



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**FOURTH ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

SPRING SESSION 10th Session 1st- SITTING

**kAVAMALIGIJET
KAUJITITSIUTINGA
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

June 8, 2021

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville Mrs. Marlene Winters-Wheeler

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Postville, Honorable Tyler Edmunds

Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Anthony Andersen

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honorable Gregory Flowers

Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honorable Carlene Palliser

Minister of Health and Social Development and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Honorable Gerald Asivak

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen

Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs. Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mrs. Charlotte Wolfrey

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak

Chair Person of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Maxene Winters

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Absent:

Minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Jim Lyaal

Legal Counsel, Ms. Annike Flomen

Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ms. Mary Sillett

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
June 8, 2021
Assembly commenced at 9:00AM June 8, 2021**

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: ...10th Nunatsiavut Assembly at 9:07 a.m. I would also ask that Susan Onalik, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituencies, say the opening prayer.

MS. ONALIK: [Recites prayer.]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Onalik. We are now on to Item Number Two of the *Orders of the Day*, and I would like to call upon President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe to do his opening address.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti*, [speaks in Inuktitut.] Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I deliver my opening remarks, I'd like to ask all Members of the Assembly to please stand in a moment of silence to commemorate the 215 children whose remains were recently discovered at a site of a former residential school in Kamloops British Columbia. *Nakummek*. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to first of all commend you for taking the initiative to update the Assembly building. I understand your plans are to give this Chamber, as well as the courtroom, new paint, add more Inuit art to the building, reorganize photos and paintings and tidy up around the property. As Members of the Assembly know, there has not

been much maintenance done to the building since it opened in 2012.

So, as the changes being implemented by the Speaker, are most welcomed. I should note as well, that plans in the works to have all previous Assembly sittings on a YouTube channel. Again, *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker for taking on this initiative. On Wednesday of last week, Madam Speaker, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, released the National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, girls and two-sided, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual plus, people. In response to the 46 Inuit-specific calls to justice, of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls. This action plan Madam Speaker, addresses the underlying factors that we know contribute to the high prevalence of violence experienced by too many Inuit women, girls and two-sided, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gender, queer-questioning, intersex, asexual plus people and their children. These factors include limited access to shelters and other safe places, housing shortages in Inuit communities and limited access to health and wellness services and supports. Actions set out in the plan are organized into 14 themes that include shelters and housing, justice, and policing, health and wellness, as well as economic security. Actions are further broken down into federal, provincial, territorial, and Inuit-led actions. The Inuit working group was one of 10 working groups formed to create the National Action Plan in response to the 231 calls for justice in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Deputy

Minister Isabella Pain represented the Nunatsiavut Government on the Inuit Working Group. AngajukKâk Charlotte Wolfrey and former Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Mary Sillett served on the working group as well, representing the families and survivors and Pauktuutit, respectively. I'd like to thank all three for their involvement and for playing a huge part in seeing this plan come to fruition. On another note last week, I, along with the Speaker and Minister Asivak, as Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville met with Senior Officials at 5 Wing Goose-Bay including Base Commander Lieutenant Colonel Guy Parisien. The meeting was called at the request of the base commander in an effort to build on a relationship between the Nunatsiavut Government and 5 Wing. During the meeting, we were advised of an exercise taking place from June 10 to 18 involving a variety of military aircraft and personnel from the Royal Canadian Airforce and United States Airforce. In all, about 180 personnel will take place in the exercise. While the majority of exercise flights will be conducted over sparsely populated arctic areas and at high altitudes where the public is not likely to hear or see them. There will be two days where lower altitude flights will take place in the area between Makkovik and Rigolet. Those flights are scheduled for one day only, weather permitting. There will be two iterations of this flight-, one morning and one afternoon. During the exercise, a layout risk mitigation procedure will be employed which will strictly limit contact with the local population to the greatest extent possible in order to reduce risk of exposure to Covid 19 for exercise participants and members local communities.

Participating US Military personnel will require two negative Covid-19 tests, separated by a minimum of five days with the last test prior to arriving in Canada. Participating Canadian personnel will require two negative Covid-19 tests, separated by a minimum of seven days. They will travel to 5 Wing on Military aircraft to keep their isolation status. While at the base, all exercise participants will be isolated from local personnel and persons from the Upper Lake Melville area. I should note that there will be no contact whatsoever between any of the participants and residents of Labrador Inuit Community. *UKatti*, the Nunatsiavut Secretariat continues to make considerable progress in advancing energy security in our region taking our lead from the 2017 Energy Security Plan, and our focus remains on affordable warmth. Demonstration projects and building capacity in the sustainable energy sector. I am delighted to provide updates on three key energy security projects being led by the Nunatsiavut Secretariat. Number one: Currently, in the engineering stage, the Nain Wind Microgrid project is expected to reach construction readiness by next summer. Upon completion, it will become the largest renewable energy powered microgrid across the Canadian Arctic. The project will consist of two wind turbines, battery storage and the microgrid controller. When operational, Madam Speaker, the project will displace over 1,000,000 Litres of diesel fuel per year. Will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by 27,700 tonnes per year and will generate hundreds of thousands of revenue on an annual basis for the Nunatsiavut Government to reinvest into a self-determined priorities. Number two,

"Building upon the success of our first 137 high efficiency wood stove installations through Torngat Housing New Builds and Nunatsiavut Government's Housing Repair Program", we have secured over \$1.3 million from Natural Resources Canada to purchase and install 200 additional woodstoves throughout Nunatsiavut by 2023. The stoves are making a major difference in the lives of our people. Madam Speaker, cutting household wood consumption by at least 33 percent and significantly improving local air quality. Applications will continue to be accepted until July. We are finalizing agreements with a home inspections company as well as the preferred wood stove supplier. And we aim to proceed with wood stove installations later this fall. Number three, "The 2019 Sola Project" at the Makkovik Arena, marked a great success for the Nunatsiavut Government, as it became the first commercial renewable energy project in our region. The project has had an important impact helping to displace between 11,000 to 14,000 litres of diesel fuel on an annual basis, saving the Makkovik Inuit Community Government thousands of dollars per year and lessening our greenhouse gas emissions by dozens of tonnes. Building upon this success, we have secured resources to construct four additional 20 kilowatt solar demonstration projects in the communities of Nain, Hopedale, Postville and Rigolet this fall. A total of 10 Inuit youth will be recruited from Nunatsiavut communities to undergo solar installer training this summer. Madam Speaker, we are excited to have a renewable energy project in every Nunatsiavut community, starting off our transition to a clean

energy future. To conclude, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and all Members of this Assembly, our dedicated civil service, and indeed, all residents of the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area for the tremendous sacrifices made during the pandemic. While we have some ways to go, we are seeing some very positive signs. But that doesn't mean we can put our guards down yet. We need to remain vigilant by continuing to follow all Public Health protocols. With that, Madam Speaker, I'd like to wish you and all Members of the Assembly, a safe and healthy summer. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, President Lampe. I would like to thank you for your kind words and support regarding the work happening at the Assembly Building and I look forward to working with everybody and talking with everybody about the work that I have planned and I think it's exciting times ahead. Thank you. Now, on to *Item Number Three*, "Recognition of visitors in the gallery." Because of Covid-19 Public Health Protocols, we are still not permitting visitors into the gallery at this time. We are welcoming those who are listening to us via audio and hopefully in the future we will be able to once again live broadcast our Assembly sittings which I think would be a wonderful opportunity. For support staff we have Chas Evans who is with us for IT. We'd like to recognize the OK Society Staff, Sarah Abel and Tabea Suarak. Thank you. The interpreter is Gus Semigak from Hopedale and Gus is, I'm sad to say, retiring in the near future, so this is his last Assembly. We'd like to thank Gus for all of his work over the last few years. We truly appreciate your knowledge and

your talent and your skill for translation. And you will certainly be missed. I would also like to recognize Mr. Nicholas Flowers who is joining Mr. Semigak in the translation booth for a - I guess a back - or an inside view of translation. So, I thank you Nicholas for taking the opportunity to joining Gus in the booth and think it's a wonderful opportunity. We have a youth who has such a good understanding of our language. So, thank you for that. I would also like to welcome Ms. Onalik, our Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, as this is her first time in the actual Assembly Chamber. Your first time you were sworn in, we did it virtually. So it's nice to welcome you, see you here in the Chamber. It's wonderful. I'd like to also recognize Mr. Mark Gillette, our Director of Legal Services who is acting as support. And he's a great support to me while our acting clerk is actually away and we're wishing her and her family well. I'd also like to recognize that Minister Jim Lyall is not here as he is attending some medical appointments and our thoughts and prayers are with him. And I'd also like to send thoughts and prayers to the community of Hopedale and especially our assistant to the Clerk, Ms. Tabea Onalik during this difficult time. Thank you. On to Item Number Four, are there any "Ministers Statements" today? Okay, I recognize the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Community programs. The Department of Health and Social Development received funding from an Inuit Early Childcare Covid-19 Response Emergency Fund in the amount of \$1,513,636. The intent of the funding is to support pandemic-related activities.

Vehicles have been purchased for Nain and Hopedale to enhance the Family Connections work and transportation of families and supervised access. Supervised access workers have been employed to support access between children in care and parents. Inuit Childcare home kits are being prepared for all children aged zero to five years. Beneficiaries, including Canadian Constituents, as well as larger kits for daycares, Aboriginal Head Start Resource Centres and other settings, providing services to a large number of children in care. DHSD Community staff members have been finding creative ways to provide services and programs in their communities during Covid restrictions. Activities include healthy living challenges, community kitchens, Mother's Day Activities, Easter Drive Through, Seniors Programming, Family Challenge activities. Staff Members also assist with the delivery of Covid cleaning supplies. The New Hopedale DHSD Building has been opened and it was wonderful to have all staff in one great big new space. The energy in the building is very positive. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, President Lampe, myself and Minister Andersen were there in the afternoon for the opening and we had a tour and it's a beautiful building with a great turnout from the community-, elders, seniors, staff-, it was beautiful. Madam Speaker, under "Mental Wellness and Healing", mental health kits have been distributed to all households in Nunatsiavut to Supported Living program, clients and Family Connection families in Upper Lake Melville, and also to the Labrador Correctional Centre inmates. We have submitted a proposal to the Climate Change and Health Adaptation

Funds, in support of a program to increase access for families to hunt, fish, and gather on their traditional hunting and fishing grounds during boating season. DHSD specifically, mental wellness and healing recognize that the historical experiences of colonialism, ongoing social inequities resulting from historic experiences and climate change continues to cause distress, negatively impacting mental wellness and leading to problematic substance abuse as a means of coping for many. Research has shown that promoting the restoration of culture among Inuit, including maintaining land connections will have a positive impact on the overall mental wellness of Inuit, reducing the historical harms. This project helps provide tailored to families' needs to make independent family participation in land-based practices, more accessible for longer periods throughout the year despite climate change. The intent is to provide means of transportation, communication, and land navigation tools, financial support to cover necessary expenses to make participation possible, while still encouraging independence and responsibility to those participating in such programming. Approved for funding partnership with the Labrador Institute and Pye Farm to involve harm reduction, youth services and mental health and addiction programming. Trauma addictions team next program focus on grief and loss this month in Nain during June 22nd to the 24th. Residential school survivor coordinator ran its healthcare workshop in Nain for DHSD staff with co-facilitation from Rosie Hurley of Hopedale. This program went over well and was part of the follow-up from recent grief and loss in the

community. The coordinator travelling to Hopedale next week for the first Community Meet and Greet for Residential School Survivors and will plan for all other communities. Child, Youth and Mental Health specialist, Jessica Lyle is currently in St. John's meeting with the Janeway Team and clinical service providers from Key Assets for the purpose of building knowledge of services, partnerships, and increasing collaboration. Inuit Child First Initiative received increased funding for new positions. Additional child and youth mental health specialists, child and youth mental health clinical lead as well as education, training, programming, access to resource and materials. Finally, Madam Speaker, under Youth Services, they are holding on the Land Training Program in Happy Valley, Goose Bay for youth from Upper Lake Melville and the Nunatsiavut region, to be held in late June. This event will be focused on teaching youth, land navigation skills using GPS, Land Survival skills, et cetera. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Asivak. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, for his statement.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my statement today will focus primarily on Housing, but I wanted to open up with reference to the Nain Airstrip. Madam Speaker, since the last email update to the Assembly in May, we have not heard any new developments on the application under the National Trade Corridor Fund. The response is still that the Minister's office is working through the applications. A positive response is needed now, Madam Speaker to move forward and meet the

projected timelines set out in the work schedule. It has been many years of advocacy and fighting for the Nain Airstrip. And we need to continue building on the recent progress to move this initiative forward. We also urge the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to place pressure on Transport Canada. ITK has been inquiring on this file and we have been working with MP Jones's office as well. The Nunatsiavut Government has clearly stated the need for this infrastructure at every Provincial and Federal Table and will continue to stress the importance of the Nain Airstrip until it is a reality. We are hopeful for a positive response, Madam Speaker, and that the Federal Ministers and the Prime Minister will put action to the words that they've heard at the ICPC table, that the Nain airstrip has to be stop priority for all Governments to ensure that the health and well-being of the community is protected.

Madam Speaker, with respect to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, the Assembly Members may have noted that Director of Housing position was advertised on June 1st with a closing date of June 15th. This position will initially fall under Nunatsiavut Affairs but will transition into the commission in 2022. The Director will be key as we work towards implementation of the work plan which has recently been approved by the Executive Council. The work plan is a Vital Document, Madam Speaker which clearly outlines what must be accomplished by spring of 2022. I wanna stress, however, that this is a dynamic work plan, but we will work with the Director of Housing to ensure that all components are completed before the Act is brought into force by the President. Also,

Tabled, *Uhalitik* is-, will be a NHC Document Tabled-, sorry-, entitled, "Up and Running Plan for the NHC", which draws attention to certain drafted bylaws and policies that will be instrumental for the first meeting of the Commission and its continued operation. Madam Speaker, we know that land development is a significant barrier in moving forward with housing in Nunatsiavut. That is why, as part of the approval of the workplan for the Housing Commission, the NG has allocated \$7.5 million for land development to be administered through the Joint Management Committee. It is at this table that the Inuit Community Governments will have the ability to allocate these funds for their land development projects. We know that much more investment is needed beyond the \$7.5 million, which is a message that we continually stress with our federal partners. However, we hope that these funds can be effectively used in planning and construction of new lands. Under, "Housing Initiatives", Madam Speaker, I'm also pleased to update the Assembly that this past week the Nunatsiavut Government has approved an Emergency Repair Program. The need for this program has been clear for some time, *Uhalitik* and it will operate as an extension of our existing Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program with the same income caps. This program is designed to respond to circumstances beyond the control of the occupant which requires work as soon as possible to protect their health and safety. While there will be a limit on the amount of support that individuals can receive under the program, there will now be the ability to get support outside of our regular application deadlines

for items like broken heating systems, emergency electrical work and other components that will be outlined in the application process. More details will be posted on the program in the very near future, Madam Speaker, with available applications as well. Madam Speaker, as the Assembly will recall, \$2.9 million was budgeted under this year's *Fiscal Financing Agreement* for Torngat Regional Housing Association's operations. However, an additional \$860,000 will be transferred to the Association from the Nunatsiavut Housing Fund to carry out its mandate in the upcoming year, bringing the total contributions to \$3.8 million. Madam Speaker, as a part of the transition to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, we wanted to ensure that there was no disruption in construction. There were several conditions placed on the "*Contribution Agreement*" with the Association which sought to increase energy efficiency of the builds and to lower building footprints to maximize the usage of land. To ensure that land is more efficiently used, Torngat Regional Housing Association will be constructing duplexes where possible and while there will be some traditional bungalow style homes designed where larger construction isn't permitted, all homes will have increased insulation and improved windows and doors to increase energy efficiency. Madam Speaker, the tentative plan from Torngat is to construct two three-bedroom duplexes and three other home with three bedrooms each, meaning that a total of seven homes will be constructed with another home receiving significant overhaul to make it habitable. These units will be transferred to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission

once construction is finished and will be administered under NHC's policies and guidelines. Madam Speaker, on June 11th, Nunatsiavut Affairs will be meeting with the Minister responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission, the Honourable John Abbott and the CEO of NLHC, Ms. Julia Mullaley. During this meeting we will update GNL on the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and the potential role of NLHC as the Commission undertakes its mandate and discussing how the Province can be involved in housing in Nunatsiavut. As some Members may recall, our first repair program started in 2014 as an attic retrofit program that was cost-shared 50:50 between the Nunatsiavut Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador Government with contributions from the Province ranging between \$150,000 and \$350,000 for the first few years of the program. However, in recent years, we have not received any new funding commitments. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador does have a responsibility to continue to contribute to housing in Nunatsiavut, Madam Speaker and we hope that we can work collaboratively with NLHC to ensure that it's meeting its obligations within the Land Claims Area as we respond to the housing crisis and land shortages. We also plan to discuss issues around supportive living and the emergency shelter in Goose Bay and will ensure that Minister Asivak's department has the ability to speak to the concerns on this front, Madam Speaker. And finally, Madam Speaker, today I'll be seeking to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend *the Nunatsiavut Constitution*. And as the Assembly is aware,

these amendments deal with fixed election dates and our ability to move election days in the event of an emergency. I'll speak further to the BILL at the appropriate time. However, I want to be clear that it is our intention to seek consensus from the Assembly to deal with the first and second reading of the Bill during this sitting before this piece of legislation is brought to the public for a referendum. If the Assembly supports the Bill upon these readings, communication and information packages will be developed from the President's office, making the Inuit public aware of these proposed changes and if the Inuit public adopts those changes, only then will it be presented to the President for assent. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. I now call upon Minister Anthony Andersen, Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, Madam Speaker, I'm going to give a statement on behalf of Minister Lyall. As you had mentioned in your opening remarks, Madam Speaker, that Minister Lyall was on medical travel this week, and he did ask me to bring a brief update to the Assembly and then last night I guess I got seven pages. It's hopefully kind of lucky that it's a brief update. Tomorrow then-, and because it's seven pages too, Madam Speaker, you know, it's gonna take a lot of breath out of me so I think that I deliver a statement to the Assembly for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology on Day Two, "Minister Statements." Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight some key areas

that the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism are working on. The Division of Tourism staff work with many partners from artists, art organizations, heritage societies, business owners, funding agencies and Provincial Government. Communication with our partners are key. We applied and received funding from the Provincial Government to the Community Capacity Building Program for a communication plan for our Division. This will ensure we are effectively connecting with our partners. The Nunatsiavut Art Strategy is completed and was presented to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council last week. We're excited to move the strategy forward. The Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy is near completion and we will be bringing it to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council during the July sitting. The long-term plan for Hebron programming and restoration that we began in 2019 is near completion. We are hoping to bring the plan to the NEC during the July sitting as well. The experience and Product Development Plan for the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve is finalised. Our staff traveled to Rigolet in May to present the plan to partners as well as to the community of Rigolet. With input from the sessions, we have developed a workplan that we have begun implementing. We've applied for funding and will be offering FVOP training for small boat operators in Nain during the June 15 to the 27th. The training is required by Transport Canada and is geared toward basecamp operator staff. Individuals who offer boat chartering services to Hebron as well as our own staff. We're working with the property manager to release a tender for restoration work on the porches of the

