in 2016-17.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's 2016-17 business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta*. They also uphold the Government of Nunavut's obligations and areas of responsibilities under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* that relate to the management of natural resources, as well as ensuring the department's many statutory obligations are fulfilled.

Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq (environmental stewardship) continues to be a key element of our departmental focus. This includes managing our wildlife carefully and effectively and working with government, business, and industry to ensure that industrial projects in Nunavut are undertaken in such a manner that negative impacts to the environment are minimized.

(interpretation ends) Through proactive pollution prevention initiatives and inspection and enforcement measures under the *Wildlife Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*, we will continue to monitor and protect the environment for current and future generations. (interpretation) In the coming year, the Department of Environment will work to improve our participation in the assessment and

monitoring of development projects in Nunavut. We will continue to provide coordination and support for climate change adaptation initiatives in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) This past year demonstrated the continued success of Nunavut's wildlife co-management system. In July of last year, we brought new *Wildlife Regulations* into force with support from our partners. In September, I allowed a limited caribou harvest for Baffin Island and, just this month, increased the total allowable harvest for Southampton Island caribou. As well, we submitted the Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for their consideration, a process which is ongoing. (interpretation) We continue to work with communities to monitor the health and abundance of wildlife populations. Last year, we provided a new population estimate for the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. In 2016-17, our monitoring efforts will continue with a focus on polar bears in the (interpretation ends) Gulf of Boothia, McClintock Channel, and western Hudson Bay and caribou on Baffin Island.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, wildlife harvesting plays a critical role in our local economy, our health, food security, and in our overall well-being as Nunavummiut. In 2016-17, the Department of Environment intends to implement our revised suite of harvester support programs. In 2016-17, we will also be releasing a number of harvester education resources that will feed into the Harvester Education Program currently under development. (interpretation ends) The Harvester Education Program is an important

resource that will contribute to the development of safe, responsible, and knowledgeable hunters in Nunavut.

(interpretation) In the 2016-17 fiscal year, we will develop facility designs and specifications for the proposed Aggutinni and Napaaqtulik territorial parks. We will also continue to work on the proposed parks in Sanikiluaq and Arviat by establishing co-management committees for the parks in both communities.

My department completed another very successful year of the Nunavut Coastal Aquatic Monitoring Program. In 2015-16, we provided training to residents of Pond Inlet with a focus on turbot. Another significant accomplishment of the past year was the Government of Nunavut being approved to certify Nunavut sealskins and sealskin products for the European Union market. We will continue to work with the Government of Canada to minimize barriers to the trade of Nunavut sealskins.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2016-17 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and provide real benefits to Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my opening comments.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Mike. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide

opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$27,045,000 has increased by 5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2015-16 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 133.5. This is an increase of two positions from the 2015-16 main estimates.

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

The department is responsible for the administration of the government's *Grants and Contributions in Support of Harvesters Policy*, which includes provisions for the department's Fur Pricing Program, Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program, and Community Harvesters Assistance Program.

During the minister's recent appearance, members were informed that the department had completed its review of the government's harvester support programs and policies and that the results of this review and the new policies would be implemented on April 1 of 2016. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing these new programs and policies with care.

Mr. Chairman, MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions about the difficulty

of applying and receiving approval for funding under the department's Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program. According to the government's 2014-15 *Grants and Contributions Annual Report*, the Department of Environment allocated more than \$98,000 in contribution funding under its Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program. The standing committee encourages the department to ensure that the new policies and procedures related to its Hunters and Trappers Compensation Program include clear provisions concerning eligibility under the program.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the administration of the *Wildlife Act* and is responsible for fulfilling the government's responsibilities concerning wildlife management as mandated under federal legislation, national and international agreements and [conventions], and the co-management of wildlife as required under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

On September 4 of 2015, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board issued a notice stating that it would be conducting a written public hearing to consider the Department of Environment's proposed Nunavut Polar Bear Co-management Plan, which was developed in cooperation with co-management partners, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, regional wildlife offices, and hunters and trappers organizations. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the development and implementation of this plan.

