



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**SECOND ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

SPRING SESSION 8th Session 4th SITTING

**kAVAMALIGIJET
KAUJITITSIUTINGA
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

June 11 & 12, 2013

Speaker: Patricia Ford

In Attendance:

**Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency,
Honorable Patricia Ford**

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Sarah Leo

**First Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ordinary
Member for Rigolet, Honorable Darryl Shiwak**

**Minister of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, Ordinary Member
for the Canadian Constituency, Honorable Daniel Pottle**

**Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable
Johannes Lampe**

**Minister of Health and Social Development, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville,
Honorable Patricia Kemuksigak**

**Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake
Melville, Honorable Gary Mitchell**

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Deputy Speaker, Denise Lane

Ordinary Member for Postville, Glen Sheppard

Ordinary Member for Nain, William Barbour

Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honorable Susan Nochasak

AngajukKâk for Nain, Anthony Andersen

AngajukKâk for Postville, Diane Gear

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Herb Jacque

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Wayne Piercy

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey

Chair Person for the Sivunivut Community Corporation, Edward Tuttauk

Director of Communications, Bert Pomeroy

Deputy Minister of Finance and Human Resources, Information Technology, Rexanne Crawford

Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat, Secretary to the Executive Council, Isabella Pain

Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Carl McLean

Director of Legal Services, Loretta Michelin

Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, Toby Andersen

Clerk of the Assembly, Mary Sillett

Absent:

Deputy Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Dave Lough

Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development, Michelle Kinney

Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Community Corporation, Malcolm Winters

Deputy Minister of Education and Economic Development, Tim McNeill

The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings

were recorded in Inuktitut and English.

June 11 & 12, 2013

Assembly commenced at 9:00 a.m. on June 11th, 2013

MADAM SPEAKER: Ullâkut Illonasi. I'd like to call to order, the fourth spring sitting of a

continuation of the eighth session of the second Nunatsiavut Assembly. I'd

like to ask Sister Marjorie Flowers to say the opening prayer.

MS FLOWERS: ...may your spirit touch each person here. Give them wisdom, strength, clear vision and clear direction in the work that they have to do. We ask that you'll be with their families near and far. Bless them and keep them in your care until they return. We ask that you'll bless each community and be with each one. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSEMBLY: Amen.

MADAM SPESKER: Nakummek, Sister Marjorie. I would now like to recognize the Honourable First Minister, Darryl Shiwak.

MR. SHIWAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you know, and the Assembly knows, I've been First Minister and Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for the past several months and while I've enjoyed working on this file, it is a very busy file and I felt that it's very important that this file have a Minister who can dedicate the time and the attention that it needs. So as per Section 552 of the Labrador Inuit Constitution, I nominate Glen Sheppard, Ordinary Member for Postville to appoint as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, and I seek the agreement of the Assembly for this appointment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the Assembly in agreement?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

MADAM SPEAKER: Then I'd like to recognize the Honourable President for Oath of Office.

PRESIDENT LEO: That I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut...

MR. SHEPPARD: That I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and the Inuit of Labrador.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...and the Inuit of Labrador.

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

PRESIDENT LEO: I will obey, respect...

MR. SHEPPARD: I will obey, respect...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution...

MR. SHEPPARD: ...and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...all Inuit laws...

MR. SHEPPARD: ...all Inuit laws...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

PRESIDENT LEO: I will hold my office as Minister with honour...

MR. SHEPPARD: I will hold my office as Minister with honour...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and dignity.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...and dignity.

PRESIDENT LEO: I will be a true and faithful councillor to the President...

MR. SHEPPARD: I will be a true and faithful councillor to the President...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...and will not divulge directly or indirectly...

MR. SHEPPARD: I will not divulge directly or indirectly...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...any secret matter entrusted to me.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...any secret matter entrusted to me.

PRESIDENT LEO: I will fulfill my responsibilities as a leader...

MR. SHEPPARD: I will fulfill my responsibilities as a leader...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...in accordance with all applicable standards and codes of conduct.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...in accordance with all applicable standards and codes of conduct.

PRESIDENT LEO: And I will perform the functions of my office...

MR. SHEPPARD: And I will perform the functions of my office...

PRESIDENT LEO: ...conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

MR. SHEPPARD: ...conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

PRESIDENT LEO: So help me, God.

MR. SHEPPARD: So help me, God.

PRESIDENT LEO: Congratulations.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you.

[Applause]

MADAM SPEAKER: We will now carry on down through our Orders of the Day to item number two. Well, for the information of the Assembly, the pages are Emma Onalik and Tabea Onalik. The interpreters/translators are Rita Andersen, Augusta Irving and Wilson Jararuse. Robert is the IT staff helping out for this Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize the OkâlaKatiget staff, Sarah Abel and Simone Kolmeister. I would like to welcome the Honourable Nick McGraw, the Minister responsible for Labrador Affairs, and thank you for your interest in the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

[Applause]

MADAM SPEAKER: Max Winters, the Chair of the NunaKâtiget Corporation has been excused from this sitting. If there are any questions around Travel and Logistics, please see Hilda Hunter. Any member wishing to recognize visitors in the public gallery today? Then we move down on our Orders of the Day to number three, "Minister Statements". Are there any Minister Statements? I'd like to recognize Johannes Lampe, Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. LAMPE: Nakummek, UKâtik. I am pleased to report on our Department since the last Assembly and our vision for Nunatsiavut and all beneficiaries.

Language: We are proud to launch Rosetta Stone Level 2 here at our Assembly. Many people contributed to this project under the guidance of Rita Andersen. It took 5 years to complete Level 2 and it has more local content and will be key to enabling participants continue to a more advanced level. We are unique in the Inuit world as we are the only group that can offer Rosetta stone as a learning tool for Inuktitut. I met with Kevin Kablootsiak who is facilitating the National Inuit Education Strategy on standardization of Inuktitut and he is very impressed with the Language development work we are doing and the dedication of our two representatives Christine Nochasak and Sophie Tuglavina.

Culture Centre: In the last three months we have reached all Nunatsiavut communities and stakeholders in Upper Lake Melville to have input into the design concept for the Cultural Centre including determining themes and both permanent and travelling exhibits. Malve Petersmann leads the consultation and with Form Media they will be presenting new material for us to look at this fall. I would like to thank many of you who helped with our community based approach to exhibit planning.

Arts Strategy: We have met with some of our key artists and National Arts Organizations to pull together the key issues and opportunities for a Nunatsiavut Arts

Strategy. We have many talented artists and most have little access to materials, professional development and marketing. Nunavut has completed and Arts Strategy which is comprehensive and builds on the strengths of a creative industry that can provide more income for the many talented artists and nurture new emerging artists. **Music:** In partnership with Memorial University and the international Grenfell Association a Brass Band Workshop will be held in Nunatsiavut August 26-30. The Workshop will accommodate 21 participants and will be open to all beneficiaries. Sr. Tom Gordon and experienced musicians will be the coached. The revival of traditional brass band music was an outcome of the film: Till We Meet Again: The Moravian Music in Labrador". For more information contact my Department staff. **Archival Resource Management:** We are increasingly adding to our collection and knowledge of Labrador Inuit materials that are in many places around the world. We are developing a broad framework for the ongoing development of the Torngasok Cultural Centre's archival policy placing specific emphasis on issues of capacity and asset management. This new policy will assist us in new culture and heritage research projects. **Madam Speaker,** I would like to congratulate the Torngat Base Camp and Research Station on winning the Tourism Industry of Newfoundland and Labrador Sustainable Tourism award. This award is in recognition of the commitment of the

Nunatsiavut Group of Companies and the success in building a quality tourism industry in Nunatsiavut. We would also like to thank Kate Mitchell who served as our Tourism Product Development Officer until May 1. Kate has assisted us in building stronger working relationships with the Inuit Community Governments as we build tourism experiences and services in each of the communities. The Rigolet Inuit Community Government is just completing a five-year tourism strategy based on the Arviat Nunavut model. Strategies like the Hopedale Adaptive Reuse Plan for the Moravian Mission Complex and the Rigolet Strategy are key to building community-based tourism experiences. Nakummek, UKâtik.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I'd now like to recognize the Honourable Patricia Kemuksigak, Minister of Health and Social Development.

MS KEMUKSIGAK: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Today I will report on Department of Health and also the Youth Division and tomorrow I will report on Status of Women in AnanauKatiget Tumingit. DHSD has completed a five-year regional plan, and the communities are in the process of working on their annual community health plans. This process will complete in September. The key elements of the plan are organized around four themes focusing on health promotion, enhancing community capacity, supporting and strengthening families and fostering an innovative, responsive and

accountable department. We have created two new positions, social work liaisons, one in Hopedale and one in Nain, and they were filled with two new Inuit Bachelor of Social Work graduates. Their primary role will be co-ordination of the travelling teams, Trauma and Addictions and Mapping the Way, and working closely with Child, Youth and Family Services to support children and families and to work on the circles. Piita Irniq was in Nain for Celebrate Life activities and facilitated a Culture as Healing workshop. DHSD attended a Health Council of Canada meeting to discuss healthcare as it relates to seniors. Miriam Lyall also attended as an elder and was able to speak very well on many of the challenges faced by seniors. A planning circle meeting was held, would see Child, Youth and Family Services to move the MOU process forward. A term of reference was established and an action plan agreed upon to move forward. One of the first steps will be to launch a new foster care home, recruitment campaign, later this month in Nunatsiavut. This is one of the many actions being taken to facilitate Inuit children in care being brought home, brought back to the Nunatsiavut communities, which is a priority with the Nunatsiavut Government. With our NIHB program we are now closely following our NIHB Policy and Procedure Manual, especially with accommodations. In the policy manual it's for hostel-type facilities, the most economical means, so we are now starting to follow our policies more