Hebron Church. We're hoping to have this work completed over the summer. Building upon the success of the last two online arts and craft auctions, we're organizing a National Indigenous Peoples Day auction with over 50 artists who are interested. Our staff are continuing to work with other projects such as stories of Labrador project, the Hebron Ambassador Guidebook and the Nunatsiavut Tourism Tool Kit. There have been some delays due to Covid, but we're moving forward the best we can. Although the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station is closed for visitors, our Director of Tourism has been continuing to do work on the file. We're hoping to hire a Youth Leadership Program Coordinator and Torngat Mountains Base Camp Coordinator in the near future. Madam Speaker, in Archaeology, to date, we only have one archaeologist confirmed for field work for the 2020, 2021 season in the Hopedale Region. We continue to experience impacts due to the pandemic which has caused researches from outside the province to reconsider coming to the region again this year. We have been busy working on the preparations for the Heritage Forum which will take place in Nain, Jun 14th to the 17th with participants from each of the Inuit Communities, St. John's and Goose Bay. This will be the first heritage forum since June 2018. Archaeology is working with Sid Pain of Ocean's North to deploy two weather monitoring stations in the Nain region as part of a flight pilot project. The long-term plan is to have five stations deployed near archaeological sites such of significance to our beneficiaries, so we can mitigate the effects of climate change and

coastal erosion on archaeological sites. Where've I got? It's hard to say those words all the time. Getting beat out already Madam Speaker, but archaeology will be going ahead with the Hebron Family Archaeology project in August. We're now in the process of meeting with the Hebron Selection Committee to select a relocatee and family member for the Hebron Family Archaeology Project. This will be the first summer that this program will not be under direction of Michelle Davies, but under direction of our own beneficiaries. Archaeology has completed their contract with Artefactual, the access to memory and digital platform and is now transferring its data to Omeka. Omeka will host all the archival documents that have been digitalized through the Uncommon Bonds project. The documentaries are weeks away from being available on the World Wide Web. Archaeologists are in the final steps of completing their Collections Management Policies which will help guide how the Nunatsiavut Government handles collections and repatriation of human remains. Archaeology continues to assist in the process of reviewing land-use applications and mineral exploration to ensure cultural resources remain protected. Archaeology has conducted interviews with successful candidates and is now in the process of hiring the successful candidates for Archaeology Assistant and Heritage Program Coordinator. Madam Speaker, in the Cultural Division, Master Apprentice Inuttitut Program, Master Apprentice Inuttitut Program will be going ahead again this year with the program expected to start this fall. Masters who are fluent Inuttitut speakers and apprentice learners will be selected from

each Nunatsiavut community for a duration of six months for Inuttitut Immersion Programming. We encourage everyone to listen to the OKâlaKatiget Society who runs an Inuttitut Radio Program with the support and funds from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. The program airs every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The program aims to promote the Inuttitut language. The program contains material such as Inuttitut singers and songs, children's greetings, reading Inuttitut stories, people telling stories, or memories in Inuttitut, recipes, trivia, guess contests based on Inuttitut words and voice guessing and weather, et cetera.

"Language Strategy." Nunatsiavut language strategy was approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council on March the 2nd 2021. Our Department has been working with Nunatsiavut Visual Design to be able to print and post online as a downloadable pdf and has been working on starting the year-one goals and objectives. "Public Health Packages." The Language and Cultural Division has collaborated with the Department of Health and Social Development and Public Health and their Public Health Staff to incorporating language and culture items into care packages that are given out to infants during their first vaccinations. The 2021 packages have been sent to communities and includes a small crocheted seal toy, an Inuttitut children's book, a ring of flip cards

with Inuttitut colours and numbers and a magnet containing baby's first words in Inuttitut. The resource will help to incorporate Inuttitut and cultural resources into the day-to-day lives of babies. This is the second year these packages have been available.

"Language Resources." In 2020, our department printed a large number of language resources to have in each Nunatsiavut community. This includes children's books, posters containing cultural information for children, youth, adult learning settings to have in different programming, giveaways and prizes, as well as Inuttitut signs to have in public settings encouraging people to speak Inuttitut. Resources have been sent to each community for free distribution. Each school has recently received a package of Inuttitut poster which NG offices will also be receiving for programming spaces. Posters contain visuals of traditional items, family members, animals, et cetera with Inuttitut words. Our Department has been working with an Inuttitut organization in Iqaluit called-, and I don't know how to pronounce that, P-I-A-R-U-R-V-I-K. Tyler knows how to-, I'm gonna ask the Minister Edmunds to-, Piaruvik - to modify an existing Inuttitut website and three learning centres from Nunavut to be made in the Nunatsiavut dialect. These resources will allow learning from home, from across the country and will have a great advancement for Inuttitut classes

to have regularly available resources for Inuttitut instructors, in beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of Inuttitut learning. Language program coordinators have been working on this since January with the hopes of those resources being announced early this fall. "Kayak Revival Project." Kayak Revival Project is being led by Noah Nochasak in Nain. This project aims to revive the valuable traditional skill of Kayak with projects such as building a kayak from scratch, kayak lessons, to community members of all ages, collecting interviews from elders on traditional knowledge of the kayak use in Labrador, as well as information on sharing the Kayak knowledge. In April 2021, a wonderful Kayak revival program cabin was completed north of Nain at Tikkiaksuk. The purpose of this cabin is to promote and practice the traditional skill of the kayak. Plans for 2021 include working with other communities to train Kayak instructors, spread awareness in practical skills of the kayak. And anyone who counted the number of times I said kayak there will win a prize. "Cultural Play Resources." Our department has created cultural play resources-, has been introduced today classes and language nests within Nunatsiavut. These items have been created by local wood workers in Nain. Previous cultural play items include many seal skin and other traditional -, just some-, I don't know what-, there's a-, is there a misprint in this. Apologizing

because Minister Lyall's not here. I'm not sure what it says. We've also broadened the resources to include the Kindergarten classes of Nunatsiavut, specifically Inuttitut immersion is available. And I'm not sure that I had everything printed off because we're at-, near the end, Madam Speaker, seems to be some-, and it sort of ends abruptly with a blank page. So I'll have to check with Minister Lyall's Deputy Minister, and if I did miss out on something near the end, I will bring it forward tomorrow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. Thank you, very much for sharing all the information from Minister Lyall's department. I now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Because of our timeline that you keep us strictly under, I'll only do half of my seven pages and the other half tomorrow, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, first of all, "Renewable Resources, the Fishery", which is something that's happening right now as we speak, Madam Speaker. The department will implement a new commercial fishing designation policy in 2022. The policy document has now been released to the public for public viewing and will come into effect on November 15, 2021. All fishers have been requesting to enter into multi-year agreement with Nunatsiavut to support their efforts to acquire vessels. We are planning to hold community information sessions this fall to answer questions and explain the policy as necessary. Madam Speaker, our beneficiary fishers are now selected for the 2021

fishing season in accordance with the existing policy and two beneficiaries are already fishing snow crab in the Area 2J South. We will be getting our domestic fishing licences for LISA and 12E area very soon and conducting-, conditions-, sorry. Sorry, Madam Speaker-, conditions will be similar to what was in effect last year due to the ongoing pandemic situation, the department will manage the food licences through the appointment system again as we did last year, Madam Speaker. So you have to call in first before you come to the building.

Madam Speaker, in "Wildlife", the 2021 Polar Bear hunting season opened on February the 2nd and we had access to 12 licences this year again. To date, 7 of the 12 were harvested. The season is still ongoing Madam Speaker, until June 30 of this year. A third aerial survey of the Torngat Mountain Caribou Herd occurred in mid-March until early April. Two employees from our department took part in the survey. Thanks to George Gear and Joseph Townley, for representing our interests. The results of the survey are expected to be released this fall, however, preliminary reports indicate a stable herd. Also, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that our caribou project carried out by our department came in under our budget. Our only regret is we did not have more caribou to distribute. From our Lands Division, Madam Speaker, the Manager of Lands reported 10 land use applications have been submitted in 2021 and are at various stages of processing. Mega-Urania Limited, Altius Resources and Ricki Edmunds has applied for Mineral Exploration Land Use permits. The Torngat joint Fishery Board

submitted a land-use application related to a fishing counting fence for char on the Fraser River this summer. Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government adopted the *Inuit Community Quarry Act 2021* at our last sitting in March. This Act allows the community of Nain, Postville and Rigolet to operate their quarries located on Labrador Inuit Land for community development for the next five years. Also, Madam Speaker, the Lands Division and Non-renewable Resource Division are collaborating on Labrador Inuit Lands inspections again this summer. That's, Madam Speaker, mostly to inspect fish camps in our areas. Our *Impacts and Benefits Agreement*, Madam Speaker. The Voisey's Bay Mine Mill and Mining Expansion is going well. Vale continues to keep close tabs on Covid outbreaks and limit travel from those affected areas to the mine site. We continue to have weekly calls with Vale regarding their ongoing efforts to maintain a Covid-free site. Our IVA coordinator and Vale Unit Employment coordinator completed community visits to present the annual IBA report between May 18th and May 26th. Twenty-one community members attended these sessions. Plans are now in the works to get back to the communities to assist anyone wanting to apply for jobs or need help to complete resumes. There has not been any face-to-face meetings of either the Torngat Mountain National Park Co-management Board or the Mealy Mountain National Park co-management Board. However, Madam Speaker, virtual meeting and conference calls have been taking place on these two important parts that we have. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to

read my Non-renewable Resource Division tomorrow and our Environment Division tomorrow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Flowers. I'd like to now break for recess at 10:06 a.m. And we can reconvene at 10:25 a.m. Thank you.

[Recess.]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'd like to welcome everybody back to our morning session. It is 10:33 a.m. and before we go on to Ministers Statements, I would just like to cover our Covid restrictions protocols that we have in place. I omitted to announce them earlier this morning. So, my apologies. We have Covid restrictions in place where every Member has a hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and tissues with them if they need them. While we are seated six feet apart, we can take our masks off. If we need to stand and leave the room or walk around the room, we please put our masks back on. For those Members that are not sitting directly at our Assembly table, when you're doing your statements or asking a question, I please ask that you wear your mask to the table, go to a microphone, to a Member. There's wipes available there. You can wipe it before you ask your question. Wear your mask while you go to the mic. Any Members that are close to the mic, to please wheel your chair back a little bit so we can try to keep our distance. And I'd like to thank everybody for following the protocols. I will be very happy when we don't need to worry about Covid pandemic anymore. We are now on to *Item Number Five*, "Members Statements." Are there any Members who wish to make

a statement today? Okay. I call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti. I would like to begin by congratulating the graduating class of 2021, MacKenzie Palliser, John Palliser, Brittany Shiwak, Brady Palliser, Ocean Shiwak and Samantha Williams. I wish you all well in your next journey in life. Madam Speaker, Rigolet Inuit Community Government is saddened to announce that we have lost or will be losing two councillors in the coming weeks. Roger Shiwak, affectionately known as Sir Roger to everyone in Rigolet has resigned his seat at Council. Roger served on the Rigolet Inuit Community Government off and on for 30 years. During these years, he was one of the first people to make a suggestion to start the Boardwalk. He wanted to somehow restore the old walkway that the Hudson Bay Company used to have but his idea grew, and today Rigolet can boast one of the longest boardwalks in the world. Sir Roger, now you can enjoy your retirement to the fullest without having us trying to track you down for some meeting or other. And we wish you all the best. Madam Speaker, Chelsea Morris Flowers who was on Council ever since she came to Rigolet will be leaving us in mid-June. This is a big loss to our community, both in terms of her devotion and dedication to the children as a schoolteacher in Rigolet and her active role in the community, especially on our Community Council. Whenever we needed someone to step up and help, Chelsea was there. She was instrumental in decisions regarding the gas station in Rigolet. Her commitment to see this through was

unwavering. Amongst all the stress and the meetings, she stuck it out and worked tirelessly to what had to be done and to do what Council had asked of her. Chelsea, to say you are going to be missed is an understatement. What are we going to do without you? Having said all that, I certainly want to wish you and Franklin all the best in your new adventure. Godspeed. Madam Speaker, I want to wish Henry John Palliser all the best in his retirement. Henry John worked for the Inuit Community Government throughout its life. He was there when it was the Rigolet Council, when it was the Community of Rigolet, when it was the town of Rigolet, and now as the Rigolet Inuit Community Government. Henry was a seasonal worker and casual call-in water, and sewer maintenance. He was with us for 33 years and certainly gave us some of the best years of his life. In February 2001, Rigolet had a water break and he worked day and night during this time in minus 40 degrees in blizzards-, a feat that would be hard to match in today's world. Thank you, Henry John for your endless support to our community. Enjoy your retirement. We will miss your jokes and friendly smile. And finally, Madam Speaker, on behalf of our community, I want to wish Uncle Bert Allen and his family-, I want to let Uncle Bert Allen and his family know that we are thinking of them, as Uncle Bert is quite ill. Wishing you all the best. Take care. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. This morning, on behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Margaret Jararuse. Margaret was a senior in our community and was relocated from Hebron. She also worked for a short time as a cook with what was then LIC now known as DHSD. As I said before, Madam Speaker, when one senior passes on we lose much history, knowledge, culture and language. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and our community. I also extend my condolences, thoughts and prayers to the families in Nain who have lost loved ones recently. We are all close, and when one hurts, we all hurt. Madam Speaker, I was shocked and saddened to hear the tragic news of discovery of mass grave of 215 little bodies of children who were often-times taken from their parents and placed in residential school in Kamloops B.C. This news triggered many residential school survivors, including myself. Our communities are still suffering today due to residential schools and relocation of our people. Because of this, intergenerational trauma, Madam Speaker, communities and people turn against each other, causing lateral violence in our communities. One third of the children in foster care in this province are Inuit children. There is something wrong with this picture. We need to be mindful of this when interacting with each other and be kind and respectful to others. Madam Speaker, I was given a letter from the seniors who had concerns regarding the Inuttitut language while they were discussing a language and culture. But due to the protocol of not having letters read at the Assembly sitting, I want to address some of

their concerns in my Members statement. The Inuttitut language is a vital part of their identity and affects our well-being as Inuit. As a self-government, they feel there needs to be more focus on retention on our language. Our language is on the verge of disappearing and not being able to regain. Nunatsiavut Government should place Inuttitut high on the action plan and all seniors informed of what action has taken place. They strongly feel that NG Is not putting enough priority to important issues that face Inuit today such as language, culture and traditions. They're not seeking updates surrounding hiring of language staff or programs and services that are being offered, but they want to see action taken. As a group of seniors, they want to see their language restored.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, very much AngajukKâk Flowers for your statement. I now call upon Sivunivut Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Maxene Winters for her statement.

MS. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Sivunivut would like thank Iliget for the recent funding of \$10,000 to our Inuit Community Corporation. This money will go a long way with programs and community freezer items that are currently not in our budget. This summer, Sivunivut ICC has once again teamed up with the Labrador Interpretation Centre to hold a weekly seniors craft afternoons. This activity is enjoyed by each senior, as it allows them to interact with other people and seniors who they normally would not see, if not for the program. With the recent opening of all NG offices, our community freezer is once again open to the public.