The Department of Environment's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it intends to develop and implement a number of wildlife management initiatives over the next three fiscal years, including management planning for a number of polar bear and caribou subpopulations, such as the Baffin Bay polar bear, Baffin Island Caribou, and Peary Caribou subpopulations. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the development of these management plans.

The Department of Environment's draft 2016-19 business plan also indicates that it intends to perform population surveys on a number of wildlife species in the territory. During the minister's recent appearance, members were informed that the department was unable to complete its population survey of the McClintock Channel polar bear subpopulation due to unforeseen weather circumstances and that this survey is now scheduled to continue in the 2016-17 fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this survey.

The Department of Environment's draft 2016-19 business plan also indicates that one of its goals for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Continue monitoring the Baffin Island Caribou by collaring, health monitoring, and conducting additional surveys as necessary."

Mr. Chairman, MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly about the importance of using non-invasive wildlife research methods. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to explore options that will allow it to perform comprehensive population surveys that

do not disturb the migration patterns and behaviour of wildlife in the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act* and carrying out the government's initiatives related to environmental protection and climate change adaptation throughout Nunavut.

The department's proposed 2016-19 main estimates and draft 2016-19 business plan include \$521,000 in funding for its Climate Change Program. This represents a 44.7 percent increase in the department's budget for this program since the introduction of its 2015-16 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that this increase in budget will allow the department to add two new positions to its Climate Change Program. Members raised concerns that the information provided by the department did not clearly and comprehensively outline the duties and responsibilities that would be carried out by these new positions. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of providing comprehensive information on proposed programs or positions to allow Members of the Legislative Assembly to review the government's proposed budgets with care.

The Department of Environment's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it had planned to provide financial and human resource training workshops for staff in the decentralized offices of Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Arviat to improve financial management and human resource capacity and that

this training was scheduled to be completed by January of 2016. The government's most recently published quarterly employment report, *Towards a Representative Public Service*, indicates that as of September 30, 2015, 38 percent of the department's positions in Igloolik were vacant. The standing committee notes with concern the ongoing high rate of vacancy in the Department of Environment's Igloolik office.

The Department of Environment is responsible for the implementation of the *Nunavut Fisheries Strategy* and representing Nunavut's sealing interests nationally and internationally.

On July 31 of 2015, the department issued a news release indicating that the European Union had formally approved the Government of Nunavut's application to become a recognized body under the Indigenous Communities Exemption of the European Union Seal Regime, which means that Nunavut harvesters will be able to receive specific certification from the government to sell their sealskin and sealskin products in the European market. During the minister's recent appearance, members were informed that the department is currently working to implement this certification process. The standing committee looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this initiative.

The Department of Environment is responsible for administering the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. One of the statutory purposes of the fund is to "promote education and training respecting IQ, safe and humane

harvesting methods, harvester education and wildlife conservation."

The 2014-15 annual report on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4 of 2015. Information provided by the department in response to questions asked in the Legislative Assembly on the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund indicate that new surcharges on licences issued under the *Wildlife Act* "will be the largest ongoing source of revenue" for the fund. The department has estimated that it will raise approximately \$200,000 per year from such surcharges. The new surcharges were to be brought into effect in association with new regulations under the *Wildlife Act*.

On May 29 of 2015, the government published a number of regulations under the *Wildlife Act* and *Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations* under the *Summary Convictions Procedures Act*, which came into effect on July 31 of 2015. These regulations provide specific penalties, fines, and surcharges that may applied to offences made under the *Wildlife Act*.

The standing committee looks forward to greater utilization of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund in upcoming years.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 main estimates and draft 2016-19 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. (interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to announce a change in the schedule, the Regular Caucus will

now meet on Monday at ten o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 14:

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 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 12

- Bill 13
- Bill 15
- Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Monday, March 14, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:29*