closely. Now I'll talk on the Youth Division. The Youth Division is now part of the Department of Health and Social Development. It was believed it would fit better under our department for better co-ordination of programs and services as we run community youth programs. We will be hiring an elder co-ordinator in the very near future, and the person will be bilingual and will work elders in all of Nunatsiavut. The Youth Division hosted the 19th Labrador Inuit Youth Symposium in Makkovik from April 25th to the 28th. A total of 32 youth took part. There was 25 travelling from within Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville, and one youth joined from the Canadian Constituency. The various presentations that were given were about under-aged drinking, university life, the National Inuit Youth Council and the summit that will be taking place in Kuujjuaq in August. The Labrador Inuttitut Training Program and the Cultural Centre. There was one day for a career fair that went over really well, and the fourth day was focused on Nunatsiavut youth, themselves. So they divided into groups and talked about priorities for youth. And the topics were Vision for Youth, Identifying Leaders, Communication Techniques indicating their community problems, Community Helpers, Looking for Solutions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I'd now like to recognize the Honourable Dan Pottle, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MR. POTTE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Very briefly, I'd just like to report on a couple of activities within the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Madam Speaker, over the last two months our main focus in finance has been on preparation and completion of the audited financial statements and the finalization of reports to funding agencies. Audit teams from Deloitte, Madam Speaker, have been on site at the Department of Health and Social Development Regional Office, Inuit Pathways, and at the Nain Administration Building. We'd like to extend our thank you to the financial staff for their dedication and commitment in ensuring the audits are completed in the time outlined as per our legislation, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government's investment portfolio of approximately \$40 million that we had previously invested with BMO Nesbitt Burns in the bond market for a number of years, we've had a second look at that. In April 2013 we undertook a request for proposals for an investment manager for these investments. We wanted to ensure, Madam Speaker that we were receiving the best value for money and had an open and transparent process for the selection of this manager. Managers, Madam Speaker,

were invited to submit a proposal and were selected for interviews. Based on the proposals and the interview process the Nunatsiavut Government has selected optimum asset management to be the new investment managers for our investments in the bond markets. Madam Speaker, in the fall of 2012 the Human Resource managers completed a tour of Nunatsiavut Government offices presenting changes to the policy manual as well as providing a forum for discussion and feedback on existing policies. We received considerable feedback indicating that the current definition of immediate family in the policy manual does not take into consideration Inuit culture in its definition. As a result, Madam Speaker, we've committed to reviewing this definition, and research is currently being completed across the other Inuit regions on their bereavement leave policies, as well as a request for feedback from employees and elected officials. And we hope to have this information compiled and feedback received from employees and elected officials over the next two weeks. In the Division of Information Technology, Madam Speaker, the IT Department has begun the process of completing the Nunatsiavut Government intranet, or I should say this is ongoing. The intranet is a tool that is purposely built to enhance information sharing and collaboration with Nunatsiavut Government Civil Service. Workshops have been conducted in April and May to identify the business requirements for the

Department of Education and Economic Development, Land and Natural Resources, Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Nunatsiavut Affairs and the Nunatsiavut Secretariat. These requirements will allow us to construct the relevant sections of the internet such that they meet the specific needs of each department. A draft of each department's needs have been produced and circulated to each department for comments. The final draft will be complete in late June of this year. Finally, Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government website has been experiencing significant technical issues over the past few months. The root of the problem was the migration of our website from one web server provider to another by our service provider. The migration broke most of the functionality of the current site and exposed a number of security vulnerabilities. This led, Madam Speaker, to several hacks from the outside that further deteriorated the functionality of the site. The current website, as we all know, is out of date and is built to the web standards from the previous generation of technology. Many of the technical issues we are currently experiencing cannot be resolved without updating the foundation of the site to current technical standards. The return on investment to maintain the current site is zero. A new website, Madam Speaker, has been budgeted for and a request for proposals is currently being drafted to construct and

implement a completely new website for the Nunatsiavut Government.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Do we have any more Minister Statements? I'd like to recognize the Honourable President, Sarah Leo.

PRESIDENT LEO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, would like to acknowledge the presence of Minister McGraw. I thank him for coming to sit in on our Assembly. I'm sure you'll notice it's a lot different from the Provincial Assembly. The setting is a lot different. The atmosphere is a lot different. That's not to say that we all agree, but we, I think, as an Assembly, understand and respect where we're coming from with regards to what's going on here. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide the Assembly an update on the activities of the Secretariat, and what we've been involved in since our spring sitting. It's hard to believe that it's been a year already since I've been elected and, as most of you know, I made a commitment then, I still stand by that commitment today, and we're still struggling with it, that we are accountable to the people that we represent. We have held more meetings. We have held more public meetings. We have held more Assembly sittings, not only as an Assembly, but as an Executive Council. We have visited each constituency, each community. Minister Pottle has invited me in to Ottawa to his constituency meeting. We have done a lot of listening, and in some cases were able to act on the

concerns that were brought for us. A lot of the concerns were just a matter of the Nunatsiavimut having the opportunity to talk to their Ministers and say directly what their concerns were. I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish over the last year, each of us here. I am proud of each of the Assembly members and what the efforts and commitments that you've put forth and I want to thank, as well, your families for allowing you the time to commit to what you do as elected officials. Madam Speaker, we're all aware the George River Herd is in steep decline. A survey was carried out last year indicating the population has declined to 20,000 animals, 70 percent reduction since 2010. And given the importance of caribou on Labrador Inuit, on December 13th, we called on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately restrict all hunting of George River caribou for non-Aboriginal people. We also asked our beneficiaries to suspend harvesting for a period of two years. As you know, Madam Speaker, the Province initiated a ban on all harvesting for a period of five years. While we were quite disappointed that they didn't take our advice understanding our need and our rights as Inuit, we realize that drastic measures were necessary in order to save this valuable resource. In January, the First Minister and I, along with staff from our departments, joined other Aboriginal leaders in Quebec from Labrador and Kuujjuaq for an emergency summit to discuss ways that we, as Aboriginal people,

could protect the caribou herd. We met again on April 25th and formalized the creation of the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Round Table. And the reason we went with the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Original Round Table is because through those discussions we realize as much as we started talking about the George River Caribou Herd, the Leaf River Herd and the Torngat Herd were just as important and the impact on them with the ban on harvesting of the George River Herd needed to be considered. This round table, Madam Speaker, which I chair, will strive to create a conservation and management system to protect the George River Caribou Herd as well as the impacts it may have on the Leaf River Herd and the Torngat Herd in the way that respects all of the cultures and traditions of the Aboriginal people that sit on the round table. Since then we have written to both the Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador Governments requesting financial assistance to ensure the round table is able to meet and function effectively. I should note, Madam Speaker that I look forward to hosting the round table in Nain in September. I also had an opportunity to attend Northern Scene presented by the National Art Centre in Ottawa. This event was held from April 25th to May 4th, show casing the finest of Inuit artists from across Canada. We had Nunatsiavimut there representing. We had a couple of carvers. We also had Kerry Kohlmeister and Matthew Okkuatsiak from Nain who performed as part of Spirit of the

Drum presentation and it was very, very moving, and I must say I was blown away by the talent that Matthew and Kerry had shown. It was absolutely beautiful. While in Ottawa I also participated in the Premier of Northwards, the documentary film by award winning CBC journalist, Sheila Rogers. This documentary showcases the Torngat Mountains National Park. Last summer, Ms Rogers, along with five Canadian authors travelled to our park to interact with the people and discover how geography can change the imagination. Each of the writers were asked to create a work out of their experience, and that was the whole in the documentary. I also attended ITK's annual Taste of the Arctic as well as participated in the ITK and ICC board meetings. As you know, Madam Speaker, members of the Executive Council met with the provincial cabinet in St. John's last month. While we did not walk away with any firm commitments, we were very successful in making sure the Premier and our Ministers were very aware of our issues and concerns in Nunatsiavut. I also had the pleasure to attend the graduation ceremonies in both Nain and Postville. It's so great to see our youth graduating from high school with their future ahead of them. Many of these graduates, as others in Nunatsiavut, will go on to their dreams and aspirations, and that's our future that we see graduating, and congratulations to all of the graduates this year. Tomorrow will not only be a very big day for Hopedale, but for

all of Nunatsiavut. We have the honour of hosting His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada, David Johnston. The Governor-General, Madam Speaker, had actually requested to come and address this Assembly on his own accord. I consider that quite an honour considering this will be the first time a Governor-General has visited Nunatsiavut since we've had self-government, and I think considering the atmosphere of the Nation recently, I think we should feel quite honoured as an Aboriginal government to have the Governor-General request to address our Assembly. On Friday I will have the honour to be in Goose Bay to attend the Inuit Bachelor of Social Work students' graduation. This has been a program that's been going on for the last three years and I think we're very fortunate to have our own social workers graduating from this program, and for the most part, I believe most of them are coming to Nunatsiavut and working within our communities, which was the whole basis for the program. I would like to congratulate all of those that were involved in the program, particularly Memorial University and the Labrador Institute. But, more specifically, the students that were able to successfully complete the program. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Assembly for the support they have shown me over the past year and I wish you all and your families a happy and safe summer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable President. We will now move down to our next item on the Orders of the Day, which is, "Member Statements". Do we have any Member Statements? I'd like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Postville, Diane Gear.

MS GEAR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Postville Inuit Community Government is pleased to announce the tender for the new fire hall has been awarded, and work should commence as soon as materials is on site. Also after six years of planning we are finally getting to build a youth centre in Postville. This project is going to be done by Project Management, to be overseen by Clerk of Works. Interviews were done last week and we are looking at a start date of June 25th. Also, I would like to send best wishes to Ruth Jacque on her retirement. Ruth was a teacher in Postville for the last 28 years and she has been, not only a teacher, but also a friend and a mentor. We wish her all the best in her future in retirement. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, AngajukKâk from Postville. I'd now like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canadian Constituency, Dan Pottle.