No more need to make scheduled appointments. Seniors who are 55 and up can come to the freezer on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings to receive their food allotment for the month. It's really nice to see Members face-to-face each month, as this past year has been hard on everyone. It's nice to see some normalcy once again. We would like to thank the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the meals of caribou and muskox donated to our freezer. This was such a wonderful gift for our seniors, as they have not had a meal of these traditional foods in quite some time. We saw many tears of joy while elders picked up their meal. We would like to wish the best of luck to Gus Semigak. Hope you have a wonderful retirement. In closing, I would like to offer my respects to the recent discovery of a mass grave of 215 residential school children in Kamloops B.C. This tragedy hits home for many of our beneficiaries who are residential school survivors. As a tribute, at our craft afternoon last week, we started painting orange rocks and have them placed on the Interpretation Centre Property. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Sivunivut Chair, Ms. Winters. I now call upon Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency for your statement.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek. Madam Speaker. Good day Assembly Members. Good to be here again and see everyone in person. I just recently moved to St. John's. So, all the way from Edmonton, so if anyone is ever in the area, please give myself or Charlotte a call-, sorry, Susan-, as we both work in

the same office but we have different phone numbers. We'll be able to help out in any way we can. Today I would like to begin by sending out my many thanks to the Nunatsiavut Government Finance Department. Kudos to Tony and his people, especially the people and staff of the Nain Finance Department, Dotty Ford, Rutie Dicker, Mary Adelaide and anyone connected with the Covid Relief program which has been a wonderful help to all Canadian Constituency Members and especially in the St. John's area, a great acknowledgement also to Cherie Auchinleck who fields a lot of questions, Jim Goudie-, he's also taking over the big chore of fielding questions and setting things up-, Michelle Wood and Cathy and Ed Michelin, for the tremendous work they do and to keep all the Canadian Constituency Members up to date with the Covid relief gift cards by email or by regular mail. There had been a lot of problems with the suppliers. I don't know if anyone's aware of it or not, but we have had major problems, mainly because of the email addresses and old mailing addresses that are not up-to-date with-, as usually is a big problem. But the dedicated employees have overcome that. Once again I would like to congratulate the other organizations that help with the Canadian Constituents that support the Inuit from Labrador. And they are all Nunatsiavut Members. In particular, Atelihai in Nova Scotia, Ben Mitsuk and Francis Pellar Nicholas. In Edmonton it's Jenna Broomfield and Jenine Cooperville. And Inuit of Toronto Urban Katimavik is Rob Blaikie and Brian Winters. Those people are all from Labrador and they all volunteer their work free of charge and they help the Inuit from all

across Canada-, not just the Inuit from Labrador. And just recently, in St. John's, there was a new group formed by Dan Pottle and a newly elected board Illonata. Okay. Susan said it for me. They have secured funding from Nunatsiavut to begin classes for Inuttitut for Inuit living on the Avalon Peninsula. And they have a list of teachers, instructors that have learned Inuttitut but they won't be a part of the Master Apprentice Program. We're outside of that jurisdiction. But anyway, that's everything and thank you, everyone. Thank you, Madam Speaker and Assembly Members.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now call upon AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Minister Andersen for sharing your mic. I would like today to congratulate all the graduates of our schools and universities. These are strange times for these students that cannot come together to celebrate with their family and friends with the graduation ceremonies this spring. So I briefly wish them the best of luck to each and every one of them in the next grade and their future endeavours. And for those moving on to jobs and to post secondary education. So congratulations to all the students in Nunatsiavut, Madam Speaker Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. I now call upon AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I forget I'd like to wish my well-wishes to our translator, our only translator-, interpreter, translator, Gus

Semigak for his work that he has provided the Assembly over the last period-, number of months and Assembly sittings. I'm sure as we talk around the tables here, sometimes it's very challenging for our interpreter, translator to keep up with us if we're talking, I guess, at a speedy or rapid pace. So I wish you all well, Gus in your future retirement and may God bless you along the way. Madam Speaker, I would also like to pass along my condolences to the community of Hopedale. Before our sitting started this morning, I'm sure we all heard of an incident that happened in Hopedale and I wanna bring along-, pass along condolences from the Postville Inuit Community Government to the Community of Hopedale related to that. Also, Madam Speaker, as I stand here there will be a memorial service in Postville held at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon for the late Lillian Blake who passed on Thursday evening, Thursday night, in Postville, suddenly. I would like to pass along my condolences to the family that's directly connected to Mrs. Blake's passing-, her husband and immediate family members. Madam Speaker, in our standing orders, I was reviewing last night, Section 30(1) it states that under the Item, "Members Statements", a Member may make a statement on any matter. Coming into Hopedale, Madam Speaker, I had a plan of what I was gonna talk about and how was I gonna word this with the Assembly Members, how was I gonna share in my own words. Over night, that plan has changed. I thought long and hard before I went to sleep, and yes, Gerald, mind you, I did watch the overtime-, the last seconds of the game-, but anyway, along the way I was thinking as I was

watching, you know, we have so many issues in the Nunatsiavut region. We have issues within the Canadian Constituency in the Upper Lake Melville area-, more so, in the Nunatsiavut region. We've heard from AngajukKâks this morning. We've heard some stories of, you know, "I think we may be able to better." I think I heard those words. Madam Speaker, I just wanna speak briefly and I know my time is limited-, on our transportation, and I may sound like a broken record, but as I lay in my bed this morning before I turned on Labrador Morning-, yes, I'm an early bird. I was taught well by my grandfather, the late George Sheppard to rise early in the morning, which I always do. And as I was laying in bed, I was thinking about our transportation and more so when we were having breakfast. Somebody mentioned the coast guard anchored off out here in the harbour. One time, as a young boy growing up, I would get paid 25 cents an hour for helping offload several freight boats in Postville and I'm sure we all did the same along the coast. Today, Madam Speaker, we're faced with one boat. Madam Speaker, that one boat-, we don't have the infrastructure within our communities for that one ship to be able to harbour up in case of a major storm. Probably winds in excess of 35 knots. This boat, we heard this spring on a conference call has to rest at Goose Bay. Something the people on the North Coast was never used to seeing. Something the people on the North Coast never, ever asked for. We asked for a service that was sufficient to the individuals along the North Coast. Madam Speaker, I'm speaking from my heart. I have a passion, not only for Postville. I have a passion for the people on the

North Coast, especially our elders. We heard from the AngajukKâk from Hopedale with a message-, questions to the Assembly, about the language. I have questions as an Assembly Member myself. Are we doing enough for our people? Are we doing what the people voted us in to do? Are we speaking? Are we intervening, Madam Speaker on their behalf? Madam Speaker, we came from an airlines. We had an option of choosing an airline one time of travel-, Air Labrador or Innu Mikun. Now what have we got? A so-called take it or leave it service. You make a reservation, you're lucky if you can get one within a week to leave Postville, Nain, Hopedale, Rigolet or Makkovik. That's not a service, Madam Speaker that our people want. Our people are looking for a service that, "Hey, when my so and so is in need in another community, I'm able to jump on an aircraft and get there at a speedy time." There's twice-, two periods in a year that we can move on-, only by air-, spring and fall. Madam Speaker, we're held on a string on that service, you know? I, as a voting Member of the House of Assembly, I don't feel that service is adequate for our people on the North Coast. In saying that, what are the answers, Madam Speaker? I don't have them. I've heard of larger air strips to carry larger aircrafts to travel in more adverse weather conditions than twin otters. I heard of a road connection to the North Coast, Madam Speaker. As AngajukKâk of Postville, I'm not even sure, Madam Speaker, if the community is in 100 percent of agreement of a road connection. So I think, Madam Speaker for starters something very small, I think we could start by saying, "Hey, let's have community

consultations. See who wants a road and see who don't." Other than that, we're out there-, I'm out there saying, "Yes, we'd like to see a road connected. Is that what the people want?" I don't know. So, Madam Speaker, with this, I'm gonna close and the few final words I'm gonna close with is something I think I've heard my grandmother quote many times at the Stage head, codfish when the-, in them good days and her quote was, "Many hands make light work." And I look around the table. What do we have? Sixteen, 17 voting Members. That's many hands in my opinion. Thank you, Madam Speaker

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard for your impassioned statement. Are there other Members who'd like to make a statement this morning? Okay, I call upon Ordinary Member, Ms. Susan Onalik for the Canadian Constituency

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, UKatti. It's kinda hard to follow Glenn's very passionate Member's statement. And I also wanna acknowledge AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers for delivering that message to the Assembly. It was really powerful and it definitely moved me. Thank you. Since being sworn in at the last sitting, I'm happy to report that I've begun to find my footing. I certainly thank all Members and Ministers in this room, members of the civil service, and you, Madam Speaker, for your help in getting me acquainted with my role as Ordinary Member. The greatest and most satisfying part of my job to date has been engaging with constituents. Although there are many barriers in reaching out and making contact with all constituents across Canada, I continue to make

progress in being available, accessible, responsive to individual needs and concerns to stay actively connected. *UKatti*. The founding provisions in our constitution recognize the Inuit of Labrador share a responsibility for the well-being of all Members. It is not only a part of the constitution. It is a part of who we are as Inuit and the relationships we maintain with one another. There are so many notable examples whereby beneficiaries are organizing themselves in ways to support one another. There's a lot of momentum happening with Ateliahai out of Halifax-, so much so, that it's not uncommon to see beneficiaries within LISA or ULM to actively contribute to the conversations and discussions on their Facebook group and take interest in the virtual programming. Our beneficiaries in places like Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax and St. John's are often at the forefront of political advocacy on matters that affect all of us at a national, provincial and territorial level. In the case of urban Inuit, it is becoming increasingly recognized at the Federal and Provincial level that urban Inuit need to be consulted on issues that affect us and our respective communities. It is a benefit to all of us that we have Labrador Inuit in areas of these major cities doing such great work to represent us as Nunatsiavimiut. The Inuit programming that is run by our member Ashley Dicker out of First Light in St. John's always reaches capacity in keeping our beneficiaries engaged and culturally connected. More recently another Inuit specific group has formed and incorporated as a non-profit organization out of Avalon called Illonata.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me, Ordinary Member Onalik. I just got a note. Could you please slow down...

MS. ONALIK: Sorry.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: ...your speech a little bit. I know you're excited-, for the, for the interpreter translator.

MS. ONALIK: I always talk fast. Sorry.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I know. So just thank you for-, thank you.

MS. ONALIK: Okay. The Inuit programming that is run by our Member, Ashley Dicker out of First Light in St. John's always reaches capacity in keeping our beneficiaries engaged and culturally connected. More recently, another Inuit-specific group has formed and incorporated as a non-profit organization out of the Avalon called Illonata, which translate in Inuttitut as, "All of us." They will have a focus on teaching Inuttitut language and they will draw on the guidance of elders and the fluent Inuttitut speakers in this area. UKatti, I wanted to take today's Members statement to highlight some of the positive things happening in the Canadian Constituency. Tomorrow, I'm going to share some of how our beneficiaries are overcoming the challenges that we face, and some of the challenges that still require our attention. *Nakummek*, Taima.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen for his statement.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like the passion that Glen had. I can close my eyes and imagine I'm back in combined council meetings when

it was just Northern Labrador Councils. They were passionate, just like that. Madam Speaker, I'd like to express well-wishes to Dr. Nellie Winters who celebrated her 84th birthday on May 21st. Nellie's our oldest person in Makkovik at the time. I'd like to say a bit thank you to DHSD. The whole staff has made great efforts to maintain the mental health of people in our community. With regulations closed the venues where community events are usually held, they have been busy day after day with lots of virtual events. Contests such as fishing contests this spring, providing meals, gifts of household goods, cleaning supplies and now at Level two, they are once again offering movie nights for ladies, craft night, yoga, women's spa nights, music night, kids' clubs and the list goes on. Right now, we're walking to Hebron. We each have to do 10,000 steps a day and we hope to arrive in Hebron on July 16th. Thank you to our Chapels here and to keep our church services going and to Betty Sampson and her helpers for starting Sunday School up again. Thank you to the teachers in our school for keeping our children learning, having fun while dealing with the pandemic, and having to work with mask and shields during the Level Four regulations. Madam Speaker, Makkovik has two new RCMP officers who are very community oriented. They have joined in with shoveling out the church during the winter, delivering meals to the community for DHSD. The corporal has entertained a senior's meals by sharing special music. Also, at our church service, him and his wife and they also help out with Sunday School. I'd like to give a shout-out to workers at the stores who worked through the pandemic.

Sometimes getting irritable about having to wear a mask or having to social distance. Madam Speaker, the craft shop workers have kept the shop open and provided service to many craft people who made more dickies and silipaks than before while being kept at home more. Madam Speaker, our Community Government has been busy keeping the community going. These are very trying times for councils, especially here in Makkovik where all the recreation staff and heavy equipment worker have taken jobs in Voisey's Bay leaving the Council short-handed. Madam Speaker, Councils along the coast can't afford to pay the salaries that Voisey's Bay can, therefore losing good people that could be working in their communities. Everything is harder to get this winter due to the ice conditions. However, Nunatsiavut Government bringing caribou to our communities made people in Makkovik very happy. Caribou along the coast was a given back in the days. Having muskox and moose delivered, fish, scallops, was also very well received by the community. Madam Speaker, the "Food, supplementary wood and oil program", has helped those who needed it, thanks to Nunatsiavut Government for delivering the program to our communities. We are very happy to see children ages 12 and up getting the Pfizer Vaccine and hopefully a second vaccine coming in September. Madam Speaker, finally, I'd like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government Executive Council for their work here at the pandemic and for keeping our programs going. I know sometimes it's a thankless job but that also comes with the territory. Madam Speaker, as

the old saying goes, in the Combined Council people used to say, "You gotta keep your nose to the grindstone." Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, UKatti. My computer was giving me problems this morning, so I never got my report on paper, so I'm gonna do it just through like Mr. Shiwak used to do on yellow sticky notes. As I listened this morning there's little things that come up that you forgot to report, but the other reports are picking it up. And I thank you, AngajukKâks, Ordinary Members, Ministers for reporting on things that all of us share, things that we might've forgot in our report but little things that matter, and that keep us joined together. Madam Speaker, first of all with regards to Mr. Semigak, Gus, my friend retiring, I told him at break time that his retiring-, by telling us he's retiring, but knowing the need and the availability of Mr. Semigak, always not saying no, I guess. You know, when he's needed, he comes to the call. So, I told him I expect to see him here for many more years as long as his health keeps up. *Nakummek* Gustav. And I'd also like to acknowledge the young fellow in the-, Nicholas Flowers. He's in there shadowing, I guess with Gus and learning the Inuttitut language. This young man has come a long way since his high school debate days, I guess, in Inuttitut and he's done well for himself. And I'd like to congratulate him and encourage him to continue what he's doing. It's through him that he sets an example for his peers, that, you know, once you put your mind to it, you can do it. So, thank

you, Nicholas for what you're doing. I'd like to pass on condolences to the families of the people that passed in Nain recently. There seem to be a lot of them-, too many of them. Uncle John Ford who recently passed, young Cody Tuglavina and the families. Hulda Merkeratsuk and the family, my friend Ben Saimat Senior and of course our respected elder a friend of Mr. Flowers here, is Lucas Ittulak Senior. A lot of knowledge passed on with him. When he passed suddenly, and it was a shock to our community. So our best wishes and condolences are extended to those in Nain. With regards to graduation, it was mentioned, congratulations to the graduates of JHMS this year even though it was mentioned that they won't have a formal celebration, the community of Nain has-, and the mothers, and the teachers have come together along with the NICG and let them use the Jeremias Sillett Community Centre as a place for them to gather with their family to hold another ceremony there. So that's happening next week. So I'd like to acknowledge the mothers and the teachers who are pulling this off. Also, to Joan Dicker and-, who's the Illusuak manager-, she organized a cultural practice that's been going on for-, since the Moravian church being in Labrador, I guess, a young girls' day. There are five of them that celebrate their day this year. This happened on May 21st. So five young girls in Nain got to practice their cultural event. So thank you, to Joan for that. With regards to the community of Nain itself, and what's going on. The contractors Budgell's Equipment Rental is coming back June 21st and finish off and commission their waterline replacement on Sand Banks Road. With that, you know

there road itself will be put back to the way it was-, maybe in better shape than it was. As a lot people in Nain know, that, that road was in bad shape after the thaw out and we're gonna ensure that it doesn't-, they don't leave again like in the fall with everything frozen and when spring thaw comes out it's nothing but a mud path more than anything else. So that's expected to complete it this summer. Our engineers are right now working on putting tenders out for the water line replacement for the Middle Path Road. But as I said, we're ensuring-, we're gonna have a meeting with the contractors that they're not leaving this-, our community if they have to leave early, without ensuring we won't have what happened on Sand Banks Road happen again. Some of the good things that's happening...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me, AngajukKâk Dicker, you've exceeded your five minutes. Would you like to continue in the second statement?

MR. DICKER: I'll continue that at the second. Five minutes up already?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes.

MR. DICKER: Okay, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll continue tomorrow.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: You have the opportunity to do a second statement after the others have spoken if you wish.

MR. DICKER: I certainly appreciate that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: You're welcome. Thank you, very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess my message this morning, Madam Speaker, is to our young people in all of the Nunatsiavut or all our beneficiaries, I should say. I think that our young people should take a note from what everyone-, especially the Members have spoken about the past and how we can improve things in, you know, the future. And also remembering our people that passed away, young and old, because it's happening quite too often I think in our land. And, you know, some is tragedy. Some is health-related or whatever. But we lose dear friends like the AngajukKâk Dicker just mentioned. When I was a young man in the early 80's I went-, I had the privilege and opportunity to do-, to be on a Torngat fishing vessel, or the Torngat Freezer trawler that was stationed down around Hebron and Saglek, them places, and that's where I met the late Joe Solomon who was one of my best friends right up to the day that he passed this year. And he mentored me and we were friends ever since. And also, Madam Speaker, one of my dear friends from Nain, Lucas Ittulak suddenly passed, not too long ago. I met Lucas after I became a little bit older and I was fishing-, had my own enterprise and was on the Torngat Fishery Board and he took me under his wing. He always called me his son and to me that was very special to my heart. So I always called him, "Daddy" after that. Anyway, every time I'd go to Nain, I would get off the airplane and just tell them to-, I gotta tell a quick story, Madam Speaker, and before I tell this story, I'd just like to just to let everyone know that if I offend you I'm sorry, but I feel that I had to tell this quick story about Lucas and his humour. Anyway, Madam

Speaker, I said, "Just drop my bags off. I'll be going up to Lucas's house to say hello before I go on and check in." And on the plane at the time was Alex Saunders who-, Madam Speaker, he was going to meetings in Nain, also. And he heard me say that I was going to Lucas's. And he said, "Hey, you're going to Lucas's. I'm coming." I said, "Sure, why not? You know? The more the merrier." Anyway, I got to Lucas's house and I knocked on the door and there was no answer and I start bawling out, "Daddy, are you home?" And, Lucas came out in his cheerful way and hugged and kissed me and then he saw Alex standing at the doorway and he said, "Jesus Christ." And he said it again and one more time and then I said, "What did I do this time? I brought somebody Lucas don't like?" Anyway, while I was thinking that in my mind, Lucas went over and hugged Alex and they start to have their yarn. And anyway after-, they said-, I turned to Lucas and I said why did you call him that, Luke? He said, "Because when I'd be fishing with him, every time Alec opened his mouth, that's what he would say." So, that was Lucas and his humour and I just wanted to say to the young people, "Take the time to talk to your elders and take the time to people in Nunatsiavut, 'cause you don't know your peers because you don't know when somebody's gonna affect you and you're gonna remember them. And some day you will be those seniors and elders. So take the time to sit down and have a chat. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Flowers for your statement and sorry on the loss of your dear friend. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. Madam Speaker. Today I would like to congratulate our graduating class of 2021 at ACMS: Isaiah Pamak, Gavin Boase, Billy Barbour, Darryl Flowers, Shavonne Tuglavina, Romaine Lampe and Nathaniel Winters. On behalf of HICG we wish these seven bright, young people all the best in their endeavours. They will be our future leaders. HICG would also like to congratulate Toby Obed on receiving the Labradorian of distinction award for his work in getting a settlement for Residential School Survivors in schools run by IGA and Moravian church. I'd also like to congratulate Nicholas Flowers who won the STEAM Horizon Award 2020. It's an award for youth and he was the first winner to win it outside of Ontario. So congratulations Nicholas. We're so very proud of you and for all the work you're doing in trying to revive the Inuttitut language. Nicholas attends both English and Inuttitut church services every Sunday, faithfully. He now can read the Bible in Inuttitut and often does the readings in the church which is a great help to the rest of the chapel servants and we're very proud of him. I'm sure one day we will probably be seeing him sitting around this table. I also want to thank Gus Semigak, our interpreter, translator for all the work you've done over the years. You have served this Government well, Gus, and I wish you all the best in your retirement. The DHSD building was officially opened yesterday and congratulations to staff and everyone who made Grand Opening a great success. It was a great time. It's a beautiful building and very much needed in our communities. When I went to work as a team leader over 20 years ago, my office was a rusty table and a five-gallon

bucket. So we did come a long way even though sometimes we complain and say things are not moving. They actually are. There's a lot that's being done. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, very much, AngajukKâk Flowers for your second statement. I now call upon the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak for her statement.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. As the Labrador Inuit are dealing with many tragedies and loss, we would like to send condolences and prayers to all the families and friends on behalf of myself and the Board of NunaKatiget. We received funds from Seniors Horizons Program with Employment and Social Development Canada to develop and deliver virtual training on computer literacy, computer fraud and elder abuse through Zoom for elders. If things improve with the pandemic, we will switch to in person training. We ran one kamik making course with five participants due to Covid-19 restrictions. Everyone who took the course was very pleased and they were also pleased with the instructor. In March 2021, 289 families visited the Max Winters Community Freezer. There was an increase in the number mainly due to the caribou meat that was distributed in March. We did not have enough for every elder, and we tried to distribute as fairly as we could, but some elder families did not receive any caribou. Madam Speaker, as mentioned previously, we have 425 elders, 60 and over in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and Mud Lake. We received 276 pieces of caribou after we had some cut in two. We distributed caribou to long-term care facility, Assisted Living through the