MR. POTTE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. As most members of this Assembly know, I've had an interest for quite some time in recognizing the efforts of Labrador Inuit Veterans in a peace keeping role, not only through World War I, World War II. The Korean conflict and current peace keepers,

Madam Speaker, I had a request from a constituent formally from Rigolet, Bill Flowers, who's now working and living in Nova Scotia, to assist in some way and manner with the possibility of Nunatsiavut Government undertaking an initiative to have the efforts of Labrador Inuit veterans recognized given that this year or next year, I believe, is the hundredth anniversary of World War I. I took it upon myself to have a meeting with the First Minister who the email from Mr. Flowers also went to, as well as Dave Lough, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, approximately three weeks ago to flesh out the interest in these two relevant departments in working with me on this initiative. We had a preliminary meeting in Nain, as I said, approximately three weeks ago and there is an interest from both Minister Shiwak and Minister Lampe's department to follow up and, and do some further planning on this initiative. I've also had some contacts, Madam Speaker, and some preliminary discussions with former senator William Rompkey, who's also doing some research and has expressed an interest in assisting us with this effort as well. At this point in time, Madam Speaker, our next steps is to have another meeting with Culture, Recreation, Tourism, Nunatsiavut Affairs, Mr. Flowers and Barry Pottle in Ottawa, and we're also hoping to engage the various historical societies or heritage groups in each of the communities just to see if they would be interested in partnering with us in

some way, shape or form in moving this project forward. So on that, Madam Speaker, I would ask each Assembly member to consult with your communities and beneficiaries living in our communities. All our communities and constituencies, including Upper Lake Melville and our five Inuit communities, and I had started collecting and had numerous names submitted to me from like-minded people who are interested in this initiative, so I'd like to ask each Assembly member over the next few weeks or few months if you could engage and have some discussions with people who may be interested in this project in your communities and to submit more names with us. And, as I said, Madam Speaker, we're just building on this project and we hope to bring this to fruition and have some sort of monument, for lack of a better word, in a community and a smaller monument in each of the other communities to recognize the efforts of Labrador Inuit in peace keeping roles, not only in the World Wars, but in the Korean Wars conflicts and the current peace keeping initiatives. So I thank you in advance for taking the initiative to have these discussions in the communities and bring forth names to me and the second ordinary member for Canada, the Honourable Speaker Patricia Ford. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Mr. Pottle. I now would like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS WOLFREY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to offer congratulations to one of our councillors, Richard Rich, who received the Wayne Earl Memorial Award. This award is given annually to a member of a local town council or community council person who have shown interest and commitment to the community. And it's given by the Combined Councils of Labrador. And Richard has been involved as a councillor and mayor and deputy mayor for some 30-plus years, and he is well-deserving of this award so I'd like to offer him congratulations, and Madam Speaker, I would also like to offer congratulations to the graduating class of Northern Lights Academy in Rigolet. There was 2013, there were four graduates and that might not sound like a lot, but it's four more than what was last year and for the last number of years it's been, you know, a couple more each year so that's congratulations to Melissa Sheppard, Tony Wolfrey Jr., Jenna Pottle and Dylan Shiwak. So they were the graduating class of 2013. And my final congratulation gets a little bit more personal because I'd like to take the opportunity too to congratulate the graduating or the getting their degrees and convocation of the BSW students. I was in St. John's to watch that. It was really beautiful and, of course, I'm a proud mother of one of the graduates. So good work, everyone. You have set good examples for others in Nunatsiavut to follow.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, AngajukKâk from Rigolet. I'd now like to recognize the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, Herb Jacque.

MR. JACQUE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I guess, congratulations to Glen Sheppard in your new position, and I would like to also to congratulate graduating class of John Christian Erhardt Memorial School, class of 2013, namely Jessica Winters, Maddie McNeill, Sharlene Gear and Jake Andersen. We wish them much happy and success in their future endeavours. To the teachers and students, have a safe and enjoyable summer. Makkovik Inuit Community Government will also like to bid farewell and thanks to the following individuals for their services while stationed in Makkovik. RCMP Corporal Kimbel Vardy and family, Denley Jacque and family. We wish them the best. We are pleased to announce that the results of the tender for our Arena look very favourable for the upcoming construction season. We are very grateful and thankful for the funds from all funding resources. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, AngajukKâk from Makkovik. I would now like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Susan Nochasak.

MS NOCHASAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I would also like to begin by congratulating the graduates of 2013, not only in Nunatsiavut, but Upper Lake Melville and Northwest River as well, and not only for high school, but as everybody had mentioned, the Bachelor of Social Work. A job well

done. Madam Speaker, our Adaptive Reuse Master Plan we have on our Moravian Mission Complex is coming along very well. We have a new committee. We have a new name. Our new committee has been meeting regularly, about once a week. Although we have great expectations for the site, we need our government on side to make this more than a dream, but a reality. There's so much potential, not only for our community, Madam Speaker, but the Nunatsiavut Tourism as well. With the government's passion towards the Cultural Centre, we only see this project as an addition towards culture and heritage in Nunatsiavut. Madam Speaker, a project like this will create our communities' sustainability. It will create opportunity in Hopedale. A project like this can only do good, not only for Hopedale, but for Nunatsiavut tourism. We have communications, not only with the Provincial Government with ACOA, with the Canadian Heritage and the Newfoundland and Labrador Museum Association. And, Madam Speaker, I would also like to finally take a couple of minutes to recognize the Community Food Network. Over the past couple of years they have stuck with Hopedale creating awareness, some employment opportunities and even started a gardening program this year. Juliana Flowers and the team working towards the food security are doing a wonderful job. We all look forward to hearing about the gardening success that we have in Hopedale. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Ordinary Member from Hopedale. I'd now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Wayne Piercy.

MR. PIERCY: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. As AngajukKâk for Hopedale, I'd like to acknowledge Minister McGraw, and take this opportunity to invite you to come around with me in my town, Amaguk this evening after supper for a ride around town. On another note, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has come up short again on forwarding a Human Health Risk Assessment Report which NG, along with Hopedale Inuit Community Government and ESG out of Ontario took over last season to ensure that we got samples required to make such a report possible. Again, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is lagging behind again on very important information because the majority of samples taken are a big part of our diet. The report I am speaking of should have been out to us at least a month ago. From my point of view, as AngajukKâk for Hopedale, I feel that the province is not taking into consideration the importance of the PCB clean-up and what it means for the community of Hopedale and approximately 630 residents that call Hopedale home. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, AngajukKâk from Hopedale. I'd now like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Postville, Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess first of all I'd like to thank the Assembly for having confidence in me to take on the, I guess, huge portfolio and the responsibility of Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. For a minute, Madam Speaker, if I could share with you this morning, and the Assembly, of the experience, I guess, I'm not going to say I had, but I'm going to say we had. When I say we that would include the AngajukKak from Postville and myself in just looking at what actually happens when we work together. You know, in the smallest community within Nunatsiavut, a job, one job means the world to us. We have many exploration companies doing work on Labrador Inuit Lands in LISA with, you know, our exploration standards sort of minimizes the amount of pressure that we can put on exploration companies until they go into development. However, to make a long story short, Diane and myself got together. There were a company neighbouring out community who were bringing in employees from the outside, not beneficiaries, and we saw fit that it was only fit that our people would get a crack and an opportunity for employment in this area. So we got together. We had a teleconference with this company, and you know what happened. As people working together the result was and is that doors are starting to open, people are starting to get hired and, you know, that's just an example of working together, pulling together. Madam Speaker, I'd also like to congratulate

this morning a teacher who has resided in Postville for the last 28 to 30 years. Many times we look at those teachers as to say in some cases oh, this is their job, that's their job not realizing, Madam Speaker, some of those people are residing in communities, remote coastal communities, that do without a lot of necessities of life due to the hardship we face with transportation issues, due to our geographical area. You know, I look at this teacher who is retired in Postville, she come from Toronto, and, you know, spent 28 years in a community with a population, Madam Speaker, of 200 right now or less. So I'd like to send my congratulations out to Mrs. Ruth Jacque, who's not only been a teacher in our community, but who's also been a real role model walking the roads and talking to people within our communities. Madam Speaker, one more point I'd like to make this morning, and I can't help but share it with this Assembly. You know, it was only in the last five to seven days that I had two particular phone calls come into my office, and on the opposite end of the phone, it was elderly people. And, Madam Speaker, I mean elderly people, and they were talking about the hardships living on the coast of Labrador within Nunatsiavut. In particular, Madam Speaker, it was specifically talking about caribou and how important the meat was to each of us, as individuals, living within Nunatsiavut. And, Madam Speaker, it would break one's heart to hear an elder break down and get emotional on the

other end of the phone because of the lack of meat and, Madam Speaker, I don't know exactly today where it sit when it come to an alternate source of food. I just don't know, but in the very near future I guess I'll find out as being part of the Executive Council. But I feel today, Madam Speaker, if we're held and being responsible to our beneficiaries, and if there's anything to do with the provincial government being a hold-up to provide an alternate source of food, I think this is one time that we should hold the provincial government responsible for the needs of our people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Postville. Do we have any other Member Statements? Then we'll move down on our Orders of the Day to item number five, which is, "Returns to Oral Questions." At the March 13th, 2013, Assembly sitting, the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, asked the Minister of Health and Social Development, who made the decisions on escorts for patients, the Honourable Patricia Kemuksigak, provided an oral response at that time. Later, she sent an email to add that when a medical escort is required or requested, the clinic, or the doctor, fills out a request for an escort and the NIHB staff applies criteria to determine if the patient requires an escort. The detailed DHSD client escort policy has been included in the Assembly binders. At the March 13th, 2013 sitting the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Herb Jacque, asked the Minister of Finance

Human Resources and Information Technology, Honourable Dan Pottle, if the Nunatsiavut beneficiary discount on Provincial Airlines extended to the employee's spouse and family, the Minister said he would be meeting with PAL and he would get to the AngajukKâk for Makkovik. Honourable Minister, are you prepared to answer that question?