Friendship Centre, Supportive Living through NG and the Homeless shelter. For the people who did not receive caribou, they received musk ox. The line up for a piece of caribou was very long and there was a lot of mayhem. It created traffic issues. I would like to thank Gerald Asivak, Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Kelly Jacobs, Juliette Waylon, Donny Webber and Debbie Hines for helping with the distribution and the traffic control. We received many angry phone calls that the caribou were not distributed to all Nunatsiavut beneficiaries in our two communities. In addition, we received phone calls as some people had blood shot caribou meat. In April, 152 families visited the freezer and in May 132 families. Madam Speaker, our briefing note to the NEC to try to increase our percentage of traditional foods that are distributed by Nunatsiavut Government did not get approved, which brings me to this point. As Happy Valley, Goose Bay is a hub, and there are large centres, institutions where Nunatsiavut beneficiaries from all over Nunatsiavut stay or live, such as long-term care facility, Labrador Correctional Centre, Assisted Living, Supportive Living, Homeless shelter. I believe Nunatsiavut should provide an allocation of traditional food to those institutions and agencies through another Nunatsiavut Government department. I wanna thank the Rigolet Inuit Community Government for giving us four pallets of chicken legs. The chicken is gonna go a long way to help with food insecurity for our elders. Thank you to the Nain Community Freezer Program and Department of Education and Economic Development who gave us an additional 10 cases of char. All total, we received 30 cases of

char from the Nain Community Government indeed and we brought three cases. Elders loves char in our communities, and it is also very healthy. Madam Speaker, we wanna thank the Government of Canada and the various agencies that provided us with funds through Covid-19 relief to purchase food and personal protective items and equipment for the Community Freezer in the last fiscal year. We received 480 pounds of seal in late April. People were very glad to have received seal, as this year, the ice got bad early. In addition, we distributed seal to agencies in the town that house the Nunatsiavut Beneficiaries, the Labrador Correctional Centre, Supportive Living, Homeless shelter et cetera. We sent smelt to the Nain Community freezer on two occasions. Thank you to the beneficiaries in Upper Lake Melville who donated the smelts for our freezer and also for Nain. We receive \$750 from the Province and \$3,800 for funding for a summer student of an Inuit Pathways to partner with Natures Best Farm to put in a community garden for the elders this growing season. We will start with potatoes and beets this year and see how it goes. We lost Roy Blake as one of our board members as he is now a Nunatsiavut employee. He brought much knowledge and wisdom to our board. Our Inuttitut Master Apprentice and in classes had to be deferred because our instructor got sick. So we're hoping to start all that again in the fall. And I wanna say *Nakummek* to Gus Semigak for all your work in interpreting, translating and as a Master for the Master Apprentice Program. You will be missed. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you. Good day, Madam Speaker, and Assembly. I would like to recognize and remember the horrific discovery of 215 innocent Indigenous children in Kamloops B.C. last week. Like many of us, this discovery has affected both myself and my colleague, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler. We both attended and placed a teddy bear at the event held last Monday at the town of Happy Valley, Goose Bay Town Hall. It was a somber event, but we need to remember and honour those children who were found and remember our beneficiaries who also attended Residential Schools. We are encouraging anyone who needs support to please reach out to DHSD, Labrador Grenfell Health or other. We'd like to send sincere congratulations to beneficiary, Ms. Stacey Ryan, on her recent appointment to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. Many beneficiaries may know Ms. Ryan for her work of Legal Aid of Newfoundland and Labrador for most of her career. We wish her all the best and know she will do a wonderful job in her new and ground-breaking role. She's the first Inuk appointed to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. We are happy to hear that Labrador Grenfell Health is now offering their second round of vaccinations in Upper Lake Melville. We know some beneficiaries have already gotten their second dose and we encourage everyone who is eligible to get their vaccine to please get it to protect yourself and those you love. I would like to congratulate all the graduates at Mealy Mountain Collegiate and

Lake Melville School. I know it isn't quite the graduation you hoped for, but there is light at the end of the tunnel, and we are hoping to be out of this Covid pandemic soon. You should be very proud of yourself for completing your high school education in a Covid world. It was not easy. Our beneficiaries are happy with the extension of the Emergency Food Supplement Program, as it helped so many families in our region. We even received a thank you card from elders Ron and Miriam Lyall a little while ago which we shared with everyone here at the Assembly. And thank you for responding with the appreciation. I, myself, sent a letter to the elders with your comments. Finally, Madam Speaker, we are hoping to hold Meet and Greets again if Public Health protocols allow. We have both attended the Seniors Craft afternoon in North West River with Sivunivut Chair, Maxene Winters. It really is a great afternoon to spend with seniors in their community who are always interested in hearing what type of work we are doing and enjoying the ability to attend social events again. Nakummek.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Asivak. I now call upon AngajukKâk Joe Dicker for the community of Nain for his second statement.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, Uhalitik, for the opportunity. And as I continue on, like I was saying, the Nain Inuit Community Government has a new project this year that our Town Manager applied for and was successful. It's called a stimulus project. It's money from the Provincial Government, I believe for-, to get hours for people to prepare for EI in the fall. And our project this year is to repair the big cemetery that's in dire need of upgrades, I

guess. And we expect that it's gonna take about three months to do that employing six persons. I'd like to acknowledge, like I mentioned in my earlier statements in the past, to Ullapitsaiet Committee of Nain who donated the lumber to the church for that project. Once that project finished, we hope to continue on with the other cemeteries that are also in need of repair in the community. With our Joint Management Meeting recently, I'd like to thank the Joint Management Committee for letting us purchase new equipment that we sorely need for our safety and health of our members. We received \$760,000 for new equipment. I'm not gonna put too many detail with that. The-, it was mentioned that the 215 young children that was found triggered a lot of emotional jolts, I guess, of past experiences in residential schools that we attended here in Labrador, especially for the North Coast leaving home to go to Northwest River. We did have a ceremony sponsored-, organized by local community member, Jenny Oliver, and I'd like to acknowledge her for doing that. But at the same time, we did not know, but we heard through Noah Nochasak who has a partner from Kamloops. Her parents went through the-, her parents, aunties and grandparents went through that school and she was there listening to our speeches and I guess words of encouragement to the community on what was going on. And she really appreciated and she was in tears for that recognition. And we told her that we loved her and that we would help her, you know, go through this process as I know that because of Covid she could not be with her family for that terrible discovery. And I'd like to let the Assembly know

too that this is one discovery. We got jolted by the 215 but there are many other residential schools that yet have to be investigated. So this is not the last of the bad news, I think, that we are gonna be hearing more. So we should prepare ourselves for that, now, in the coming future. I had one more note here somewhere. I think that's it, Madam Speaker. Thank you for letting me finish-, I will, when I get back to Nain, write up a report, getting the computer working properly and then send it on to the here in Hopedale for the Hansard. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, very much, AngajukKâk Dicker. Are there any other Members that wish to give a statement? Oh, I would like to recognize Ordinary Member Ms. Carlene Palliser for the Constituency of Rigolet.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start by sending congratulations to 2021 graduates in all schools in Nunatsiavut. Special greetings going out to Brady, Brittany, John, MacKenzie, Ocean and Samantha who graduated from Northern Lights Academy in Rigolet on May 29th. I wish them all much success in their future endeavours and I hope their wishes and dreams come true. Madam Speaker, I was saddened and shocked, as everyone here, of the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops B.C. My thoughts are with the families, the communities, residential school survivors and all who mourn this tragic loss. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Palliser. Are there any other Members who wish to give a second statement? Seeing none, I will move on to *Item Number Six*, "The Return to oral questions." Ah the February 2021

Assembly sitting, the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources the Honourable Gregory Flowers what the aboriginal percentage of the Voisey's Bay workforce was. Minister Flowers responded that as of January 31st, the employment percentages were under the Operations, 271 Aboriginal employees, 42 percent with 224 Inuit, 35 percent and 47 Innu which is 7 percent. Under the Voisey's Bay mine expansion, we have 219 Aboriginal employees, 15 percent with 166 Inuit which is 11 percent and 53 Innu which is 4 percent. Thank you Minister Flowers for your timely response. There are no more oral questions today so we will continue in our *Orders of the Day*. And at this time I would like to suggest a lunch break at 11:37 and that we will reconvene in Chambers at 1:00 p.m. Thank you, very much.

[Recess.]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

I'd like to welcome everybody back to our session. Call to order at 1:05 p.m. I thank everybody for being here. We're now onto Item Number Seven, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions today? I'd like to call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question today, Madam Speaker is for the honourable President of Nunatsiavut, The Honourable Johannes Lampe. On April the 22nd, Thursday April 22nd, I sent an email to the President of Nunatsiavut asking questions about Illusuak. Madam Speaker, up to the date I never got no notification or anything as to if the email was received or not, so I would like to ask the President if he received my email dated April 22nd related to Illusuak? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I call upon President Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, Uhattik. Nakummek, AngajukKâk Kippukamik.* Yes, I did receive that letter and I did have time to review it and so most certainly the question that you had asked before is one of the questions that you raised in your letter which referred to the elders and youth-, the communication that you know, that they need to have and to have the elders pass on their traditional knowledge to the Labrador Inuit Youth. And yes, I did receive that letter. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Yes, I do, Madam Speaker. In my supplementary question, Madam Speaker, for the President, I would ask, can I expect a written response in relation to that email? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek, AngajukKâk Kippukamik.* I-, yes, I thought that a response was sent but I will get right back into it and make sure that you will be sent a written response. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek, President Lampe.* Do you have a final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My first question that goes to the Minister of Finance and Human Resources and Information and Technology. Can you give us an update on the Internet upgrades for Nunatsiavut?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and thanks for the question Ordinary Member for Makkovik. Madam Speaker, in a joint teleconference with the ICG's and the Member from Makkovik, I had some time ago outlined our plan and I informed the members that we had chosen to move forward to the universal broadband fund with a proposal with Bell Aliant as our partner. So all I can say is that, that proposal was submitted, acknowledged by our MP Yvonne Jones and in meetings with Yvonne, ourselves and our department have expressed concern about receiving a response to that proposal too late in the summer. The MP had informed us that we could perhaps expect a response to our proposal Madam Speaker, by late July or mid-August. In our view, Madam Speaker, that would be too late for this year. And we-, the MP has told us that Bell Aliant as well expressed to her that perhaps that will be too late and that we would lose a year for the upgrade to our broadband system. So both ourselves and our partner Bell Aliant had asked the MP to bring our concerns forward to the people at the Universal Broadband Fund and to her Government as well, so that we could get early response and perhaps get some of the work that is required to the, you know, I forget the name

for it again-, the backbone. Thank you, Tyler, so work could begin this year that would see us receive massive upgrade to our internet within two years rather than three years. But that's where we are. And as soon as we get word, we will again, make sure that the ICGs are well-informed as well as the Member from Makkovik. Thank you, very much, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: No, thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Minister or your answer. Thanks for the update.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker.

MR. DICKER: *Nakummek, Uhalitik.* My question, Madam Speaker is to the President Johannes Lampe. It's a-, I don't know how to ask this question. I guess we all know NunatuKavut is I guess by the Federal Government, accepted as an Inuit organization. What I would like to know from Nunatsiavut Government and you, Mr. President as the leader for the Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, what is the official position or stand that the Nunatsiavut Government has on their status as an Inuk organization?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon President Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Julius Dicker, for the question. The Nunatsiavut Government right now does not have a

position, but we are on the issue. We have brought this to the attention of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami back in December 10, 2019. I did bring this forward to the Inuit Nunangat Board of Directors the four regions, including Nunatsiavut. And at that time, we did not have great success in getting the support that we were seeking but we again have, now, brought something else to try to do something else, and brought it to the attention of the ITK President, Natan Obed. We are on this but right now we do not have a position until we as the Executive Counsel, have a clear understanding on what it is that we need to do. But myself, as an Inuk, I do need to know fully and understand fully what it is that Labrador Inuit need to do to show the position that we are seeking. So right now, we do not have a position. But like I said before, we are on this. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Yes, I do. Thank you, Madam Speaker. My supplementary question, I guess, is that, "Why are we depending on the Inuit Tapirit Kanatami to tell us what we think? I think we as a separate organization of our own organization should be the first ones to state whether or not we accept the NunatuKavut as an Inuk organization. The Labrador Inuit, in their negotiations struggle hard and long just to get our...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me, AngajukKâk Dicker. Can you...

MR. DICKER: Well, my question is that, why are depending on ITK to tell us or advise us as to what our stand is gonna be? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk for your supplementary question. As a Member of the Inuit Tapirit Kanatami, within Inuit Nunangat and as an *Inuit Land Claim Agreement* organization, we would like to first seek support from the other Inuit regions to support us in coming up with a solution because it is not just this group from southern Labrador that, you know, are pressing the Labrador Inuit-, the real Labrador Inuit. And also, the Inuit Tapirit Kanatami within Canada. And there are other groups that are claiming to be of a Indigenous descent. But I have to, you know, as President, like anyone else, you know, get the direction from others, especially the Executive Council, what it is that is-, that we have to do and what we have to do right. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a second and final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. President, will that information for the support that you're seeking be available and the Nunatsiavut Government will have a position at the next sitting?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon President Lampe. Thank you.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk for your supplementary and final question. I cannot say that I will come up with an answer at the next sitting. This issue is very important to Labrador Inuit and we certainly want to make sure that we do it right and this also involves other organizations and even other Governments. So we have to make sure that we dot all I's and cross all the t's before we or I myself as President am able to give you a clear answer on what our position is. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* President Lampe. Thank you. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY: *Nakummek, UKatti.* My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Honourable Greg Flowers. It's about the designation policy for the fishery, for the commercial fishery. I was reading through it and there's no definition in there for resident. I don't know what definition is gonna be used for resident but the last time I checked the *Municipalities Act*, to be a resident of one of the Inuit-, one of the communities, you had to live there for 30 days. So I'm wondering, is there gonna be a definition of resident because that would be, I think, advisable. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I'll now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as I said in my statement earlier today-, it probably wasn't clear to the AngajukKâk-, clear enough, I guess, and probably people are misunderstanding, but it's only for-, if I'm

hearing the question correctly, it's only for beneficiaries of the Land Claim Agreement. It's not for any other residents. It's just for our beneficiaries, and most of the beneficiaries who already, I guess, reside in fishing, know that it's just for the fishers that we have today. Now other people can probably apply, because as I said, it's open to anyone to beneficiaries. So it's just for the beneficiaries of the *Land Claim Agreement*. I'm not sure if I heard the question correctly or if that's the answer that you're looking for. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, can I clarify what I wanted to know?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Yes.

MS. WOLFREY: Okay. So, the designation policy says that you gotta be a beneficiary and that you have to live in Nunatsiavut. And so, you gotta be a resident of Nunatsiavut. So what I was asking is there's no definition for a resident of Nunatsiavut in the *Land Claims Agreement*, the Inuit Community Governments are their own Government and they can make their own laws. Until they get their own laws, they go by the municipalities Act. The *Municipalities Act* says that you've gotta live in a community-, last time I checked-, for 30 days to be a resident. So I think that if someone comes into our community for 30 days they might meet some of the criteria that's in that designation policy. That's why I wanted a definition for resident. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon Minister Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Okay. Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. You're meaning if a beneficiary moved, say, to Hopedale, that lived outside of Hopedale for a number of years and then they can put-, yes, you're correct, that they can apply. It's for all beneficiaries, regardless of where you live. They can apply for this fishing-, this policy that we're putting out. So-, but that don't mean to say that they would be probably-, there's like a list and protocol that they would probably be on the bottom of the list but yes, it's for all beneficiaries of the *Land Claims Agreement* residing in Nunatsiavut.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: No, that's good. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. I now call upon the Sivunivut Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Maxene Winters for her question.

MS. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. My question is for President Johannes Lampe. Given the recent and tragic discovery of 215 Indigenous children's bodies at the Kamloops Residential School, has there been any discussion about holding an event to honour these children for the, "Every Child Matters" movement?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you Chairperson Winters. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek*, Chair of Sivunivut Community. As of right now, we do not have any plans but that's not to say that we cannot

do or make plans to respect the discovery of the 215 remains of the Indigenous children at Kamloops British Columbia. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, Chair Winters?

MS. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Yes, I do. Could the Nunatsiavut Government provide orange T-shirts and/or face masks for any of these events for the future days of honouring residential school survivors?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* Sivunivut Chair Winters. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* *Nakummek* Chair of the Sivunivut Community. I, as President, cannot make that decision by myself. And this could happen, but it would have to, I believe, come from the Minister of Health and Social Development and so the Minister would provide a briefing note to the Executive Council and so the Executive Council would discuss this issue. And I see no reason that orange T-shirts cannot be provided to survivors of the residential school as all other events have provided T-shirts too, to survivors of other groups. And so I don't see an issue why this cannot happen. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* President Lampe. Do you have a final supplementary question, Sivunivut Chair Winters?

MS. WINTERS: No. Thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I now call upon Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for Makkovik.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is there any plans for the optometrist to

visit any of the communities, especially Makkovik in the near future?

Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you. I don't have the logistics currently. I don't know when they were exactly in the last community of Makkovik, but I'll definitely share with the Assembly, all communities, as I normally do with dental, and that might even be in my report tomorrow, updates for my Ministers Statement for dental and optometry. So I will get that information out to the Assembly. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question AngajukKâk Andersen?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

No, I don't, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek. I now call upon AngajukKâk Joe Dicker for the community of Nain.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, UKatti. My question is directed to the First Minister. In your report this morning, Minister, you indicated to us-, you reported to us that the Province and Nunatsiavut Government have complied to the, I guess to go towards this study, but now you're waiting on the Feds. My question is, what are your plans as Nunatsiavut Government First Minister, to push, to keep this critical file alive? Everyone else, like you report, has now met what we've been asking for. Now it's the Feds that

are the hold-up. I'd like to find out what the Nunatsiavut Government is doing to push this critical file forward. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the AngajukKâk for Nain has a right to feel frustrated. I think as I said this morning, I feel frustrated with the lack of communications around the NTCF file as well. We've been making some significant strides on the Nain Airstrip pre-feasibility studies. As I've stated before, we've gone through the first stage approvals and went onto the second stage comprehensive proposals earlier this spring. And as far as I recall, we had submitted that application on March 15th. As I've stated, we've been making this a priority at ICPC table, speaking directly to the Prime Minister, Minister of Transport, Minister for Northern Affairs. Basically, every opportunity in terms of my plans, in terms of trying to get a positive response within the last number of weeks, there hasn't been a week that has gone by that my office has not reached out to someone within the Federal Government trying to ensure that we can get a response back on this. It is unfortunate that it has delayed to this point. We had hoped that we would have, received response by the end of May on this application. But to answer the AngajukKâk's question, really, there hasn't been a week gone by recently that we haven't inquired on this. And I will continue to bring attention to this and anticipate that we-, and hope that we will get a positive response so we can start the work on this file.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. I now-, do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Minister for the hard work that you've been doing on behalf of the community of Nain, along with your counterparts there around this table. My only question now, I guess is, has the MP for Labrador been involved in this?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. And as I've updated in my Ministerial statement this morning, we have engaged MP Jones' office as well, to try to ensure that the Department of Transport is on top of this file and that we could get a response as quick as possible. So, yes, the MP's office has been engaged on this as well. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a final, supplementary question? Thank you. I would now like to call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for Mr. Tony Andersen, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. June 21st has been recognized as a holiday for Inuit Governments. I understand that Nunatsiavut Government will be taking this holiday but the AngajukKâks and ICG's can't? I wonder what the reasoning is around that?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank the AngajukKâk for Hopedale for her question. The Inuit Community Governments, ICGs, are, each and everyone them are independent Governments for a particular community. The holidays that a Community Governments observe are holidays that are recognized by the ICGs. We have not too long ago, the Nunatsiavut Government believed and introduced to the Executive Council that there was a need for us to recognize the efforts of Indigenous people all across the country and to honour that and to honour those people whether they are First Nations, Metis or Inuit, and to recognize it in a way that it made sense to people and to make it honourable, we've created another statutory holiday with the list that we had already recognized and observed. Should the ICGs want to, it's not for me to say, but it is for them to add, should they wish, another statutory holiday to the list of statutory holidays that they already observe. I realize, from conversations with a couple of them this morning that they have collective agreements with unions. I believe they all have collective agreements with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of employees, NAPE. And so again, it is up to the ICGs to make amendments should the Community Government want to observe that as a holiday, then I think the route forward for them is to make an amendment to the collective agreement with NAPE, so that that holiday could be included, should they wish. I don't think for a minute, that they would find much opposition from the union if they wanted to create another holiday, Madam Speaker, for their employees. There is some question, at this time, and I understand from

the question-, there were two questions there. The other question that the AngajukKâk for Hopedale asked was, I believe, if I'm correct, that the AngajukKâk for the Community Governments, do they observe as Assembly Members, the holiday that was created for-, by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council? Very quickly, and not having had a full chance to sit down with Legal Council, that is something that our Legal Department will look into, and I'm sure that timely response will be given to the ICGs as to whether or not as Assembly Members, you observe this holiday at this time. I hope that that's an acceptable answer at this time. Again, it was raised in our break room and that's where it is at this time, Madam Speaker, thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers? You do? Okay, you do. Thank you, very much.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. My question is I'm wondering if we are actually a part of this Government or not as AngajukKâks if not, then why are we here at this table? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, and certainly, I believe very much you are a big part of this Government. And I believe the correct title is Epsocial Assembly Members but never-the-less, every much a part of this. However, as I mentioned, each Inuit Community Government is an independent body, independent of the Nunatsiavut Government. And

although you participate in this Assembly, you have the right as the Government to create statutory holidays-, I do honestly believe that your Inuit Community Government has the right to do that and should do that. This is not for us to-, for the Nunatsiavut Government to dictate any policy that you should adhere to. We do it as an Executive Council for our Civil Service, and you know, as an independent body, I think that you have the right to do it, and not only the right but the responsibility to do it. So I wish you well with that and again, Madam Speaker, I fully expect to have in the next short while, my department will, with the Legal Department to ensure that the questions are answered properly and timely and offer even not direction but suggestion to how ICGs may move forward with this matter. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Do you have a final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: I guess it's more for clarification, but do AngajukKâks follow the elected officials' policy manual?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Did you hear the question, Minister?

MS. FLOWERS: My question was, do the AngajukKâk follow the elected officials' policy manual?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm getting old and I have been around for a while but I don't recall that there is a policy manual, per se, for elected

officials. So I'm not quite sure what the AngajukKâk referred to, if it's the *Code of Conduct*, or I don't know-, I have to answer this way. I don't recall that there is a policy manual for elected officials.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen for your answer. I now call upon Ordinary Member for Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, UKatti. My question is for the Honourable President and Chair of the NEC, Johannes Lampe. In the past there were opportunities for our beneficiaries to meet face-to-face with the Executive Council. Efforts were made to have engagement sessions held in each of the five communities and the Canadian Constituency and Upper Lake Melville. Given today's technology, hosting virtual engagement sessions is an alternative means to hear directly from and interact with our Executive Council. Will the NEC consider hosting virtual engagement sessions, particularly with the Canadian Constituency, to provide updates and to speak directly with our beneficiaries in 2021?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKattik. Nakummek [speaks Inuttitut]. The question, we have not, so far interacted with Ordinary Members or other Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and-, but I certainly I would like to see a written request and where this issue would be discussed with the Executive Council. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, yes, I do. When was the last time that the Nunatsiavut Executive Council held engagement sessions in the Canadian Constituency?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKattik.* Since Covid happened, we have not visited any communities or any constituencies outside of Nunatsiavut. But as I can recall, the last time that the Executive Council did visit the Canadian Constituency was in St. John's a few years back. And we were planning to have a session in Ottawa but that did not happen due to severe weather conditions. What I'm saying is that we are open to visiting the Canadian Constituencies to have open house but right now as Covid is with us, we are not able to do that. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK: Not at this time but will submit something in writing. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is related to transparency. And the question is for the Honourable Minister of Finance and Human Resources, Technology. Again, Madam Speaker, there was an email sent to the Honourable Minister on May 10th related to what did it cost the Nunatsiavut Government to get caribou and musk ox from Ranken Inlet for beneficiaries of the *Nunatsiavut Land Claims Agreement*? I would

like to ask the Minister, Madam Speaker, are you in the position to disclose this information with Assembly Members? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, Mr. Antony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you AngajukKâk. Hard that I had thought that a response was sent to you and although I am the Minister of Finance, I thought that we had somehow were-, you were going to get a response from Lands and Resources for that. It may have been my mistake. I apologize, certainly, I do and I'll ensure that in the next few days the Member gets an answer to his question. I don't have-, and again, I can't-, I don't remember what it was. We-, there is a cost. Perhaps Madam Speaker, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources might be better prepared to answer the question.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Are you able to answer the question, Minister Flowers?

MR. FLOWERS: I can try and answer the question, Madam Speaker if the AngajukKâk for Postville would like to defer the question to me?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, for that. Would you like to defer the question to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, yes, please.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I call upon Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for your question. In my report this morning, I did state that we came in under budget. I think the NEC approved us around \$300,000 for the project. We came in at around 270,000 give or take a few bucks. But that's the numbers that I have, Madam Speaker. If the-, sorry, if the Minister of Finance is good with that and he can still check it out and double check if he'd like, but that's the number, roughly, that I have Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, very much. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY: *Nakummek, UKatti.* My question is for the Honourable President. In your report this morning, you-, when I'm talking about the 5 Wing Goose Bay portion, you talked about a fly-over Rigolet and Makkovik. I'm wondering will our residents be informed as to what-, when that's gonna be and what it's gonna involve? Is it gonna be far away from our community, close to our community? Are we gonna hear the planes or, you know, can we-, are we gonna be notified? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon President Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek AngajukKâk* Rigoletiuut . Yes, in my report, I did indicate that these fly-overs will be very high and that no one will be

able to hear these fly-overs. And yes, the communities will be notified of when this will be happening. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you, Madam Speaker. In the report it's saying that it's going to be lower over Rigolet and Makkovik, but I don't have a supplementary question. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I now call upon the Chair for NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. My question is to Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. I go into the long-term care quite frequently, 'cause I have a parent in there. And there are several unilingual Inuttitut speakers that are there and they have no one to speak to and they're very lonely. Some of them are suffering from dementia. Is it a possibility that the interpreter translator that's at the hospital could sometimes, maybe twice a week go over and spend some time talking to the unilingual speakers, or even people that might be bilingual but might want to speak in Inuttitut? Would it be possible for the interpreter translator to go over to the long-term care so many times a week to help them? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and for the great question, Chairperson Kemuksigak. It's a very good question. It's a very important question. Every person or family deserves to be recognized and spoken to in their mother-tongue. We acknowledge that. We do have an interpreter at the hospital. We are unable to find any other interpreters or translators in the Upper Lake Melville area at this time. We are open to suggestions from the community-, the broad community or beneficiaries if they have some resolutions or ideas to work with DHSD in particular, non-insured health benefits to find fluent Inuttitut speakers to speak with our bilingual and unilingual residents at the Long-term care. So we are open to suggestions and we will work with everyone and anyone involved to improve this service. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, Chairperson Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Yes, Madam Speaker. Could-, would you be able to look into the possibility of having a meeting with Labrador Grenfell Health on this issue because at one time, many years ago, there was a permanent interpreter translator in the Paddon home. So, you know, if there was a way for them to get even a part-time one, I think it would really improve the quality of life for you know, our people from Nain, and Makkovik in particular, who can't speak English and are very lost there. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Yes, I can commit to having a meeting set up with the Labrador Grenfell Health to try to find a better solution to this even if it might not be permanent full-time as it was in the past. As I noted right now, in Upper Lake Melville-, not only Upper Lake Melville-, within Nunatsiavut for example, within Language, Culture and Tourism, we know it's-, even within the LISA it's harder to recruit fluent interpreters, translators for work. There have been vacant positions and Upper Lake Melville there's no exclusion to that. But we are willing to work with the health authority and see what can be done. As you suggested, maybe even casual or part-time fluent speakers to go in, ensuring the safety of the residents first and foremost within the health authority, you know, that there's not gonna be any infractions or any safety violations for these. Because a lot of the time they are elderly and seniors, and some of them don't have family. So we have to make sure their safety is number one. However, we understand the importance of language too. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Do you have a final supplementary question Chairperson Kemuksigak? No? Thank you, very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. My question is for Education and Economic Development, Minister Palliser. Has your department ever been contacted to supply educational material for the children that are in foster care across Canada, in particularly, culture and language material?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now call upon the Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you Mr. Saunders for your question.

No, we haven't been-, our department hasn't been approached for educational materials for children in foster care, but I'm pretty sure that Tim would be very excited to hear that question.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Palliser. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: Okay, so thank you. So between you and the Culture Minister will you make an effort with the Minister of the Department of Health to find out what children across Canada are in foster care and send them cultural and language material? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now recognize Minister of Education and Economic Development, Minister Palliser.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Sure, I'm open for those conversations.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No? Thank you. I now call upon Sivunivut Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Maxene Winters.

MS. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. My question is for Tony Andersen, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information technology. I'm just wondering if we can have an update on the total amount spent from the Federal Government Covid-19 monies of \$8 million, plus relief funding, and

if there are any other plans on what the money will be spent on besides the food supplement program?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Winters. I now call upon Minister Anthony Andersen of Finance, Human resources and Information Technology.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my intention and thank the Member for the question-, it is my intention, Madam Speaker, in my report tomorrow to include some facts and figures regarding the COVID money. I can say that the three rounds of funding that we have received at this time has been just under 11 million, approximately 10.7 million of which we have spent just about up to May the 31st, 7.5 million of that whatever I said -, 10.7. It leaves about-, just about just 3.2 or something like that, that's still in the pot. Right now the only program that is being administered and that's in all Constituencies in Nunatsiavut, as well as what is recognized as the Urban Inuit Constituencies of Lake Melville and Canada, is the food supplement. At this time, I must say that the Nunatsiavut Executive Council has not considered thoughts on well there be additions to the food supplement, okay? As the Assembly is aware, the Member is aware, there were additional monies spent in Nunatsiavut on the-, what was called the Home Heat Supplement, I believe, as well as the Harvester's Program. Those two programs were suspended. Again, I don't wanna repeat myself-, there are no plans at this time, to consider other areas where the money could be spent. I hope that I will have in my statement tomorrow, additional information that would be of interest regarding the Covid relief programs for all Constituencies, Madam Speaker. Thank you, very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. Does the Sivunivut Chair have a supplementary question? No. Thank you, very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question goes to First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds. Can you give us an update on the request from Makkovik for a new Freight Laydown area and Freight Shed for Makkovik?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker and *Nakummek* to Ordinary Member Andersen for your question. Last year when we worked through the applications process to get the marine warehouses in our Nunatsiavut communities. We had direct discussions with the Inuit Community Governments. Initially, it was our intention to try to make sure that this was brought forward for every Nunatsiavut community. But due to the lack of laydown area in Makkovik and Hopedale, the ICGs felt at that time they could not support those applications. Since then, it's been a priority for us to try to find funding and find ways that we can get those laydown areas built in those two communities. We have been engaging both Federal and Provincial Governments on that front. As I updated the Assembly a number of weeks ago, we did flag this in a meeting with Minister Loveless with the Provincial Government and we are trying to seek more funding under the initiative in which the three warehouses will be going forward in the other communities to move forward for Hopedale

and Makkovik as well. It's unclear at this time whether or not there is a pot of funding under this year's program that we could take advantage of or if we have to wait until a new call for applications. I wanna say, Madam Speaker that Marine infrastructure across all our communities has been the state of deficit for a lot of years. And while there's been some investment in the last year, a lot more is needed in our communities. So we will seek to find additional initiatives to develop the laydown areas in the Ordinary Member's community as well as Hopedale. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Yes, I do. Just that you have the information that the percent in from AngajukKâk Andersen and also from myself. Are you looking at those that we sent in? Were they in site that we suggested-, Makkovik suggested?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Ordinary Member and the AngajukKâk for the information that they did provide. Really, all I can say is that the discussions at this point, are really preliminary. We know that developing those laydown areas are gonna be really costly and I'm sure that I we do secure the funding-, again, we will do everything we can to make sure that the communities do get this funding-, as we move forward with design and engineering, once that stage becomes a reality,

then I'm sure that site will be valuable in your community. But at this point, I mean, it's very early to talk about that site. We are still trying to secure funding to move forward this initiative. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. We have reached our one-hour time limit for "Oral Question Period." I apologize. I wasn't aware of that. Just one moment please. Okay. Thank you. Just wanted some clarification. Under Standing Orders, we can-, we are limited to a one-hour time limit for "Oral Questions". A member is able to make a motion to extend the question period by 30 minutes if they wish to make that motion. Nobody wishes to make the motion? Okay. Sorry, did you-, Chair Kemuksigak, did you want to make the motion?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Yes, I'd like to make a motion to extend the question period for another 30 minutes.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. Do I have a seconder for that motion? Susan Onalik? Okay, seconded by Ordinary Member Ms. Onalik from the Canadian Constituency. Do you have a second and final supplementary question-, my apologies. Could we please have a vote on the motion? All those in favour of extending the time period by 30 minutes? Thank you. Any opposed? Okay. Motion passes for 30 minutes. My apologies. That was the first time I've had to do that. So, thank you, very much. I'd like to check with Ordinary Member Andersen to see if he has a final supplementary question to his question to the First Minister?