MR. POTTE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I did have some consultations with Provincial Airlines through our Deputy Minister, Rexanne Crawford, and we did respond in writing to the question to the AngajukKâk for Makkovik on the question. Currently, the agreement, Madam Speaker, extends to all beneficiaries qualifying for the L Class discount, and at this particular point in time because the contract is negotiated, we certainly take under advisement in our next round of negotiations for that renewal of that contract coming up at the end of December. We'll certainly put that on the table and hope to have employees of the Inuit Community Governments included in that discount as well, Madam Speaker. Nakummek.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. At the March 13th, 2013 sitting the AngajukKâk Herb Jacque from Makkovik and Charlotte Wolfrey from Rigolet, AngajukKâk from Rigolet, asked the Minister of Finance Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Dan Pottle, about the status of photo IDs for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. Minister Pottle said that some of these responsibilities were being assumed

by the government employees at the airstrips, but he would look into it and further get back to them. Are you prepared for that answer, Mr. Pottle? Yes, you may go ahead.

MR. POTTE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Again this work is still ongoing. It was our understanding, and it's been confirmed, that each of the federal government employees who are responsible for the airstrips or the airports in the communities do have equipment available to produce a photo identification. The challenge is currently, Madam Speaker, in bringing that is relevant documentation to accompany such an application. Not all beneficiaries or people who are looking for photo IDs had the relevant documentation such as birth certificate, so that's still a challenge that we'll have to work through and have some more consultations with the respective individuals responsible for that. We were supposed to have and still haven't had the consultations, I don't think yet, with the provincial government, Newfoundland and Labrador Government Services with respect to working with the government to have some form of Nunatsiavut Government ID recognized as a certified piece of identification for use within this province. As I responded to the question when it was asked in March, Madam Speaker, historically we were trying to work with the federal government on this issue through ITK on a National Inuit Identification Card which never went anywhere. The federal government

had no appetite for that, so there's still some further discussion that needs to take place on this issue, Madam Speaker, and we hope to work through this through the summer and possibly engage a summer student to work with and identify individuals in each of our communities who need that piece of identification for purposes mainly related to travel. So we'll have, hopefully, some further answers and we'll provide further information to each of the Assembly members in writing through email when we get more information on the issue. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Before we go down to our next item on our Orders of the Day, we're going to take a 20-minute break.

(Recess)

MADAM SPEAKER: I'd like to call the Assembly back to order, please. Going down through our Orders of the Day, we're on item number six, which is "Oral Questions". Do we have any questions? I'd like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Herb Jacque.

MR. JACQUE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Presently, Makkovik, as well as other towns in Nunatsiavut, I'm sure, have a long waiting list for housing lots and are in a dire need and a subdivision to accommodate a residence. Would Tasiujatsoak Trust consider allocating additional to the Joint Management Capital Works Fund for this great need. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. POTTLE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker and Nakummek, AngajukKâk for Makkovik
for your question. I don't mean to put you off, but I'm one of five Trustees
on the Tasiujatsoak Trust. So I would encourage that you put your
question in writing for consideration for Tasiujatsoak Trust meeting in
early October. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Any more questions? I'd like to recognize the AngajukKâk for
Postville, Diane Gear.

MS GEAR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the ex-Minister of Lands
and Natural Resources. Our waste disposable sites are in poor condition
and have reached the point of capacity. The only solution is to upgrade or
move and put appropriate sources in place for each community for the
management of these sites. What will Nunatsiavut Government and
Provincial Government do to tackle this issue and when because four years
have passed since we've met with the Joint Management Committee and
tried to come up with a strategy to identify the options for practical,
sustainable waste management systems. They will have to be before any
action is taken. All our waste sites to the point of overflowing and we have
nowhere else to put our waste. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. POTTLE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess the commitment I can make here today is that we will look in to the issue and to the history of the issue. But I would have to say that we will have to do a bit of research and we'll have to make contact with you to understand the issue more to see where we go from there and what jurisdiction or whose role it is to take care of the issues within the government and the waste management systems, but we will look into the issue and make contact to see where we go from here.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: I'd now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS WOLFREY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a supplementary question, I guess, for Herb Jacque's question to the Minister of Finance.

MADAM SPEAKER: His supplementary would be his supplementary. Your question is your first question.

MS WOLFREY: Oh, okay, all right, sorry. Well, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance with regards to the letter to Tasiujatsoak Trust that he's suggesting that AngajukKâk Jacque write a letter, would that be in the form of a proposal because Rigolet is in the same - Rigolet has 12 new building lots that cost us \$2.1 something 1 million or something like that and the lots aren't finished, and we don't have money so that people can just put their houses there. They've been serviced, but they're not - you know, their driveways are so

steep, people can't drive up them and things like that. So I'm just wondering would this letter be in the form of a proposal, or would it be a letter, are you suggesting from the - all the Inuit Community Governments to ask that money be set aside or put aside for development of lots in our communities. Nakummek

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. POTTLE: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Nakummek, AngajukKâk for Rigolet for your question. Yes, that would be most beneficial to the Trust. In addition to the application for the Tasiujatsoak Trust fund, the Trustees would always welcome a proposal with an accompanying budget to support your application. It makes the work of the trust a lot easier if we had that detail information to review when we're reviewing the applications. The second part of your question regarding individual communities approaching the trust, I mean, that, that certainly would be a decision or the choice of the Inuit Community Governments, but it might be apropos or appropriate, I guess, Madam Speaker, for the Inuit Community Governments to submit a joint application. I think whichever way you decide the trust will certainly review the applications from an individual community government or a collective application from the community governments, themselves. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: I now recognize the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Susan Nochasak.

MS NOCHASAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question this morning is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development. I was hoping to have another update on stone plant here in the community. The last update I had that was maybe a small window of opportunity to begin operations again, depending on the approval of the Cultural Centre. So I was looking for an update on where that process is right now. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister of Education and Economic Development.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. In response to you, you asked about the stone plant. I don't have any new information on the stone plant. The last time I talked to Chris Webb at Nunatsiavut Group of Companies he indicated that if the Cultural Centre was going ahead then the stone plant would be in operation to cut stone for a Cultural Centre. Now there's been no new update on that, but I notice in James Thorbourne's interview with OkâlaKatiget Society, it wasn't mentioned. So I meant to contact Chris Webb before it came up to ask about the stone plant 'cause there was no mention of it in this summer's activities, but I'll certainly make a note to ask him about it, and maybe I'll give him a call this afternoon to find out what's been happening there with regard to the stone being cut. And the

other thing is I'm not sure if the stone that was planned for the Cultural Centre is still in the plans for the Cultural Centre. So these are a couple of things that I guess I have to follow up on. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I'd now like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, William Barbour.

MR. BARBOUR: Nakummek, UKâlatik. My question will be to the Minister of Education. Recently earlier this year, along with my colleague, the Minister of Culture, I met with a couple of individuals in Nain, and before I go to my question to the Minister I'll just go into the background of where we continue to support our students and I've heard many comments about the students graduating this year. Well, down here in my community we not only have graduates of high school, but coming out of post-secondary institutions and looking to work in their home communities. My question to the Minister is this. Especially those that are in the education field becoming qualified teachers, is our Nunatsiavut Department of Education, not only just supporting, but advocating to the employer being the Labrador School Board now as was today will be amalgamating the one big school board, how much support and lobbying are we doing for those qualified teachers to work in their home communities? Nakummek, UKâlatik.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. We have been meeting with the school board occasionally to discuss issues, and one thing that's always on the agenda is to encourage that our Nunatsiavut beneficiaries qualify to do teaching is given preference for jobs, we can only advocate and suggest that they be hired. As you know the school board is still in full control of the hiring, and the Human Resources Department does all the hiring, but with regard to our department, with the Nunatsiavut Government, we can only meet with them and, as I said, advocate on their behalf that they be looked at when the time comes for hiring, and we're certainly going to keep on top of that. Especially with the school board moving to St. John's, we have even more so reason to lobby on their behalf. But that's one thing that we're not going to drop is to make sure beneficiaries are hired when qualified to do so. But as I mentioned, they do the hiring and I guess there's coming a time that we're going to have to take down the provincial programs and do our own, but that's not in the making as of yet, but it's something that, I guess, this Assembly and the Nunatsiavut Government's going to have to take a look at in the near future especially with the school board moving away to St. John's and we're being left behind in the dust.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek. Supplementary, Mr. Barbour.

MR. BARBOUR: Nakummek, UKâlatik. Again to the Ministers, my redirect or if anything, what I would like to add on, and I'm speaking from my community of Nain, in honour to a couple of teachers who are now just substitute, but yet yearly high turnover of teachers that are coming in from outside and leaving as soon as they get an opportunity elsewhere but yet having qualified teachers in your own home community who want to stay there, who want to work there. All I'm suggesting to the Minister is this is that while it may not be in the form of a question, more intense lobbying at the school board level, who are the employers. Madam Speaker, how much more, to the Minister, how much more lobbying can you really do to use that issue of high turnover of not only non-beneficiaries, but non-residents coming in for short periods of time and then leaving again and still leaving these qualified teachers at home just substituting if they're lucky to substitute. Nakummek, UKâlatik.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Your points are well-taken and we'll certainly lobby as much as we can with the school board to ensure our beneficiaries are given a fair chance for those jobs. We're waiting now to see who's going to be the new Assistant Director of Education hired at the satellite office in Goose Bay, and when that person comes on stream we're certainly going to be on their heels to ensure that beneficiaries are given

preference for jobs in Nunatsiavut and that our spending efforts to train these people, they'll be rewarded by being given the jobs, because we're spending a lot of money to train these people and we want to see that they end up with the jobs that we're training them for in our own land, in our own schools. And that's all I can say right now, Madam Speaker, is that we'll certainly we'll lobby as much as we can to make sure our teachers are going to be out there working, especially in their home communities.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek, Mr. Barbour. I would now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Nain, Tony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the First Minister, Minister responsible for transportation. Madam Speaker, I always make comments about what the nice hairdo that the Minister has, and I'm surprised that marine, what has already happened, the delay of the Marine, Freight and Ferry service for us hasn't caused him to pull some of his hair out of his head. But my question is not about the current freight and ferry service, Madam Speaker, but yesterday I heard a rumour that our long-expected roll on roll off answer to all our prayers and hope ferry that was going to come on stream in 2016 may be delayed, and I wonder if the Minister has information from the provincial department of transportation that would confirm that rumour or maybe he can shed some

light in some way on that because there surely it's going to be, if that's the case, along with this totally obsolete system that we have in place at this time, it's going to only cause more grief for our people in 2016. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable First Minister.

MR. SHIWAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for the compliments on my hair. Yes, it does cause me to pull some of my hair out and I do have sort of an update of what I know of the current situation as with the plan for 2016. And when I met with the Minister in January, they were preparing to do an RFP for vessels. They didn't know at that time what it would look like for Nunatsiavut for the north coast, and they were planning to put it out, but when I met back with them in May, the RFP had still not went out. When I questioned the Minister on it, the reason given is that when they did a tender for the straights run for an RFP for a vessel down there, they encountered problems on that RFP that would apply to the RFP for the bulk for this region. So they had to pull back and they are planning on putting a new tender out soon. When I questioned the Minister on when that would be, I was not given a clear answer because they didn't know when that tender would be coming out. And then it caused a huge problem with us, not only for the delay, the disappointing delay that we have this year, but what we went through last year which is totally unacceptable,

and if they're going to delay in putting a new vessel on we have to look forward to this for years and years to come, which is totally unacceptable. But that is the update I have for the AngajukKâk. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. I'd now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS WOLFREY: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. My question is to the First Minister and it's with regards to the housing survey. Is it completed and when will we see it? Nakummek.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable First Minister.

MR. SHIWAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Housing Needs Assessment results were completed last November. We are still in the process of obtaining the raw data. We are in the process of getting an agreement with Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency to be able to take that raw data and put it into a report. That report is not ready yet. We don't have that data. We do have some very, very interesting and some very compelling results already from the report with regards to mould and different areas, and the fact that we had a 93 percent response rate on the housing needs assessment from the people within Nunatsiavut is very encouraging. The people felt very important that they participate in this survey. To answer your question, the report is not done. We are working to get that done

very soon, and when we get the report done, we want to get it to the people into the communities as soon as we can to show them that this is what results of that housing needs assessment are, and what we need to do to move forward in putting that assessment into a strategy that addresses the housing needs within Nunatsiavut. How are we going to move ahead and address the needs? There are some very critical needs right now, especially in Nain and Hopedale. We need to address those needs, but there are also needs in other communities as well, and this assessment will show everything, hopefully, that we need to look at and help us identify or build a strategy, but we want to work together with everybody in building that strategy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek. I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Susan Nochasak.

MS NOCHASAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The AngajukKâk for Rigolet kind of beat me to the punch on my question for housing, so I'll just revamp my question. First Minister, you had mentioned that the assessment is complete and that you will work on compiling that information, the raw information, and that you guys will read it over and figure out what the next steps are going to be. For the last three years now, we have all realized the housing crisis in Nunatsiavut. We have all seen firsthand and heard about the need for a senior's complex for the last three years,

Madam Speaker, but it seems that - I do understand there's a process and I do understand that everything has to be done on a schedule on what you need to do first to get to where you need to end up. Madam Speaker, but it seems that we're no further ahead than we were three years ago. I do understand that there is this assessment and I do understand that you have it done, but our people are still waiting for our housing crisis to be addressed. How much longer will we continue to discuss the crisis and work on the raw data before we actually come up with housing in our region? Madam Speaker, we expect our constituents to go out and make good lives for themselves, and we say that it's up to our constituents to go and make good lives for themselves and get a career and get your education and stuff like that, but I just feel that, like, it's not entirely true.

How can we expect our region to create lawyers and doctors and teachers and stuff like that, when they're here in Nunatsiavut living in deplorable housing conditions when they're faced to choose between maintaining their house and putting food on their table, repairing rundown homes just to have a roof over their heads? I understand the housing needs assessment is done, but we have the data, we know what the crisis is. When will we actually act on our housing crisis? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SHIWAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess to go back a bit and to explain, not just where we're at with the housing needs assessment, but as a government, we know and you know and everybody around this table knows, there are some very critical needs, and we recognize that. We want to address those needs right away, but, as you know, again, we have very limited funds that we have to be very careful with and be careful where we put them. That's why we identified the need for a strategy, not only to identify the immediate needs, but the long-term needs. As a government we have an inter-departmental working group that brings in the expertise from environment, from the Health Department, from the President's Office, and we're working together to put together a plan, not only with the housing data, or the housing needs assessment, but with a very important initiative started by the environment division through Director, Tom Sheldon, is the sustainable communities initiative that is run directly out of the AngajukKaat and their input. All that stuff has been put together. I know that's not the answer they're looking for on a date when money will be put into those areas. And, as you know, we've been approaching provincial government, not only directly to help fund some housing in Nunatsiavut, to fix the NLHC situation, which is not working for Nunatsiavut, to help us build seniors complexes or seniors homes in the communities. Unfortunately, they have not come on board with any of

those funding requests. So our last request to them is to work with us. Look, we're trying to get there. We're going to lead this. We're going to fix these problems, but we need you on board. We've made a request to the Minister of Housing within the province, say, look, we have our own committee set up. Do we want to act fast? There's needs that need to be done. We've budgeted \$2.7 million in the last budget to address a strategy that's going to help with these issues, but we need you on board, we need you on a working group with us, and they have not yet put anybody on that working group with us. They have acknowledged that there is a need, that we are unique in Nunatsiavut, and then we have unique issues. But as they have not come on board with anything substantial yet. But, like I said, we're going to do this, but as for timeframes on when we're actually going to be able to address some of those needs, that's not yet identified. But we are getting there. We're working very hard. I think it's the number one priority for the government is that housing issue, not only for Nain and Hopedale at a crisis what exists there, and I hope the Minister takes a look around Hopedale at some of the houses and actually sees what we're talking about 'cause there is a crisis there. We need to address those needs. But we need to do it, and we need to spend our money wisely because we have very limited funds right now. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable First Minister. I'd now like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Nain, Tony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yeah, in speaking of spending money wisely, my question is for the education Minister. I think in January the Minister announced some changes to the post-secondary education living allowance and it was a start, but the Minister and his deputy outside of this chamber to promise that there will be further review. And my question for the Minister today, Madam Speaker, is that can the Minister announce any changes to the level of post-secondary students for living allowance for September? Tomorrow being our last day here, Madam Speaker, by the time we gather again in September the students will be back in university and it was my hope that there would be some announcement come before the end of summer so that we can see that there is a more level playing field. I hope that the Minister understands my question. I'm quite sure that he does, so I just hope that he won't pretend that he don't.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. MITCHELL: Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Yeah, I understand your question. When I mentioned there was going to be a further review I didn't give a date. I, as you know, we changed the single student living allowance rates and this will be effective come September. We have not looked at any other changes to the funding for post-secondary education at this point.

We're trying to stay within budget of the current dollars that we have to keep those students going that we presently have in the system. We have a number of students now that we've got to look for money for to carrying on for next fall from some of their account. But as you know, we're on a fixed budget and we haven't done any more review with regard to any other living allowances or rates for post-secondary education students. The crucial one that we changed was for single students because we found that they were - they're the ones that needed those dollars most. And in one of your previous talks here in the Assembly you mentioned that there were some problems that you know of that came up with the program, and I would just like to advise you or inform you or ask you, that if there's individual problems that come up with our program, post-secondary education program, we'd like to know about those problems because there might be individual programs that we can take care of, but like if you feel there's a general problem with the whole program, a big problem, then we can certainly discuss, but if there's problems that you hear about that students had with the program, we'd certainly like to hear about them so we can work on those, but there's no more changes now planned for the next few months anyway. Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nakummek. Are there any more questions? If not, then we'll move down to our next item on the Orders of the Day, which is "Written

Questions." Are there any written questions? Page, can you pick up this written question, please. I'll read out this written question to the Department of Finance. According to our auditors we will have our 2011 audit done soon. Although we are happy and relieved we are somewhat overwhelmed by the final costs to complete. We are yet to receive the final invoice, but we understand from our auditor that our 2011 nine-month audit will cost over \$43,000. That is over double the cost we paid for our previous auditor, who assisted with bookkeeping where we required. Even though NG has provided us with \$20,000 it seems we are paying a lot higher rate with Deloitte than our previous auditors. Will NG continue to contribute to the costs associated with these higher rated auditors should they continue to charge these enormous rates? Any more written questions? Then we'll move down the next item on our Orders of our Day, which is, "Returns to Written Questions". I understand there are two returns to written questions from the last sitting. Honourable Gary Mitchell, Minister of Education and Economic Development and Honourable Darryl Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. On March 13, 2013 the AngajukKâk from Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey, asked the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Gary Mitchell, if he could advise them with the Simply Accounting would be offered. On May 28th, 2013 the Minister of Education and Economic

Development emailed to say that a final decision on the date and location will be made when we look at the overall calendar of activities with information sessions, business seminars and workshops and will most likely be in the fall of 2013. Hopedale and Makkovik are two potential locations.

The Economic Development Division will be active in all five communities in Nunatsiavut. Not all activities will be delivered in every community. However, the opportunity to attend a selected activity will be offered to land claims beneficiaries. When the basic accounting, Simply Accounting, was offered in Nain, organizations from all over Nunatsiavut were invited to attend expenses paid. This same approach will be used for this course.

On March 13, 2013, the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Susan Nochasak, asked the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources this question. I would like to ask about the winter fishing nets. Beneficiaries from my community are asking why there is a restriction on winter net fishing and also if they could be changed in light of the fact that our hunters cannot harvest the caribou? Honourable First Minister, are you prepared to answer this question? You may go.