MR. J. ANDERSEN:

(Inaudible.)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek, UKatti and Nakummek*, everybody for extending the question period. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Finance, of Human Resources and of Information Technology, the Honourable Anthony Andersen. To date, Nunatsiavut Government have received \$11, 808, 000 in direct allocation and needs-based funding from the Federal Government, ICSF or some call it Covid money. Are you able to provide a detailed breakdown to the Assembly of where the money is being spent?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, Member for the question. For the first three rounds of funding, Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has received just over 10.7 million as I mentioned earlier in answer to another question. As of May the 31st, 2021, we had spent just over 7.5 million. The majority of this money has been spent for food which include contribution to the food bank, contribution to the traditional food that was made available to Nunatsiavut communities and Upper Lake Melville from the Lands and Resource Department. In terms of a breakdown-, and we didn't start tracking the money for the-, as to where, you know, what constituency would spend, until we got into round two, Madam Speaker because things happened very fast. So we did announce the program that was made available to everybody in the world through

press release for Nunatsiavut Communities on April 8th, 2020 and again made available through press release to the rest of the world for programs in ULM-, Upper Lake Melville Constituency. That was released April the 20th, 2020. And for the Canadian Constituency, as well as the press release issued April the 24th 2020. For the first round of funding, retro payments were made to applicants up to the end of September 2020. Programs from the first round of funding were suspended, September 2020 while a review was completed in all programs. Revised programs started again December 2020 and at this time there is no end to the-, there is no end date at this time for the food supplement programs. The Emergency Heat Subsidy and the Harvester's Support Program as I mentioned earlier has been suspended. When we started tracking the expenditures for Round two, tracking-, Round Two tracking was started between Nunatsiavut, the ULM again I hope the Members from Upper Lake Melville don't mind me using the abbreviation, Madam Speaker, including yourself. ULM and the Canadian Constituency for the Food Supplement. Up to May the 31st, just about \$1 million had been spent in Nunatsiavut and that included three programs. In Upper Lake Melville, approximately 450,000 has been spent and in the Canadian Constituency approximately, again, 478,000 has been spent. When the program that was Indigenous Community Support Program was brought forward by the Government of Canada, with each program-, Indigenous Community Support Fund in April 2020. And it was in response to the global pandemic, Madam Speaker. And the funds that was outlined that was given to us was broad and included but not limited

to, support for elders and vulnerable community members. Measures to address food insecurity, educational and other supports for children, mental health assistance and emergency response services, preparedness measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. As a Government I believe that we responded in a timely manner to put programs in place to address these very broad areas that was given to us by the Federal Government. We developed a work plan, much thanks to Minister Asivak's department as well as the President's office, that brought it to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. We believe very much-, and I know my answer is getting long but the Member from Canada can throw something at me if she thinks I'm going on too long. We developed a work plan, Madam Speaker, that we thought was-, that addressed those broad issues that was provided by the Federal Government. We believe that the funding was intended and should be used-, not for everyone-, it was never intended-, but that's how we interpreted. It wasn't for everyone but it was intended to address the needs of the most vulnerable. And we believe that we had done that and we put forward a work plan through the Federal Government that they very quickly, reviewed and came back to us saying, "What a wonderful plan." So we moved forward from there. I know that directing calls, not only from Canada or Upper Lake Melville, but from our own communities that this was Federal Government money that should be spent for the benefit of everyone. I, for one, did not believe that, and neither did members of the Executive Council. It was unanimous that we believe the needs of the most vulnerable should be addressed-, I think she might be

getting ready to throw something now but-, you know? So-, and we move from there. There is-, we have heard that their may be-, or there likely will be a fourth round of funding. But at this time, we have not received any word as to like the intentions or the broad areas, again, of how this money might be spent. But certainly, again, it is our belief that it is for vulnerable populations and we try very hard to address those needs. I hope in some way, that answers the Member's question. I know I went on for a long time and I hope I didn't confuse rather than help clarify what we tried to do with that funding. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen for your always impassioned response. I now call upon-, do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, yes, I do. The Federal Government on April 19th, 2021, the Budget 2021, proposed an additional \$760.8 million to be allocated for the Indigenous Community Support Fund across Canada. What direct allocations does the NEC expect to receive in June when 2 million come out and again in the fall with additional 2 million, how much do you expect to receive in direct allocations or needs-based funding from that amount?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR: A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you for the supplementary question. It's very important and we know that you try very hard to keep

abreast of issues, and you certainly do and you represent your constituency very well. I have to say that at this time, I don't know. And we don't know as the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. I'm sure that President Lampe will have, again, discussions with the ITK when it is known what the Inuit allocation will be, and that's for all Inuit regions and, you know, what Labrador or Nunatsiavut, I should say-, what Nunatsiavut's share will be for its people. And again, the broad areas of how that money should be spent and we may have again to put forward proposals to the Federal Government to get agreement as to how that money will be spent. But at this time I have to say, no, I don't know how much money there will be and where it will be spent. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Yes, I do. *Nakummek*. Round four comprised of an additional 150 million in needs-based support for Indigenous and Inuit living in urban centres which is recently opened in accepting applications. Has the needs of our elders, our seniors, our daughters, our sons and our Ingutaks in the Canadian Constituency been considered in the submission of a proposal by the NEC?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, again, Member for Canada. At this time no proposal has been put forward by us as to how that money may be spent. And at this time the money that you mentioned, we don't know will-, if the Nunatsiavut Government will receive the portion and administer the funds to urban Inuit. That's still not know. In the first rounds we did receive money that we agreed to, you know, to do the program for the-, Food Supplement for Urban Inuit. At this time, that too is not known. I'm hopeful, very hopeful that this information will be made available to our Government very soon so that we can start to plan before we run out of the remaining-, that's less than 3 million now that we have left in the Food Supplement Program. So that there will be no interruption in the supplement payments to the very vulnerable in Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and Canada. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This question is for Ordinary Member, First Minister, Mr. Edmunds. Minister Edmunds, there were plans in the past to relocate jobs and positions back into the Land Claims Area to help offset the high unemployment rate in Coastal Labrador. Are there still plans to relocate positions outside the lands claims area, back into the Lands Claims Area?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now call upon First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker and *Nakummek*, to the Ordinary Member for Canada for your question. And in terms of the transition plan bringing jobs back to Nunatsiavut, this is an interdepartmental question between the President's office, Human Resources and obviously, I'm also responsible for implementation of Land Claims Agreement as well, but I will speak briefly to it and if the Speaker wishes, these Ministers could speak to the issue as well. It is the intention of the Nunatsiavut Government to continue to work towards the Implementation Plan and to ensure that opportunities exist within our Nunatsiavut communities. Over the last few years we've been seeing an increase in the number of supervisory positions that have been taking place in Nunatsiavut. We've been taking the approach of trying to advertise those jobs initially for Nunatsiavut but we do know that there are barriers around housing and situations that prevent people from taking up those jobs. The Minister for HR has put forward a plan this past spring to talk about staff housing going forward and ensuring that investments take place so that we can ensure that jobs are moved to Nunatsiavut and that when they are advertised, we are filling those positions. But in terms of the specific relocation and the transition plan, this is a combination, I think, of the President's Office. But again, we are working in different way to ensure that employment is emphasized in Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you for that, First Minister Edmunds. Would the Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology also like to

provide any information to the question from the Ordinary Member for Canada?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just don't want to say, "No, I don't want to comment." There will be very few comments. I think, I think as the First Minister has already said, that we want to move positions and programs into Nunatsiavut. Part of my statement tomorrow, which I don't have yet, will show, I think, that as a Government in terms of Civil Service, we're doing very well and one figure that I do remember that stands out to me when I was going over my statement last night is that 88 percent of this Nunatsiavut Civil Service beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, and I think that just shows, Madam Speaker just how successful this Government has been in providing opportunity to its own and to where opportunities should go-, 88 percent. And we want to improve on that. And what the First Minister did not mention but the-, I think that in October, it is well-known that the Education Office that has operated out of St John's since the days of the *LIA* will close and will re-open as part of the Education Department that operates out of the Nunatsiavut Community of Makkovik. And that is a step to ensure that the offices are in Nunatsiavut communities where they rightly belong, Madam Speaker. I hope that was helpful to answer the Member's question from Canada.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Saunders?

MR. SAUNDERS:

No, thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* I'd like to call upon the Chair of NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Greg Flowers, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Would you consider an allocation of traditional food for Happy Valley, Goose Bay, to the institutions and organizations that house Nunatsiavut beneficiaries from the communities in the region of Nunatsiavut, for example, Long-term care, Labrador Correctional Centre, Supportive Housing, Homeless Shelter, et cetera?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Chair Kemuksigak. I call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you Community Chair for your question. I certainly would-, what's the word I'm looking for, I wonder-, would cater to anything that somebody wants to bring forward to my Department, you know, to help our beneficiaries living anywhere in-, outside the Land community. So if you put something to my department in writing, we certainly would look at it and have to bring that, of course, to the NEC. But, you know, I don't have any issue with bringing it. I can't say that-, what the NEC's response would be to it, but I certainly would take, you know, take it forward to the department to see what we can do for what the Member is asking. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek,* Minister Flowers. Does the Member for NunaKatiget Chairperson Kemuksigak have a supplementary question? No? Thank you,

very much. And that concludes our "Oral Question" period. I don't have anybody else. So thank you, very much for the great question period that we had today. I think that's the longest one we've had in quite a while. We're now moving on to *Item Number Eight*, "Written questions". Are there any written questions today? Seeing no written questions we will move on to *Item Number Nine*, "Returns to written questions." There are no returns to written questions so we will move on to *Item Number 10*, "Petitions." There are no petitions today. We will move on to *Item Number 11*, "The response to petitions." At the January 2021 sitting the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers presented a petition of 167 signatures, 123 of whom were beneficiaries, stating that the Covid Supplement Program should be available to "everyone, not just approved people". The President of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Johannes Lampe responded within the response timeframe on March 24th, 2021 explaining why these emergency Covid programs would only be available to those beneficiaries who met the financial criteria. The response that is available is in our packages in front of you. But I will ask President Lampe to read his response for the benefit of those who are listening and for the purpose of the Hansard. I now recognize President Johannes Lampe. I'm sorry, it's in-, under Tab Eight in the very back, the second page of our binder.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. On March 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced \$305 million for a new distinctions- based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address the immediate needs in First Nations,

Inuit and Metis nation communities. The fund was to ensure rapid access by those who need it the most. A total of \$45 million was allocated to Inuit to provide community resources and relief from Covid -19 implications. Of that amount, the Nunatsiavut Government received \$5.33 million to be used, specifically, to support beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. According to the Government of Canada Website, Indigenous Community Support Fund. SIC-ILC.gc.ca, the fund provides Indigenous leadership with the flexibility needed to design and implement community-based solutions to prevent, prepare and respond to the spread of Covid-19 within their communities." These funds can be used for measures including, but not limited to support for elders and vulnerable community members, measures to address food insecurity, educational and other support for children, mental health assistance and emergency response services and preparedness measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council approved initiatives to be funded through this program last spring. The plan for implementing this initiative was forwarded to Indigenous Services Canada. In April of 2020, the Nunatsiavut Government signed a funding agreement with Indigenous Services Canada for community support funding. The eligible expenses under that agreement are as follows: Number 1) Direct financial and material support for our vulnerable community members, including support for the procurement of food, provisions and other necessities of life. 2) Measures to address food insecurity including the procurement, transport and distribution of food stuffs, by pre-paid cards and cash

disbursements, and provisions to eligible community members to participate in local harvest activities. 3) Educational and other support for children including goods and services to enable electronic learning and other means to facilitate growth and development for children. Number 4), Mental Health and Emergency Response Services, which include for counselling services, social and material supports, to implement recommended social distancing practices, 5) The procurement of personal protective equipment for those providing essential community services and high risk individuals, and all other necessities to emergency health response not otherwise covered by Covid-19 related initiatives. 6) Payments for elders, including honoraria for community services for the Public Health Emergency. The Nunatsiavut Government received an additional \$2,677,000 in September 2020 bringing the total amount of funding to \$8,320,000. An additional \$2,677,000 was received in February 2021. As you can see, Madam Speaker, all Nunatsiavut Emergency Response Programs have clear objectives and are aimed at assisting beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* who are most vulnerable in dealing with impacts associated with the Corona Virus Covid-19 pandemic. With the exception of elders 65 years and over, those who avail of the programs are required to complete an application which includes proof of income, and number of individuals within their family units, et cetera. While we appreciate the concerns of the petitioners, the Nunatsiavut Government is pleased with the implementation of all Covid-19 Emergency Response programs thus far. Nunatsiavut Government staff

will continue in monitoring the implementation of all programs. However, there are no immediate plans to revisit or amend any at this time.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. We will now move on to *Item Number 12*, which are "Reports in special committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees today. So we will now move on to *Item Number 13*, "The tabling of documents". I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to Table the report required under Section 111 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Andersen. That document will be numbered, "Tabled Document 01-410. I would now like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. I would like to Table three documents today which include the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission Work Plan, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission up and running documentation and the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer 2020 Presidential Election Report.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. These documents will be numbered as Tabled Documents 02-410, 03-410 and 04-410 respectively. Are there any other documents to tabled today? If not, we will move on to *Item Number 14*, which is "Notices of Motions." There are no notices of motions today.

We will now take a break for 25 minutes, at 2:40 and return at 3:05. Thank you.

[Recess]

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Good day. I'd like to welcome everybody back. I'd like to call to order at 3:13 p.m. I'd now like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable, Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: Just for clarity Madam Speaker, are we on Item 15, "Notice of Motion for"...

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: My sincerest apologies. We are on *Item Number 15*, "Notice of motions for the first reading of bills." And my apologies about that.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. *Uhalitik*. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 9th 2021, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Anthony Andersen the first reading of Bill 2021-03, the Nunatsiavut Constitution (Amendment Act 2021.) And Honourable Speaker, under Standing Order 49(2) I seek the unanimous consent of the Assembly to proceed with first reading of this bill today *Nakummek, Uhatti*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to proceed to the First Reading of the Bill today. All those in favour? Any opposed? None opposed. There is unanimous consent, Bill 2021-03 will proceed to First Reading today at the appropriate time. That concludes the notices of motion for the First Reading of Bills today. We will now move on to *Item Number 16*, "Motions." There are no

motions today so we will move on to Item Number 17, "The First Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Tony Andersen that Bill 2021-03, the *Nunatsiavut Constitution (Amendment Act 2021)* be introduced and read for the first time *Nakummek UKatti*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker, I would like to speak to the Bill. Madam Speaker, at the March session, I tabled the proposed constitutional and legislative amendments regarding fixed election dates. That document listed all parts of the constitution, the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* and the *Inuit Community Governments Elections Act*, which contained specific dates for elections and suggested revisions to allow greater flexibility in polling days while maintaining the spirit and intention of our electoral process. While it's clear that these *Acts* will have to be addressed in the near future, Madam Speaker, part 4.18.21 of the *Constitution*, states that, "A bill amending the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* may not include provisions other than constitutional amendments and matters connected with the amendments." As a result, what is contained in this Bill are only the proposed changes to the *Constitution*. And if this Bill receives 60 percent support from the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and 50 percent support of Inuit age 16 and older, then the accompanying *Acts* will be brought back to the Assembly for amendment." As I have stated previously, Madam Speaker,

Covid-19 has clearly demonstrated our need to have greater flexibility in our election dates. Such emergencies every facet of our lives and it is through these amendments that our Government will be able to effectively respond to these situations during elections in the future by moving these polling days. And I trust, Madam Speaker, that the Assembly will endorse the spirit and intention of this Bill upon its first reading. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? Okay. No other Members wish to speak. Does the First Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. I have no further comments. I'd like to conclude debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, First Minister Edmunds. That concludes debate on the First Reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2021-01(ph) on First Reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? None opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2021-03 has had first reading. With respect to the timing of Second Reading, I recognize the First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker and *Nakummek*, to the Assembly for endorsing the Bill upon its First Reading. Honourable Speaker, I'm seeking the unanimous consent of the Assembly under Standing Order 54(3), the Bill 2021-03 proceed to second reading tomorrow. *Nakummek.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to proceed to Second Reading of the bill

tomorrow. All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, there is unanimous consent. The Bill will proceed to Second Reading tomorrow at the appropriate time. We are now on to *Item Number 18*. There are no "Second reading of bills" today. We will now move on to *Item Number 19*, "Assent to bills", today. There are no assent to bills today. We will now move on to *Item number 20*, which is "Adjournment". The Assembly is adjourned at 3:20 p.m. until Tuesday-, sorry, until Wednesday, June the 9th at 9:00 a.m. Thank you, very much. *Nakummek*. Thank you to everybody for listening. Thank you.

[Adjourned]

Day 2 June 9, 2021

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Good morning. I'd like to call to order the Day 2 of the 10th Session of the Spring Session of the Nunatsiavut Assembly at 9:05 a.m. I'd like to welcome everybody here this morning. I would also like to invite Charlotte Wolfrey, AngajukKâk for Rigolet, to say our opening prayer.

MS. WOLFREY: [Recites prayer].

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Amen. *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey, for that prayer. I would like to welcome those who are joining or listening to us virtually today. We are still under COVID-19 pandemic protocols with no visitors in the gallery. And I would also like to welcome Nicholas Flowers who is joining us again today and Gus and Ches, and thank you to our OK Society staff, Sarah and Tabia, for joining us again today. We are now moving on to Minister

Statements. Are there any Ministers who wish to give a statement today? I call upon the Minister of Department of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under Health Services. DHSD has awarded a contract for a request for a proposals process to complete an environmental scan of current Nunatsiavut Government electronic and physical hard copy data assets and provide recommendations for moving forward. This funding was accessed as part of the Inuit Health Survey preparation. The Inuit Health Survey co-ordinator is working closely with communications assistant to develop a regional communications plan. The IHS co-ordinator and communications assistant completed a two-week visit to the five communities in Nunatsiavut to complete the influencer series. Ateegal is working on a three-pronged national strategy; a website, video and poster series. We are hoping that the national website will be ready to launch within the next month so that the regional communications can also begin. CPAC. The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer project is gaining momentum, again, after many activities being on hold due to COVID. Community engagement sessions are planned this month in Nunatsiavut communities. A gathering is being planned for late July, 2021 to provide the CPAC steering committee with an update on what was heard from the engagement sessions and to plan next steps. We are fortunate to have a master public health student placed with us and they will be focusing on the tobacco control file. Madam Speaker, NG Hygienist Visits. Wendy

Wells is currently in Nunatsiavut. She extended her stay due to the current COVID outbreak and case numbers in Nova Scotia. She also had to self-isolate in Makkovik during this current trip due to a potential exposure on a flight while she travelled in from Halifax to St. John's. She also encountered schedule delays due to the inclement weather during this trip. Applied for and was granted an exemption from the Newfoundland and Labrador Chief Medical Officer of Health as an essential health worker with the support of Nunatsiavut Government.