MR. SHIWAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and we recognize the heart of this issue and it is in light of the fact that there's a ban on hunting George River Caribou and that there's a need within the communities to identify different food resources, and fish is obviously one of the resources, and Minister

Sheppard will do an update on our actions to try to find some other food resources in his report tomorrow. With regards to the particular issue, it is to my understanding that this issue has been around since the LIA days, and Part III of the 2012 Communal Licence for LISA, the setting in nets is not permitted in inland waters. The current licence is in effect until June 14th, 2013. We have a new licence ready for the June, 2013 subsistence fishery. June, 2013/14 licence will be similar to the previous year's one, and net fishing in inland waters is not permitted. The potential to overharvest a stock of char or trout in a lake by net fishing is very high, and net fishing for subsistent purposes is only permitted in tidal waters. So having said that, I will be asking Minister Sheppard to review this issue and to ensure that this still is the best action to take moving forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable First Minister. No responses on petitions today and no petitions. We'll go down to item number 11, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees". I would like to recognize the Chair of the Special Committee on Nunatsiavut elections, Tony Andersen, the AngajukKâk from Nain.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present the report of the Special Committee on the Presidential Election of 2012. Madam Speaker, the Special Committee's mandated by the Assembly to

carry out a review of the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officers Report in its entirety to examine its recommendations and consider amendments to the Nunatsiavut Elections Act. Madam Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, that the report of the Special Committee on the Nunatsiavut Presidential Election of 2012 be received by the Assembly and moved in Committee of the Whole for discussion with the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer, Mr. Jack Shiwak, and Ms Loretta Michelin, Nunatsiavut Legal Counsel, as witnesses. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, AngajukKâk. The AngajukKâk for Nain is asking that we go into a Committee of the Whole. All those in favour?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

MADAM SPEAKER: Any nays? The motion is carried. So we'll now go into Committee of the Whole. You may bring your witnesses. Okay, so we're now in Committee of the Whole there and Tony, AngajukKâk, can start.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair? And I'll get some words, I suppose, and Members of the Committee should feel free to make comments. I certainly wanted to table this report and I hope, Madam Chair that everyone had a chance to read and review. And, you know, that NEO had a good report, and a long report, that he tabled following the Presidential Election of 2012. But you know as a Committee we, and we thought that, you know, many of his

recommendations might be easy to address, and perhaps resolve, but we found out that it was not that easy, Madam Chair. It was a very difficult task, and I think that, you know, the recommendations that we bring forward in this report and many of the recommendations that the NEO put forward they were addressed, and I would like to say it's a stumbling block. I'm sure the NEO's going to speak and the legal counsel speaks as well. That one of the biggest stumbling blocks that we ran into was our Constitution, and we were not mandated by this Assembly to make recommendation change to the Constitution. We were mandated to make - to review the NEO's report and to make, if necessary, changes to our own Elections Act, which is not the Constitution. So we have, I suppose, made recommendation that we will speak to afterwards, but I just thought I wanted to open that up and perhaps give other Committee members a chance to speak to the report before we entertain questions from the table.

Do you want to speak?

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you speaking, Susan?

MS NOCHASAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. As Tony had mentioned, there were issues in the report that we hoped to get some resolution from, but it was a task that was beyond what we had expected. The Constitution, as he mentioned was something that we kept bumping into, and our recommendations kept getting squatted because the actual Constitution and, as he had mentioned,

we couldn't touch the Constitution because, well, as you all are aware, we need the full support of the Assembly as well as our constituents. In particular, we had gone into looking at the online polling access and internet voting. It was something that we had high hopes for, and it is something that we were a bit excited for at the beginning, and we had hoped it was something that we can entertain as Nunatsiavut elections in the coming future. But again the Constitution, as well as the costs, just squatted that idea as well. We had a couple of meetings in Goose Bay, and we had a couple of meetings through teleconference and here, in Hopedale, and I believe that we did a pretty good job on working with what we could. If anybody else want to jump on.

MADAM SPEAKER: Charlotte, did you want to speak?

MS WOLFREY: No, I think Susan said it all. We really had some high hopes for looking at certain things and the when we got to them, even, like, the internet voting we found out that the Constitution had to be changed because everybody, it says in the Constitution, should be given the opportunity to vote with paper. So even that, you know, we couldn't entertain, so it was a difficult task, but I think some of the conclusions that we did come to in the end I guess, which our Chair will speak out, about the test or something to prove people's ability to speak and understand Inuttitut is something that we felt we could recommend and that we might want to look at.

MADAM SPEAKER: William.

MR. BARBOUR: Nakummek UKâlatik. No, I think the only thing that we really could do and did do was not part of the Special Committee, itself, but because of our report from the Chief Electoral Officer requesting the earlier opening, not through this Committee, and you can see it for yourself on page six, the first number one, the Member Services Committee, after having seen Jack's report, in our Assembly budgeting process, we took to heart that, hey, he really does need more time than what we do give him, and I think without changing the Constitution we can do what's in the Elections Act, open up the office earlier, which we, the Member Services Committee of the Assembly has already budgeted for, for this year going to next year's election. So it's already budgeted for in 2013-2014 budget year to open Jack's office earlier.

MADAM SPEAKER: Anyone else from the Committee like to say a few words on it before we open it up to the floor? Go ahead, Jack.

MR. SHIWAK: Yes, I guess I have to say that when I wrote the report, I had to in one hand sort of hold a Constitution, and in the other hand, the Election Act, and keep in mind what I was hearing from people while I was doing the election. I think if you look at the recommendations they're not all real recommendations. Rather, some of them are items that I sort of looked at and asked the Assembly to explore or discuss if there could be changes, and

that's what I had hoped would happen. Because after accepting the appointment to the Committee, some of the matters we had to deal with, I found it very difficult as Chief Electoral Officer, to have an opinion because I didn't want to see myself as supporting one side or the other. That was very difficult to do. And I think some of the Committee members may have noticed there were some topics I didn't speak on, and that was just to recognize where I sit because I know there's topics I have an opinion on, and I've always had an opinion on, but I've never expressed, and that's, I think that's part of my responsibility as Chief Electoral Officer. So, you know, in writing a report, I also recognize that the things that we looked at, the things that I asked, and the recommendations that I asked for, and the topics I asked for discussion on, I recognize that it would take Constitutional change, but if Constitutional change is going to take place, and I know it wouldn't happen overnight, or over the next year, but it has to start somewhere, and that's why some of those recommendations or expressions of interest were put in that report. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Susan, did you want to speak again?

MS NOCHASAK: Just a couple more things. In regards of some of the issues we had in regards of going to the Constitution and looking at the Constitution as a whole, during a couple of our Committee sittings, we had expressed that when we sit as an Assembly as a whole that there would be something that

we would put out there for the whole Assembly to entertain, that somewhere along the line somewhere in the future of Nunatsiavut Government that we actually strike a committee to actually look at the Constitution as a whole to see what the errors are in the Constitution, if any, or if there are areas in the Constitution that we want to look at and tackle as a whole Assembly. So that was, well, one of the ideas that we had as a Committee that the whole Assembly would have that discussion in regards of later on down in the future to actually strike a committee to look at the whole Constitution. And, as well, a lot of discussions generated around what Charlotte had mentioned in regards of a test, as such, or the definition of speak and understand Inuttitut, and one of the recommendations was that the Assembly organize a committee, or a team of Inuttitut experts, and I understand right now that the Nunatsiavut Government do have an employee committee that decides whether or not they get the bilingual bonus. So if that is struck, like if there's already an existing committee then it shouldn't be much harder to create a more higher up committee to look at administering a test for the next presidential election, or striking a committee to do that test. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Anyone else? Tony.

MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, and thank you, I mean, Madam Chair. And like it got to be frustrating at times because I think that we felt we should be doing more to

bring back to the Assembly, but, you know, like, with Jack's help and that, and I suppose we thought it was frustrating. It must have been very frustrating at times for the NEO, but like we did make a recommendation, the Special Committee recommends that the definition of speak and understand as per the Labrador Inuit Constitution should be clearly defined in the Nunatsiavut Elections Act, as well as Special Committee's recommending that all candidates for the President of Nunatsiavut be tested to determine whether or not it meet the language requirement as per the Labrador Inuit Constitution. Now we were a committee to examine the NEO's report, but so we felt that the recommendation, that's as far as we could take it. Should the Assembly agree with this recommendation that we put forward, then it will be up to the Assembly to establish that community that would have that, what, that long, I don't know what the words are, capacity to define what speak and understand would be, but we would not be able to provide that definition as a committee, okay. So those are the kind of things that we ran into. We did also, as Susan said, our Committee, the Nunatsiavut Assembly consider establishing a Special Committee with a clearly defined mandate to review the Labrador Inuit Constitution to determine whether amendments should be explored, and we felt that that was our limit. We took it to, we thought, to our limit, where we could, but certainly there are things in this report that I think the

Assembly has to, and I'm not sure how this works anymore, but I suppose the legal counsellor will be able to tell us that after but, you know, whether this goes to the Executive Council, or if it's debated here in the Assembly. I truly hope that something is done with it and it's recognized as it was hard work, and it wasn't easy, it was frustrating, and sometimes we didn't all agree on everything, and thanks very much to Jack and, of course, Loretta. But I'm sure the legal counsel has words of advice to offer as well.

MS MICHELIN: I guess I have a few things to say and I raise some questions. One of the things the committee is recommending is that there be a definition of speak and understand put in the Elections Act and also some requirement for a test. I think it's important for people to understand what the process is now as laid out in the Elections Act. Under Section 118 of the Elections Act, qualifications for persons as presidential candidate. To be eligible to be elected as President of the Nunatsiavut of Canada it must be a beneficiary resident in Canada, aged 25, be able to understand and speak Inuttitut, not be in prison, on parole, not be of sound of mind, not to be bankrupt. So those are the qualifications as outlined in the Constitution. So they're also put into the Elections Act. Under Section 119, Nomination of Candidates. The nomination of a candidate for election as President must be in writing, be signed by three beneficiaries, each of whom must be eligible to vote in an election for President. State that the candidate for

President of the Nunatsiavut meet the requirements. They have to sign an affidavit basically stating that the candidate meets the qualifications for President and contain written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate's declaration that he or she meets the requirements under Section 118 so the candidate has to sign a declaration that they meet the qualifications. So that is the process that is laid out right now. One of the recommendations is that a definition of speak and understand be placed in the Elections Act. We can put in the dictionary definition of speak, the dictionary definition of understand. Is that - what issue or problem will a definition of speak and understand, rectify or accomplish? The other questions I have around issuing a test are these. What will the process be for testing a candidate? Who determines who the testers will be? Who appoints them? What qualifications will the testers have to meet? What criteria will the testers use to determine if a candidate can speak and understand Inuttitut? How will the test be administered? When and where in the process will the test be applied? Will the testers issue a certificate that the candidate can speak and understand Inuttitut? If the tester determines that a candidate cannot speak and understand Inuttitut, what happens then? Will you go public with the results and let the voters decide if they want to vote for this person? Will the testers or the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer have the authority to disqualify a candidate

if they failed the test? These are things that would have to be determined ahead of time if there was a test included in the Elections Act, and these questions have not been answered, and I guess these are the questions that the Assembly will have to grapple with if, in fact, you act on your recommendations of this Committee.

MADAM SPEAKER: AngajukKâk Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: That was really helpful to us, but the Committee then, we said this. As far as we know that the only way to challenge whether or not someone can speak or understand Inuttitut right now is to go to, I think it's the Provincial Court, and we said, you know, if someone, if that was challenged in court, the Provincial Court would have to answer those very same questions, and not only that, but the Provincial Court judge who is going to hear that, he would say to us as Inuit, what are you doing here? You, the people, who speak and understand that language, you are probably better off than me to define what speak and understand is. So that's why we felt so strongly about, at least putting it into the Elections Act, because no judge is going to want to have to face that question and no judge is going to want to have to answer those questions. I'm sorry, I'm not pointing at you, and I'm pointing at your book. So it's something that we must be the only capable body in the world. Not the Assembly, but the Labrador Inuit, to answer those questions and to come up with an answer, not an answer, but

a definition of speak and understand. This has been a problem since the beginning of the first election, and perhaps it should have been more clearly defined as our feeling. Now maybe it doesn't have to be that way. Maybe someone will say that if it can't be defined and maybe if there's no definition for it maybe it should be removed from the Constitution. Because why would you have something in the Constitution, Madam Chair, something that has no definition or can't be defined? And this is what we ask, Loretta. Loretta knows, as I said. Is it because we don't want to give a definition, or it can't be done?

MS MICHELIN: It can be done. We can put in the Elections Act a definition of speak. Speak means to converse, to deliver an address or discourse to communicate to utter orally and articulate to use or to be able to use oral utterances as a language. Understand means to perceive the meaning of, the grasp the idea of and to comprehend by knowing the meaning of words employed as a language. Is that going to solve whatever problem the Committee sees that they've identified?

MR. BARBOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Because we're in a Committee of the Whole, I mean, really the question is this. The Constitution says speak and understand, but the Elections Act is under the Constitution. So is it possible, as you've just described put in the Elections Act what it means to

speak and understand in the Elections Act without touching the Constitution?

MS MICHELIN: Yes. We can put a definition of speak and understand, a clarification, if you will, or a definition of speak and understand. We can put that in the Elections Act. It doesn't affect the Constitution. It's just a clarification of what that means. We can do that. I guess somebody has to come up, then, with the definition, and will that alleviate or solve whatever issue the Committee sees being around the qualification of a candidate for President?

MADAM SPEAKER: Charlotte.

MR. WOLFREY: I say leave it up to the lawyers to complicate things. But really Loretta, what you read out there in English is an English dictionary of what it means to speak and understand, and surely people who speak Inuttitut and understand and read Inuttitut, I mean, is their definition the same, only is it in Inuttitut? Like I don't know. You read out an English dictionary version of what it means to speak and understand English or any language, I suppose, but still, though, I'm wondering if an Inuk who speaks and understands Inuttitut can't be the person who, I don't know who determines what it is to speak and understand Inuttitut, It seems also complicated when really it seems so simple, and then we've got to complicate stuff. I mean when our forefathers made our rules in the first

place, they wanted the President to be able to speak fluently in Inuttitut and I suppose that was a better word to use, because people knew then what fluency, but speak and understand doesn't have that clear a definition like fluency does. I think that's part of the problem that where we're at, and I really think for us it didn't seem so hard that we could have our language experts put together some kinds of questions and talk to people who wanted to be a candidate and see if they could speak and understand Inuttitut if our language experts could understand them.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sarah, did you want to speak?

PRESIDENT LEO: Yes. Actually, my question is for Loretta, and sort of picking up on what Charlotte and Tony had said, and I think Susan had alluded to. We do give our employees, a language bonus, I guess it's called, or a, I think it's called or a bilingual bonus, and obviously there's a test given for that. And my question is why could that not be put as part of the criteria? Can I finish? And, you know, obviously, I don't know if it's, you know, the more, the higher you get on the score the more of a bonus you get. I'm not sure how the bonus works, and I don't know who around the table can fill me in on that, I'm not sure. The other question is with regards and I think Tony and Charlotte or Tony, more specifically, had sort of alluded to this in a way, it's very vague in the Constitution, and maybe you had asked Loretta to some extent, but I don't know if she answered you, and I'd like to ask

why was it left - what happened to fluency in the definition. I believe it was there at one time and it seems to have gone, and why was it left so vague? I mean, that doesn't really help us in our situation now, but it would be good to help in understanding why it's left so vague.

MS MICHELIN: I have no idea. I wasn't around when this Constitution was drafted. I came in after it was already enacted. And I think - I don't know. I mean fluency is a higher test than - fluency in a language is a higher test, in my estimation, than speak and understand. Fluency has different connotations than just being able to sit down with somebody and have a conversation in their language. And so maybe it was determined that fluency was too high a test. I don't know. I can't answer that because I wasn't around then. But speak and understand in the normal, I guess, everyday understanding is that a person be able to sit down with somebody that speaks the language and be able to carry on a conversation to be able to express your opinions, your views, your thoughts and to be able to understand and answer questions posed to you in whatever language you're having this dialogue in. And that would be the common understanding of speak and understand a language.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dan.

MR. POTTLE: Just to pick up, I guess, on Sarah's question, and I wasn't a part of constructing this Constitution either, but I certainly was party to the

consultations with the then members of the Labrador Inuit Association when the Constitution Committee, I guess, put the Constitution together and sought support through that, through an election on the issue to accept the Labrador Inuit Constitution. I remember at that time the meeting, in particular, that I attended these questions arose at the same time, and the people who we asked the questions of very similar to people around this room today could not answer those questions for any of the people who asked those detailed questions. I guess like any piece of legislation, our Constitution is subject to interpretation. I'm not going to try to answer Sarah's question, but I would make the assumption that it was written that way because it could be subject to interpretation. I mean, and the thing for me with respect to being able to understand and speak Inuttitut to me that could be interpreted as being fluent or having a various degree of speaking and understanding Inuttitut, which most of the Assembly Members do have some certain understanding of speaking and understanding Inuttitut. Mr. Barbour, by way of example, Ms Nochasak, Johannes, Herb, Wayne are basically fluent in Inuttitut versus my Inuttitut language skills which are limited, but, I mean, you know I believe that, I mean, I have a certain ability or degree of understanding and speaking Inuttitut. Is that enough for me to seek the election of office of President, I'm not sure on that yet? I mean, you know, maybe one day if I, you know, wanted to test that then

you put yourself forward as per the eligibility criteria as for election of President. And if, I mean, you know, you have your nomination sign by three Labrador Inuit who state that the candidate for the President of Nunatsiavut meets the criteria for the office of the President then everybody has a right to test that, I think. Therein lies for me the test. It's very difficult to, I guess, and getting back to a point that President Leo had made about the bilingual bonus that we give Inuttitut speakers, I mean, we all hear from time to time that you have to separate the public service from people in election. So on that I guess I would ask the question could you administer the same test, for lack of a better word, that we apply to the public service? And I guess the full test of that, I mean, without having an appetite to change the Labrador Inuit Constitution is for people to put themselves forward and let the beneficiaries challenge you. Bring that to the only recourse that we have right now is to a court of law to have a court determine whether or not Danny Pottle or Denise Lane speak and understands Inuttitut, and Tony's point is well taken, I think. I mean, you know, I'm not a judge, neither is Tony, but I support his notion that, I mean, the judge would probably say you're the best judge of that, not me. I don't speak and understand your language. What does that mean? So, I mean, I guess what I'm trying to say there has to be maybe some more thought and consideration given to that, but to me the test is there. Put

yourself out there. Let the beneficiaries challenge you, and then you take it upon yourself. If it's a challenging court, then you have to convince the court, if necessary, that you speak and understand Inuttitut. Nakummek, Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER: We're in a Committee of the Whole now so it's much freer. If you're talking about the language issue that we had in place somewhere now, would you want to invite in Rita Andersen here to let her explain that? Go ahead.

MS MICHELIN: I just, one of the things that I think has to be understood is that if the Assembly wants the definition of speak and understand in the Elections Act, we can put it in. If the Assembly wants to have a process for testing in the Elections Act, we can put it in. The only thing is these questions that I ask would have to be fleshed out in the actual - you can't just say the candidates will be tested. You have to have a very structured approach to how that's going to be done and who would do it. One of the things that I have to say right off the bat is that if you have testers they would have to be independent of the government. We could not use, for example, government translators. The whole reason behind having an independent electoral officer is to keep the election of President totally separate from elected officials and the Nunatsiavut Government in the civil service so that there can never be say that the government interfered in any who became

President. So if you're going to set up a committee, for example, to test the candidate's ability to speak and understand Inuttitut, it would have to be an independently-appointed committee.

MADAM SPEAKER: Susan, would you like to speak?

MS NOCHASAK: Just going back to the bilingual test, I understand that it is for the Civil Service employees, and if we were to go down that route then it would have to be a few levels up from what the test is actually now for the Civil Service employees. If we were to administer a test for the presidential election then the Civil Service employee test is here, and the Nunatsiavut Presidential qualification test should be up here. What I'm trying to say is the magnitude of what's actually in the tests should increase from what we have right now for the Civil Service bilingual bonus. And just a question to Loretta, you had mentioned that it is possible to put a definition of speak and understand in the Elections Act. Can the word fluency be replaced in the Elections Act rather than having speak and understand? And just and one more thing, oh, lost my train of thought. I'll come back to it.