Dental Visits. Dr. Power just completed a trip into several NG communities and has decided to stay in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador during her break between trips and not return to Nova Scotia due to their current COVID outbreak and case numbers and their requirement for isolation while travelling from one province to another. Applied for and was granted an exemption from the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Officer of Health Office as an essential health worker with the support of NG. Vision. Two hundred plus clients were recently seen during the clinic held in Nain during late April and early May. Their time on the ground was extended due to inclement weather. NG was approached on May 6th, 2021 to provide nursing support to Iqaluit's COVID 19 Vaccine Clinic. Discussion is ongoing, but dates proposed are June 14th to the 18th, 2021. This would involve some NG public health nurses as support. National Nurses Week was May 10th to the 16th and this year's theme was "We Answer the Call." An email was sent out to the nurses, community health aids, and the home support workers

thanking them for their work during this pandemic. In addition, nursing management posted a recognition on share point. World TB Day was March 24th. There were various activities throughout each of the communities. Promo items displaying our TB logo was available for distribution to community members for events. Social media was used widely for education and awareness. In Goose Bay, Jan and Sharon Lethbridge visited the shelter and to the education session and draw for some prizes. In Rigolet soup takeout with TB information and word puzzles, prize draws. Makkovik, they wrapped their activities into their winter carnival. Students in the school decorated the class doors, education on DHSD Facebook site, question and answer for prize entry. Students watched TB YouTube videos. Posters were put up around town to advertise and people without internet could call the office. Answer a question to give a TB symptom to be entered into the prize draw. In Hopedale they had a community breakfast. Education on DHSD Facebook, Q and A session, winter poster contest. In Nain, radio bingo and word search, TB info booklet was placed into all mailboxes, social media awareness and education. At a more regional level, President Johannes Lampe released a world TB proclamation. TB masks were distributed and a pic taken outside in front of the building. An updated TB infographic was created and distributed throughout the region. And, finally, Madam Speaker, an update on the COVID-19 vaccination clinic through Nunatsiavut. As I reported, the last one was in March per my update, and this update is as of last week. The numbers have changed as

more people are being vaccinated and the Federal Government has permitted youth aged 12 and up to get vaccinated which is a great thing so our families and our communities increase in our numbers. Overall, Makkovik for dose one had overall percentage rate of 92.1 percent. Excellent job Makkovik. Hopedale had 78.3 percent. Nain, 80.5 percent. Rigolet, 90 percent. Again, great job, Rigolet. Postville, 77.2 percent. That was for the first dosage. Overall, for the first dosage, 82.4 percent. For dose two, Makkovik, 73.2 percent. Hopedale, 78.1 percent. Nain, 66.3 percent. Rigolet, 77.2 percent and Postville, 70.9 percent for overall, 71.8 percent for the second dosage. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. I now call upon the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, yesterday I didn't finish all my notes, so today I'll be talking about the Non-Renewable Resource Division. Madam Speaker, on the exploration front, the industry has certainly picked up since the last Assembly. There has been an increase in interest from the exploring companies to explore for copper and uranium in Labrador Inuit Land Claim Area. Madam Speaker, Commander Resources has submitted a work plan to the Province to explore their South Voisey's Bay Project located in the Donner River Project area . That is deemed a part of LISA. Nunatsiavut Government has received their work plan and submitted our comments to the Province. Madam Speaker, International Consolidate Uranium has

submitted a work plan to the Province to explore their Mustang Lake Project located in LISA. Nunatsiavut Government has received their work plan and submitted our comments to the Province. Madam Speaker, International Consolidated Uranium has submitted a work plan to the Nunatsiavut Government and to the Province to explore their Mustang Lake Project located on LIL. The Nunatsiavut Government approved their work plan while the land use applications and Province work plans review process is still ongoing. Madam Speaker, Altius Minerals has submitted a work plan to Nunatsiavut Government and the Province to explore their claims located on LIL and LISA. The plan to explore for copper and uranium in Postville area, all reviews are currently underway. Madam Speaker, Prospector Ricky Edmunds from Postville has received work plans and land use approvals from the Nunatsiavut Government and Province to prospect his mineral claims at Unlucky Head and East Turnaviks. Madam Speaker, on the quarry, the Division has sent out reminders to the ICG's that quarry work plan approvals for this season are required by the end of June. Madam Speaker, on the oil and gas front, the working group review is underway on the first draft of the strategist environment assessment for Labrador shelf offshore area cultured by Nunatsiavut Government and Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board. Finally, Madam Speaker, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources would like to thank James Lai for his hard work and dedication as mining analyst with Nunatsiavut Government for the last 19 months. We wish him all the best in his

future endeavours. Environment Division. Madam Speaker, the Environment Division continues to move forward working on the climate change file. A Nunatsiavut Government Climate Change Committee has been set up with representatives from culture, archaeology, health, economic development, food security, infrastructure and environment with a frame of reference that has been put to the Executive Council for approval. Given that climate change impacts all aspects of the government, it is important to have a mechanism to discuss those issues, provide support, co-ordinate in relationships to funding opportunities and projects. Additionally, the committee will work on developing a Nunatsiavut climate change strategy that will feed into the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy that was released by ITK in June, 2019. Lastly, Madam Speaker, the Environment Division is excited to have Michelle Saunders working as an intern for 12 weeks. Michelle is a beneficiary working on her master's degree at the Grenfell campus of Memorial University studying partridges. Ptarmigan, but we all know partridges and connection with Inuit and local knowledge. Her project will provide important information in a species of importance to Labrador Inuit. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. I now call upon the Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I just realized that I did not provide a copy of my statement to Gus and I apologize for that and hopefully by September we have the pages back that makes a great contribution to

our Assembly and very helpful. I'm going to keep my statement very short today, Madam Speaker, as during question period yesterday most of my statement came out in answers to the very good questions that people asked. Madam Speaker, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have appealed the favourable decision of Justice Khaladkar in the Voisey's Bay mining royalties case to the Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal. Now these arguments will be held in St. John's on November 15th, 16th, and 17th of this year, 2021. In May, 2021 the Nunatsiavut Government received a general assessment risk rating for 2020, 2021 from Indigenous Services Canada. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to say that we received a risk rating of 1.00. This represents a low risk within the Indigenous Services Canada and is an exceptionally low score. We are doing well. Our HR Division, and I did mention some of this stuff yesterday in answers as well, HR Division undertook a review at the end of May, 2021 of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service to determine the number of permanent and temporary positions in total by community as well as the number of beneficiaries in these positions. The total number of employees has grown by 15 percent since a year ago, up to 364 people. Madam Speaker, of this work force, 81 are beneficiaries consistent with the prior year. The Civil Service was also broken down by gender of which 80 percent are females and 20 percent are males. I did say yesterday that the number of permanent beneficiaries is 88 percent and I was correct. Although our work force says that beneficiaries are, are 81 percent, but this represents permanent and temporary, and when

we start to talk about temporary, the percentage goes down a bit, but I'm still very proud to say that 88 percent of our permanent work force are beneficiaries of *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, Madam Speaker.

Again, I gave a brief update on this yesterday to a question from the Member from Makkovik. Madam Speaker, as you know, the Nunatsiavut Government submitted a proposal to the Government of Canada under the Universal Broadband Fund. We have not received any response to this proposal. However, Madam Speaker, I continue to have calls with the MP, Yvonne Jones, on this proposal and advocate for her support in moving this forward so that we can get our broadband service in a timely manner rather than years of wait because of our short construction season. The Director of IT, as well, continues to engage with other parties on potential long-term solutions for broadband in Nunatsiavut.

My statement for the day, Madam Speaker, but I would like to say that on behalf of the Human Resource Division, I would like to, at this time, thank Gus Semigak for his service, his dedication and not only to this Assembly that he makes a contribution, Madam Speaker, but for the tremendous dedication and work that he's given to the construction and the renovations to the church and the buildings in Hebron. That is Gus' homeland, and this is where he came from before the days of relocation. And it's not so much work for Gus is when he returns to Hebron. He's back to his land and it's so willingly that he goes there to make contribution to ensure that the past is not forgotten and that his homeland, his community is always remembered. And I want to thank

Gus for that on behalf of our Human Resources Division who does hire him for that work. I know that Gus will retire, but Gus will not retire his call upon to go to Hebron to do more work and, certainly, in his retirement then, although, I suppose, if he's going to work you can't really call it retirement, but for him it's not work to go there, and I want to again say thank you very much, Gus. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Applause].

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Minister Andersen, for those kind words for our interpreter/translator. He's a very special person. I now call upon the Minister of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In our Economic Development Division, Policy Development. We completed a review of the final draft report in late May of our Compliance Policies and Procedures report. This report makes recommendations on the management of our Inuit Business Registry and procurement processes. These recommendations will be brought forward for NEC in the coming months for review and approval. Economic Assessments. The economic assessments both for the community and the region are nearly complete. The Munn Harris Centre, along with staff support, are finalizing these documents for distribution in late June. Building NG capacity in this area of strategical development, Division staff will begin training this week in data collection with their tools to recreate the assessment tools as needed. The Rigolet Gas Station. The Rigolet Inuit Community Government has been confirmed as the interim operator for the Rigolet Gas Station. The initial contract

period of November to April, 2021 has been extended until the end of June, 2021. Financial assistance has been provided by the NG and Federal Government. Training was provided by Woodward staff for RICG and NG staff to accurately document the sales and dips associated with the operation completed from April 21st to 23rd. We are finalizing the new templates and the processes with the RICG. The goal of the NG remains to facilitate the long-term sustainability of the gas station and find private sector operators. Information continues to be provided to the business community. We anticipated a potential business proposal for the gas station operation late May, 2021. We are following up on this interest and will prepare any potential support requests to be brought to NEC for review.

Business Support. Between January and March the Division had 10 new businesses added to the Inuit Business Registry regarding procurement 24 underground and 4 regular site operation packages were resume from Vale with our Division submitting 62 Inuit business nominations and 7 QBE nominations. There are 15 active clients, 11 in business start-up, 4 in business growth.

Mealy Mountains Entrepreneurship Program. This contract completion date has been extended. Substantial discussion on final report led to the request of significant revisions regarding the final product. We have extended the contract for the summer to ensure a full program is developed. The program, once implemented, will relate specifically to the Mealy Mountain opportunity but will serve as a pilot to inform our direction and options to offer enhanced entrepreneurship services for the Division.

Funding Distribution. Fiscal Finance Agreement Funding. We had received and approved an application valued at 6,700 for the development of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government Strategic Community Plan. We have funds available in this program related to economic development, employment and business development opportunities. Applications are welcomed and reviewed on a continuous intake and evaluation. Community Economic Development Program. We have distributed funding for ICT capacity totaling nearly 130,000. Specifically, we provided over 42,000 for our community development officer from Makkovik Inuit Community Government. We are finalizing funding for the CDO position in Nain Inuit Community Government valued at 55,000. An admission interpreter for Hopedale Inuit Community Government valued at 31,000. We currently have funds available within the CEDP program. Funding is available for the continuation of ICG development, officer positions for the current fiscal year. We encourage all ICG's to apply. COVID Research and Relief Programming. As noted, we have received federal COVID relief funding in the amount of 117,000 for Indigenous Business Funding Program. This fund targets small businesses and artists impacted by the pandemic. With our Partnering Division of Tourism, the application evaluation and selection process are complete. We are prepping the program for review at the July NEC session. Once approved, we will begin immediate promotion and application acceptance. Self Employment Benefits Program. Through consultations with Education and Inuit Pathways, it

was determined that the current Self-Employment Benefits Program would best be housed and administered under Economic Development versus Education. We have since reviewed the program and made key program changes regarding duration. Eligibility and Additional Supports. All documentation revisions have been complete. We are preparing a program relaunch in mid to late June, 2021. We currently have demand for this program and are excited to work with our sister division to offer this enhanced support for business start-ups. This will be a continuous intake and evaluation program. Staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our team for their efforts to make the noted projects and programs a reality during this difficult year. Particularly, we would like to celebrate the contributions of Melva Williams, our Business Development Manager, as she took on a new role last week in the HR Division. Melva worked over six and a half years in her senior role providing an unwavering guidance for our junior staff and offered a level of competency, work ethic and output that allowed us to realize our many successes. As Melva takes on this new professional adventure, we wish her the best during this transition period and congratulate her new department on gaining such a valued and capable employee. Thank you, Melva, for your many contributions. Education. Division Restructure. The Counting Clerk II position has been filled. Ruth Broomfield started on March 18th and is doing well in her new role. She's definitely an asset to our finance staff. Kailey Webb has accepted the position of Secretary/Receptionist for the Office of Makkovik. Kailey's currently in

St. John's and finishing up her Executive Office Management Program at College of North Atlantic and will be moving to Makkovik with her family at the end of the month. Kailey is scheduled to start work on July 12th.

Jillian Bartlett, Secretary/Receptionist at the PSSSP Office in St. John's is the first of the staff to find new employment after the news of the office closure was announced back in October. Jill was a vital member of our education team and we are sad to see her go, but wish her all the best in her new job. Jill's last day is June 10th.

Inuit Post-Secondary Education Funding Program. The request was tabled to NEC to allow all three funding pots; the PSSSP, the ISETP, also known as Inuit Pathways, and the new IPSE funding pot to be administered by one policy manual. This was approved and a new policy manual and accompanying student handbook will soon be finalized. New and current students will be given a new student handbook as a guide to understanding both the funding policies as well as the financial and soft supports that we provide.

Fall 2021 Applications. To date we have received applications for the following. Eighty-one on-time applications and 38 late applications for the fall 2021 semester. We had 123 continuing students this fall and 4 applications may have already been received for winter 2022. These applications are for funding programs combined so to include applications for trades, university and other college programs.

Full-time Support for Online Learning. An extension was approved for NEC to allow the Education Division to continue to provide full-time support to those students attending full-time studies online. Despite the fact the many post-

secondary institutions will be returning to in-class delivery, many students have been comfortable with online delivery and prefer this method of study. In addition, some students are still weary of the public health restrictions and the presence of COVID-19 and would therefore prefer to study from home. This is a temporary policy change and will be reviewed again in August, 2022. Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership Update. An extension request to the Federal Government was submitted, as well as a proposal for new funds. These requests are based on two key factors. First, because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, training programs and community-based delivery efforts were delayed or cancelled and, second, the Munn Expansion Project is behind schedule and some training has been difficult to arrange and align with employment opportunities. Training efforts are still needed in order to fill the required need by Vale and VBME for underground mine expansion at Voisey's Bay. To date, an extension has been granted to LATP by the Federal Government and an additional amount of 1.2 million has been committed. There is still no word on a new proposal. Crown Book Purchase for Grade kindergarten to 12 Students. We are still waiting on the delivery of crown books for the K to 6 students in Nunatsiavut and the Upper Lake Melville area. K to 9 Social Studies Resources. Work continues on a Grade 3 textbook with Roxanne Nochasak having been hired to illustrate the graphics for this resource. Project Developer Janice Shoaning is hoping to meet with Grade 3, 4 and 7 teachers early in the next school year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Palliser. Are there any other Ministers who wish to give a statement today? I'll call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds. Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on May 6th, Nunatsiavut Affairs met with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Minister Loveless and several of these Ministers attended where we had discussed the pre-feasibility study in terms of reference for the road, pre-feasibility studies for upgrades of all airstrips into Nunatsiavut. We've raised concerns over the five-year marine infrastructure plan for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and how that applies to Nunatsiavut. And we talked of ways forward to deal with the loss of Lewisport and the connection to the island. *Uhalitik*, I provided an update to the Assembly via email on May 11th on each of those pieces and I'll read directly from some of that update. "Underscoring the meeting or the message that we are in a transportation crisis and over the last few years we reduced from two airlines to one. They were reduced from two vessels to one and we have continually lost the ability to choose. That our hands have been forced with the loss of a connection with the island and the lack of consultation on services over the years is unacceptable." It was stated in that email, Madam Speaker, and I read directly once more, "Community consultation has been stressed. It has been voiced continual at the NEC table as an important component of pre-feasibility studies or any conversations around the

road. This has been voiced directly to the Premier by several NG Ministers and is a message that was reiterated in this meeting."

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Excuse me, First Minister Edmunds. Could you please slow down for the translator? Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. "And we've asked that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador work through the community consultations. It is extremely important that each Nunatsiavut community is canvassed for their support of a road. And if they are in support, how and under what conditions it would allow greater access to Labrador Inuit Lands? Consolation with the Mushua Innu First Nation will also be integral in this process." Madam Speaker, these consultations should not be dependent on the prefeasibility studies, nor should it require any substantial spending. There was some positive reception to this preliminary request and we will follow-up with the Minister's Department. Madam Speaker, the transportation deficit is abundantly clear to all around this table and the residents of our communities. However, the path forward will undoubtedly be a challenging one. While there has been some small costs to celebrate in that the Province has been willing to undertake the prefeasibility studies for the road, a damper was quickly placed on this news as the terms of reference were delayed and as we learned that the Province is seeking additional funding to begin these studies. Time is ticking on addressing the longstanding gap in transportation infrastructure. However, we'll continue to push as much as possible to shrink the transportation gap and allow Labrador Inuit a better ability to

travel more freely and affordably. Myself and President Lampe have also had the opportunity to participate in a meeting with Minister Miller, Minister Vandell and other Inuit Region leaders at the end of April following the announcements of new Indigenous specific infrastructure spending under the federal budget. Madam Speaker, we look forward to additional conversations on how these funds will be administered with the distinctions-based approach for Inuit to ensure that our infrastructure can be brought in closer line with the rest of Canada, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Excuse me, First Minister Edmunds. I'm just cognizant of the time. If we have a motion from the floor to extend Minister statement, we can do so to allow you to finish your statement. Okay. I see a motion by AngajukKâk Dicker to extend the time. Seconded by Ms. Onalik, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency. All in favour? Thank you. Motion carries. Thank you. Please proceed, First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Assembly, and the timing on that was quite good because now I can go onto the remainder of the files from Affairs. I'll move now onto Membership and Enrollment. Madam Speaker, the Membership Department at the Nain Administration Building has hired Peggy Anderson as the Membership Filing Clerk. She had started her role on May 25th, and we are pleased to have her on board. With respect to appointments to Membership Committees, Madam Speaker, Joe Williams of Happy Valley-Goose Bay has been appointed to the Rigolet and Lake Melville Membership Committee and Roger Shiwak has been

reappointed to this committee as well. Christine Vincent-Winters has been appointed to the Hopedale Membership Committee. We now have a full compliment of Members on all Membership Committees and as of June 4th, we have a total of 7,039 beneficiaries of the *Land Claims Agreement*. Under the Marine Freight Storage Facilities, Madam Speaker, the tender was awarded to Goose Real Estate to undertake a design and engineering for safe freight storage facilities. Preliminary work has begun on the design and engineering for Nain, Postville and Rigolet, and the goal is to complete the facilities this year barring any unforeseen delays. Madam Speaker, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and Torngat Joint Fisheries Board. *Uhalitik*, there have been concerns over the Provincial funding for these boards for some time. And while 10-year budgets were recently agreed upon by the Federal, Provincial and Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Newfoundland has been unwilling or unable to allocate multiple-year funding through its budgetary process. This inability to commit to a long-term funding arrangement has clear consequences on the boards and their obligations and their mandates. As we have seen quite recently how the budgetary process can be affected due to pandemics and elections. We have written to Minister Dempster to express these concerns. We have not received a clear response on the path forward to ensure that the Province can effectively meet its funding obligations to these boards. We are working on a meeting with Minister Dempster's office for this month. And, finally, Madam Speaker, under Public

Property, NG has released an RFP for design and engineering for a new office building in Makkovik. As previously updated, the Rigolet DHSD building will have design engineering completed this fall and NG's in the process of undertaking an air conditioning assessment for all our offices to ensure that buildings have proper air quality and air temperature.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. We are moving on to item number four which are "Member Statements". Are there any Members who wish to make a statement today? Okay. And I call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good morning to you all. Madam Speaker, I'll be short and sweet this morning. But this morning I would like to congratulate Alison Gear and Joshua Flowers who will be graduating from B. L. Morrison School in the next few days or whatever. So I'd just like to take my hats off to them and wish them well in their future. Also, Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize somebody today from my community who has taken the initiative to do some online *Inuttitut* training and this person is Alana Edmunds. She has been doing teaching. I have joined a few nights myself. And, you know, as I was there listening to her and trying to pronounce some of the words, my thoughts just rang back to her grandmother, the late Silpa Edmunds and how happy she would be to see and know that her granddaughter was taking this upon her shoulders to teach the Inuttitut language and also, I guess, Madam Speaker, she would be really, really proud of our First Minister McCauley

Tyler who, I understand, is also advanced in the language itself. So, Madam Speaker, I'd just like to recognize her for this. I think it's very important. Madam Speaker, something else I would like to recognize here related to my community, another person, and that's Samantha Jacque. Samantha Jacque has been doing some in-person courses over the last short while and one of those is filling snowshoes. Not the YouTube video type. The hands-on type. Filling snowshoes. She's a lady. She has different groups each night and she's teaching how to fill snowshoes which is very, very important to our people along the coast and anywhere where people wear snowshoes. I look at those pictures back there on the wall of the five communities and, you know, that was one of the tools for our communities and still is. How can we go out and harvest firewood or harvest wildlife without a pair of snowshoes on the back of your Skidoo? You know, my grandfather said to me one time I was going for a partridge hunt and I happened to forget my snowshoes back home. When we got to the tilt, my grandfather said to me "You're trying to be like a caribou, going around with no snowshoes on." So very important that we carry and learn how to make the fill snowshoes. Madam Speaker, in the same breath, that same lady, Samantha Jacque, last fall 2020 was taught by her dad, a very good carpenter in Postville, Roy Pilgrim, how to build a flat. That's something, Madam Speaker. That's two things. How to fill snowshoes, how to build a flat. We might not see many flats these days. For those who don't know the terms of a flat, or the terminology I'm using, to some people it's a dory. Okay? But

it's a rowboat, small rowboat. She and her daughter, Caitlyn, who's our office receptionist in Postville, has stood by her father and grandfather's side and they built a flat. As of a week ago Samantha has completed the flat on her own for her brother in Nain, Mike Pilgrim. You know, when I read this online and I spoke to her about it, you know, something just touched me. We still have those out there that will take the initiative and the responsibility of keeping up the traditions and the way of our lives. You know, what we once see. And, yes, Mr. Tony Andersen, who's to say down the road she's not going to build a clinker built flat 'cause I know you're choosy when it comes to flats and I think you take pride in the clinker built as opposed to the plywood one. A clinker built flat, people, is the plank one as opposed to just plywood. So, Madam Speaker, I just wanted to mention this and, I guess, finally, I'd like to thank the Department of Education and Economic Development. I had a conversation or two this past week, or last week with the DM of that department and there's a course starting at home, I think it's tomorrow night or next Thursday and that's going to be net making right from scratch, making nets, knitting nets. So that's another thing. So snowshoe making, building flats and net making, very important, Madam Speaker, and, people, as we travel to our home communities, I wish you all well and have a safe and a healthy summer and play all your games safe. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I should remind everybody that every Member is permitted to have two statements at five minutes per

statement. I will be strictly adhering to that today. The next Member I would like to call upon, please, is for the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen. Thank you.