MS MICHELIN: I think, I mean, I can't answer that right now because I think you cannot put anything in the Elections Act that is in conflict with the Constitution. Right now the Constitution says speak and understand, which I think is not as high a test as fluency. So you cannot override the Constitution by putting something in the Elections Act that is in conflict with the

Constitution. So I would be, I would advise extreme caution in putting in any definition of speak and understand that includes fluency because there's a whole connotation around fluency and definition of fluency. The test, I think, is higher.

MADAM SPEAKER: Johannes, go ahead.

MR. LAMPE: Nakummek Itsivautak. We as a whole are speaking about this very important issue, very heavy issue, with Jack Shiwak and our Legal Aid here as well and I also know that the committee done a lot of working in trying to straighten this issue out and we all know that we cannot change the Constitution. Madam Chair, I truly appreciate the work that the Committee has done, and the report that Jack Shiwak gave and with the help of legal advisor, Loretta. At the election for President I was campaigning with Sarah, and a number of constituents who were supporting the Presidential election were suggesting that I challenge the other candidate for President at the time, but I had no grounds in anywhere in the Labrador Inuit Constitution to do that, and so at one of the Assembly sittings I raised concerns that the constituents had toward the Presidential Election of 2012. And to speak to the bilingual bonus, The Interpreter Translator Committee Isumatit Committee who to work on definitions and terms in Inuttitut have been challenged by definitions and terms and appointing for a bilingual bonus as fluent interpreters and

translators of the Nunatsiavut Government. But at the same time this bilingual bonus, you know, got out of hand where civil servants were, you know, if they could say Ullâkut or Atelihai and Kaniven we're becoming, you know, included in the bilingual bonus. And so that we thought we could resolve that issue by striking a committee or standing committee to get back the standing committee on language, and we are, because that committee was dissolved when a general election happened three years ago, we are hoping that we will get this committee back. We are working with a legal advisor on this and we had hoped that we would put this on the table at the sitting, but we are not fully prepared to do that, and so hopefully in the fall sitting we will come up with a recommendation. And so there are many issues which relate to Inuttitut, that language, and my department is working as hard as they can too, to speak to understand and to use Inuttitut before we lose it. And I know that it was mentioned that our forefathers were, you know, concerned about our culture and of our language as Labrador Inuit, and so language, Inuttitut, is one of those values that we consider as very important to Labrador Inuit and especially within Nunatsiavut. And so I appreciate what the Committee and what Jack Shiawak has put in his report and the legal advisor, Loretta. But we still have a long way to go, no doubt. Nakummek.

MADAM SPEAKER: Also wishing to speak to this report or to ask questions of any of the Members. Go ahead, Susan.

MS NOCHASAK: Found my train of thought. Loretta, you had mentioned these questions should be answered, and the complications in regards of how would we prove this Committee would be the experts? Just thinking in regards of our communities, we all know who is actually fluent. We all know who actually can speak and understand Inuttitut. And I understand that these questions can be complicated if we make them complicated, but we can also answer them because we, ourselves, know who's capable of actually being an expert in regards of speaking and understand Inuttitut, and if we can't use our government employees, then maybe we can a church chapel servant who only do the Inuttitut services can be an expert. An Inuttitut teacher up at the schools can be an expert, and I'm sure that if we give them the task to answer these questions, they can be answered. I just, like, all along I just don't see the complication in my head in regards of trying to find a definition or an expert to administer a test of speaking and understand Inuttitut.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is there anyone else? Ed, Loretta. Ed, go ahead.

MR. TUTTAUK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I like the recommendations put forth in this report. However, when it comes to the test, I'm pretty much in agreement with legal counsel as who administers the test. In partiality of the Testing

Committee, what happens if they deem that candidate not qualified to run for Presidency, how do the Testing Committee break that to the voting public? There's still a lot more questions are raised by forming a committee to determine testing for qualified candidates. A little, I think a little more work has to be done on that issue.

MR. SHIWAK: All right. Thank you. One of the reasons for bringing this up in my report is I get a lot of calls to my office during a Presidential Election from people questioning my on candidates, whether they can speak or understand Inuttitut. And the only answer I can really give them is I have three affidavits and the candidate's consent saying yes, I do meet the qualifications. The affidavits are saying I've known the person for so many years and this person meets all qualifications, including speak and understand. And that's the only answer that I can give them. I get arguments that I know this person. I know this person can't speak Inuttitut. I know this person don't understand Inuttitut. I don't know that. So that's where the recommendation is coming from to be looked at, because, you know, as of right now with nothing else there I have to accept the nomination along with the affidavit as is.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is there any other people that wishing to speak? Patricia.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I think including a definition and possibly having independent test is an excellent recommendation from the Special Committee, and maybe to

answer some of the questions that was asked by legal counsel could also be possibly tasked by the Special Committee to answer, or I'm not sure if the Special Committee is now dissolved, but there could be a committee that could answer some of the questions so it will be clear when it's time to do the testing. So all those questions that Loretta and other people had could be done ahead of time. And when somebody runs, or possibly are interested in running for Presidential election would have the test administered to them, and then they would be accepted to be a Presidential Election. There could be something put in place to that extent. I'm not quite sure, but, you know, another Special Committee or the same one could look at those specific questions. That's my opinion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Loretta.

MS MICHELIN: I can tell you I'm asking this because, obviously, it would be left to lawyers to do any amendments to the Elections Act, and if you're going to include the requirement of a test, and the conditions around that test are not clear, I can tell you at the next election Jack is going to run into grave and numerous concerns. That's why, if there is a test included all of the details of that test have to be clearly outlined in the Act so that there's no question about, okay, what happens now if this Testing Committee decides that the person doesn't speak and understand Inuttitut? Who has the authority to do what? Can that person be disqualified? Who has the authority to

disqualify them? And, obviously, if there's a test there's going to be questions around the test. What are the qualifications of the testers? How fair was the actual test that was applied to the candidate? When in the process, in the whole election process, will this test be given to the candidate? And that's why all of these details have to be worked out ahead of time and included in the Act. Otherwise you're going to run into a brick wall at the next Presidential Election after these changes and amendments have been included.

MADAM SPEAKER: Patricia.

MS KEMUKSIGAK: Actually, I guess I wasn't real clear, but what I was trying to say is kind of like what Loretta said. It all needs to be worked out. If we put it in the Act, but there's needs to be processes worked out and procedures worked out, and all these questions that need to be answered will be clearly defined and before it can be enacted. So there's no what if kind of things. So what I've tried to say earlier is what Loretta just said, but clearer. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Tony.

MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, and we do not expect the legal counsel to come back tomorrow with an amendment in their hand. We understand that this is going to take time, but we also understand that if this is not done, and if it's not acted upon there is going to be challenge, whether we write the definition or not.

Sooner or later there's going to be challenge, and it'll end up in a provincial court, and I think that if we can somehow - our Committee believes, not me, hey. Our Committee believes if we can act now and move towards seeing a definition then it's going to be a lot better than ending up in a court. That's why we lead.

MR. BARBOUR: And, Pat, if I can just add onto what Tony had just said then now you can understand why it was hard to bring this report to the Assembly and to the Committee of the Whole. It was hard. Now to your point, though, a couple of technical points. Patricia, this spring sitting I assume the President and the speaker will close for this session, and yet our mandate is one of this Committee's mandate has now run out after this sitting, okay, number one. And if you look at it on page six, just above number one, we say clearly define mandate to review the Labrador Inuit Constitution to determine whether amendment should be explored, whether it's the Constitution or within the Constitution and under the Elections Act. The Elections Act, I think, says speak and understand Inuttitut with no definitions to it, but because it was the same wording as the Constitution we couldn't come here with something. Now Loretta has given examples of how it can be done. Now that was the toughest issue was the language issue. Now you look at a couple of other things that the NEO has looked at, one has been, you know, the Easter Holiday. It's an issue. Electronic voting is another issue. Can

be done, but it still has to be that beneficiaries have a right under the Constitution to vote by paper ballot. So always my question was this one, and I still stand by it. When this Committee was struck, there's going to be very little that the NEO report can, you know, based on his recommendations, that the Committee could do, and that's the one thing we've already done is to open this office early without touching near the Constitution there, still with this test. And my question really, to Loretta, is this. Based on those three or four, based on the NEO's report, do you foresee, can you foresee a referendum on the Constitution on those issues?

MS MICHELIN: I can't foresee it. I mean, I don't know.

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay, it's getting near lunch time and we have to be back at here one o'clock for the launch of the Rosetta Stone from 1:00 to 2:00. We come back into Assembly at two o'clock, and lunch will be ready now down there at the hotel at 12:00. So I'm wondering about this report here, did you want to adopt the report now and it looks like the recommendations come in and set up another striking committee to look at these recommendations, and come back to the Assembly with that report, after looking at these recommendations here, and hearing the questions and comments around the table. So are you willing to now adopt this report by this Special Elections Committee? Yes?

MR. POTTLE: At this point in time, Madam Chair, I'd say Auka, I'd like to have some more discussion. We've only touched on, I think, two of the issues that was raised by the Special Committee, that being the language requirement for President and the issue of absolute majority for a winner for the election for the President. We haven't touched on - we touched on briefly, I think, and skirted around the other three recommendations from the Chief Electoral Officer, so I think I would like to have some more discussion and I have some questions in mind relative to some of these, the three recommendations that Mr. Shiwak has put forward, and I'd like to hear, I think, the answer to Mr. Barbour's question from, Ms. Michelin and say a few words on that as well. Nakummek.

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay. So what we'll do when we come back at two o'clock is we'll continue into the Committee of the Whole and continue on with these discussions. So we'll now break for lunch.

(Recess)

MR. LAMPE: Nakummek, UKâlatik. As Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for the Nunatsiavut Government I would like to present to Minister McGraw of our Labrador Affairs, a T-shirt from the Torngasok Cultural Centre.

MR. MCGRaw: Thank you. Nakummek.