MR. J. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief and this morning I'll be talking about our grads in Makkovik. We have five graduations in Makkovik this year. Two of them set forward and Braden Davis plan to take this year off giving them time to think about what they want to do before heading off to post-secondary next year. Harleevus Ikkusekis is taking a transition year at the college in Goose Bay and then off to Memorial University Nursing School next year. Braden Anderson will be heading to Memorial University to take education courses towards a teaching degree. And Cameron Flowers will be heading to the College of North Atlantic for his transition year and hopes to get into the medical field, probably in nursing, next year. I would like to mention a project that Cameron Flowers has been working on since Grade 8. When he came up with the idea to help build a water well in Kenya, he saw the need for clean water where there was none and ran the idea by his teacher, Annie Brinson, about maybe fundraising. She agreed with him that it would be a worthwhile cause. His goal was to raise \$5,000 and, Madam Speaker, he ended up raising \$5,215. Hats off to Cameron. We have a fine group of fine graduates. Good luck to them in their future endeavours. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Good morning, everyone. First off, I'd like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government for flying the flag at half mast for showing support for the Indigenous peoples of Canada, in particular, the survivors of residential schools. During the past week with the discovery of the 215 bodies of children in Kamloops, BC, they have held gatherings all over the place and, in particular, First Light in St. John's has put up a tent. They've had many people there. They've had speakers from the government, interviews with radio and television personnel. They've had food, drinks, drummings. Transportation was supplied. Stickers and support for any individual members that required their help. It has been very helpful for the people in the greater St. John's area and even all people from the Avalon Peninsula that come in and they've helped them out. I'd just like to recognize that organization in St. John's. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Saunders. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. This morning I rise with a very heavy heart in hearing the news of the tragic ATV accident that occurred in our community yesterday that claimed the life of a young man. In my Member Statement yesterday I spoke of inter-generational trauma and the pain and issues that it causes. Madam Speaker, this is a prime example of inter-generational trauma. We, as a government, need to work together for the betterment of our communities, not just our Nunatsiavut Government, but all governments and agencies must work together. We are losing too many of our people. To the family of

Clemence Onalik, his partner, Hillary Dicker, daughter, Tenisha, parents Amos and Doris Onalik and family, I extend my deepest condolences, love prayers. On to a brief outdate on HICG News. Once again, we are short-staffed at HICG Office. Our town manager has returned to her town clerk position so we are currently without a town manager. I have taken on those duties in the interim. Julia Pijogge has accepted the CYN position. Welcome to our team, Julia. Madam Speaker, I am extremely happy with the funding we received from the joint management funding. We'll be starting several projects this summer which will help greatly with the water and sewer maintenance in our town. Our 11 lot subdivision is now complete and all lots are filled. We are pleased if young couples will be building new homes on these lots. As you know, land development is extremely expensive to develop here in Nunatsiavut. With some of the funding received from joint management, HICG will be investing in a feasibility study of a road and land development towards Trout Ponds. We were also happy to receive funding for five summer students who would help with running our programs and services during the summer. I thank all HIG staff for their hard work and dedication in running our town. To all Assembly Members, thank you for your continued work. I wish you and your families a safe and pleasant summer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, AngajukKâk Flowers, for your statement. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatti. Like other Assembly Members, I would like to offer my prayers and respect for the 215 children's remains that were discovered in Kamloops, BC. This is horrific and a stark reminder of the tragedy of residential schools. On behalf of community of Rigolet, I want to offer condolences to the communities of Nain, Hopedale and Postville on their recent losses in their communities. We share in your sorrow and grief. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank *Tasiujatsoak Trust Fund* for providing Rigolet Inuit Community Government with funding to cover our local outdoor community rink. We're hoping to get the work started as soon as possible and hoping that this year the children and the people of Rigolet can skate all winter long and play hockey every day. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, I talked about our boardwalk with much pride and excitement. Today I want to talk about the need for repairs. We had to close it down, sadly, because someone got hurt and it's in everyone's best interest right now it's closed down. We're trying to negotiate with someone to do repairs. We've tried a couple of times to get labourers to do repairs and we haven't had anyone that that applied. And at the end of our boardwalk, it's a big attraction. There's an archaeological dig that is a long house, a sawed long house, and at some point, we want to reconstruct that sawed long house alongside of the archaeological dig. That was one of the things I really wanted to do and I hope we get that done. I think it'll be a big attraction for tourists. And today, Madam Speaker, I want to thank Sandy and Carl Michelin for their service to our community. Sandy and

Carl had a convenience store called "The Grub Box." Sadly, they are in the process of closing it down. Sandy and Carl, on behalf of the residents of Rigolet, I want to wish you well in your future endeavours. We know you will do something else. Your entrepreneurial spirit will prevail.

Thank you for the service you provided. And, Madam Speaker, I'm proud to say that Rigolet, in the first week of June, has raised a pride flag in an effort to unify our community and to honour everyone no matter what their sexual orientation or their preference in life is. So I'm proud to say we've done that. And, lastly, Madam Speaker, I'm going to try and pay tribute to my friend, Gus, whom I've known for many years. I was going to try and do it in *Inuttitut*, but I'm chickening out because I got myself too stressed out. So, Gus, my friend, thank you for always being there to help our people and for being dedicated to *Inuttitut*. Thank you for taking the words that we speak and translating them so that all our people could understand them. And thank you for always greeting me in *Inuttitut* and for all the gentle pats on my back. I'm wishing you all the best. Thank you. Take care. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Community of Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker, and I want to thank AngajukKâk Sheppard for alluding to my cousin, Alana. For those who are unaware, she was one of the graduates of the Inuit Bachelor of Education Program and she's working with the school currently doing language programming with the kids there and, as Glenn has stated, she's taking it in the evening

on her own time to open this up to the rest of the community as well.

And, undoubtedly, our grandmother would be proud of the initiative and the leadership that she has shown on that front. So, thank you, AngajukKâk, for referencing Alana and thank you to her for her work. As Mr. Sheppard had stated, we have two graduates from B.L. Morrison this year and as some Members around the table may recall, Ms. Alison Gear gained some notoriety during the Muskrat Falls protest when at just 13 years old, she had done a traditional drum dance to prevent a Nalcor bus from passing the blockade. She has been a strong representative for our community since she returned to Postville a few years ago, being a strong part of our volleyball and sports meet teams, being active in community events and doing traditional crafts. And Glenn had referenced how Samantha has been a very good leader in traditional activities and knowledge and skills. Joshua Jacque who is graduating has also been a strong leader on that front as well. As long as I've known Josh, I've known that he has loved the land and loved traditional ways. Again, he's been a strong leader over the last few years for hunting, trapping and wooding, and just this last year he not only killed a seal, he tanned the skin and made a pair of uluit, undoubtedly under the guidance of his mother and grandmother. So I have complete faith that this young man will continue to teach the traditional lifestyle and pass on this important skill set that he is continually developing. DHSD had a community bonfire on May 17th. That was a family bonfire and, Madam Speaker, it was really great to be able to have that gathering outside. As many Members

around the table have said, it's been a very trying year on our communities being unable to speak with each other, being able to, to gather. Of course, that was done socially distanced and following all the protocols, but, nonetheless, it's been a long time since we've seen a community being able to come together in some way. They continued to co-ordinate craft nights, have grocery bingos and other activities that help keep our community engaged. They were attempting to co-ordinate a pride walk this past week. That, unfortunately, was postponed and I wanted to recognize Ms. Vyann Anderson Goudie since she's returned home as well after her studies. I believe it was just a few years ago that she co-ordinated a first community-wide event around pride activity in Postville and since then she has been continuing on with those activities as well. Madam Speaker, I will close by acknowledging the passing of Ann Lillian Blake and offer my condolences to the family as they've navigated this unexpected and tragic news. Madam Speaker, I will not list names, but there were Members of my community who truly demonstrated the depth of their hearts, their compassion and undoubtedly the depth of their strength on the evening that Ann Lillian had passed, and I thank those members of the community who led and acted on that night. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Edmunds. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to give a big congratulations to Mr. Gus Semigak, our interpreter/translator. Ever since I started my role as

an elected official, I was very proud and honoured to see him every time with welcomed arms and a big smile. I am a descendent of Hebron and that is his homeland. It is very powerful. I wish you the best. Since COVID-19, our open houses in Upper Lake Melville have halted. This is in the safety of our constituents and everyone in the community. Since many have been vaccinated, we are planning to go back in the community slowly but surely following Public Health guidelines. We are partnering with NunaKâtiget to go to Mud Lake sometime this month or next month. We'll be very safe wearing our mask, sanitizing and ensuring we social distance in the great outdoors. These events will not be as big as normal, but will be glad to get back out to meet our constituents where they're at in their home communities of Mud Lake, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Northwest River. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Asivak. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Uhatti. I'm very inspired by AngajukKâk Sheppard's ability to speak from the heart and it's a skill I know I haven't developed yet, but I'm certainly going to try this morning, and so please bear with me and have patience and thank you. The ripple effects that is felt by suicide is felt far and wide. You know, I'll be 37 this year and I can't remember a time when suicide wasn't a problem for our families, our friends and our communities. More resources need to be put in a place to help deal with the suicide crisis. More addiction services need to be put in place to deal with an addiction crisis. You know, we talk about a transportation crisis,

a housing crisis, children in care crisis. You know, we're mourning the loss of 215 children and rightfully so, but our own children are also lost out in the Canadian Constituency that has nobody to advocate for them to come home. We have elders and seniors. I often think about what is it that I would want in my old age, you know, if I ever found myself in a situation where I had to be put into a home? I think we need to ask ourselves those questions. We need to provide those services to our elders. Language is a crisis. It's unfair that we have a masters apprentice program in the five communities, but we have fluent Inuttitut speakers, relocatees, residential school survivors outside of the Land Claims Area who want those opportunities to give back to teach our language to learn. It's a weight, I think, that we all, as leaders, need to carry and it's a bigger picture that is often overlooked when we go back into our regular routines. You know, normalizing some of these things when you are in these communities and you see it day to day. Maybe it's a bigger shock for me when I come home. But flying through Goose Bay and seeing the homeless people, visible homeless people on the streets is something that needs to be addressed. We need seniors homes in our communities. We need treatment centres in our communities. We need housing. So those of us who are in the Canadian Constituency and want the opportunity to come home have that opportunity for them. That's all I have to say, *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Onalik, for your heartfelt statement. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Constituency of Hopedale, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, only a week ago we laid to rest one of our elders in our community, Margaret Jararuse, who her and her family I sincerely wish that, Tomas all the best. Tomas is a well-known man in our community also. I know he dedicated a lot of his time to the school and retired only a couple years ago and now his wife passing, you know, just another hole in our community. My heart goes out to you, Tomas, and your family. All the best. Also, yesterday as the AngajukKâk for Hopedale mentioned, a sad tragedy occurred here again, and my heart going out to Amos and Doris and their family and especially to our co-worker, Tabea, who is not here. I mean, Tabea is a rock in this building and especially to me. Anytime I've got a problem with anything, Tabea is there to help solve it. So my heart goes out to you, Tabea, and hope everything, you know, gets back on track and we hope that, you know, you're back soon. And also, I'm going to say to Gustav over here that I don't believe you're retiring because I'm not going to accept it, Gus, that you're going to retire. I'm still going to come over, if I need to, to knock on your door when I need you or we need you. So I know, Gus, that you, like everybody said here today and yesterday, you are a pillar in this community and we're certainly going to miss you, but I'll still pick you up on the road or talk to you or make sure that, you know, when we're

stuck that — and I know this about you, Gus, that you will always show up when needed. So thank you for all your service.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Flowers. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be very brief. This morning, I'd like to recognize the people in Makkovik who has been running the Community Gardening Program. We had funds from the New Horizons for Seniors last year and we were able to acquire seed potatoes, seeds, soil and compost and compost bins through that program and with the help of also our Agriculture Canada. And this will go towards, I think, food security in our communities. We are into the schools or they are into the schools and showing kids how you can grow plants from a seed right on up, and right now they're even growing pumpkins. So I'm looking forward to seeing a 35-pound pumpkin in Makkovik by Halloween maybe. But it's interesting to see that those little seeds and things can grow in our environment, and we're seeing tomatoes and that kind of thing as well. So I think that will lead towards some food security in our region if they can get the people and an interest generated through these programs. And, finally, I think I'd also state, on behalf of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government to wish Gus or Gustav Semigak a happy retirement despite what our friend, Flowers, might have to say. So enjoy your time, Gus. Well deserved. And if you ever get back to your homeland, enjoy it even more. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen for your statement. I now will take a break for recess at 10:18 a.m. We will reconvene at 10:35. Thank you.

(Recess)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Good morning. I'd like to call our session back into order at 10:40 a.m. Are there any other Members who wish to make a statement today? Seeing none, I will move on to the next item, Item Number Five, "Return to Oral Questions." Any return to oral questions today? Seeing none, we will move on to Item Number Six, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions today? Okay. Thank you very much. I now call upon the — and I will just kind of reiterate my statement this morning of sticking to our time and the very short preamble and the one question. Thank you. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: *Nakummek, Uhatti.* My question is to the Minister of Natural and Non-Renewable Resources, Honourable Greg Flowers. The people in my community have been hearing that the Ten-Mile Bay quarry has been either bought or negotiated to another company, but I want to ask you is that true or is just a rumour? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker. I now call upon the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk, for your question. I guess most people is aware, the quarry in Nain was developed by the, I guess, I'm trying to think of the name that we used to call them before they were called the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies.

They were the last ones to actually, I guess, take the stone out of there. So the company that, I guess, everybody's kind of aware that was on Dragon's Den this past winter, I think it was, early fall, has talked to them to acquire the mine. Right now, there is nothing else than that. We have not had any feedback from that company at all saying that they will do any mining at that mine in Ten-Mile Bay at this time. So right now it looked like it was something that was going to go ahead and everybody got excited with the Dragon's Den, but I can say at this time right now there is nothing else than the talks that they had with the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: No, I don't. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is going to Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister. And he did say yesterday that if you're asking this questioning, I'm going to tell you that it — I already answered it. So I just say it was the wrong answer. I've asked this question two times before. Is your department looking for funding to build a community shed in Makkovik in 2021-2022?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen from Makkovik. DHSD are looking at funding options for Makkovik and also sustainable funding for other communities. If there are buildings in the community that could be utilized or a building space available, that information could be passed along to DHSD. Also secondary to this answer, there is new funding from the Federal Government under the Green Energy Funding. This proposal can be developed by the Makkovik Inuit Community Government as there is no programming component if the MICG felt that this was the project that they wanted to develop, they can do this independently with their own vision and mission. This would allow the Inuit Community Government to maintain and hold the building for their own purposes for their own asset for whatever future projects they feel they want in the community. So, in short, yes, we are looking into further funding. As you may know, some of the other sheds within the communities in LISA are short term as this is pilot projects and we are seeking continued contributions from the Federal Government for these programs to help our beneficiaries in our communities. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSEN:

Yes, Madam Speaker. Just that the Inuit Community Government has done, already got their buildings and facilities that they were going to apply for under that program while your NG still look for a building, a shed for Makkovik. The Makkovik Inuit Community Government has already got two projects from that funding so that they would not be

taking on this one. So will your department still look for funding for a shed for Makkovik?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you for the update, Ordinary Member Andersen, on your current projects and your plans. As I first stated, we will continue to look for funding options and we will keep all communities updated, hopefully, by the next Assembly of where we're at because the target timelines for the funding proposal has passed, so now it's a waiting to hear back from the Federal Government. And if the projects are approved, and once they are, I'll gladly share through the Assembly, even before the fall Assembly for any updates on funding projects. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Minister Asivak. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: No, thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Minister for your answer.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, Gerald Asivak, and it's related to mental health, Madam Speaker. Very important. Some time ago I saw an ad advertised for a position related to mental health. Can you tell me, Mr. Minister, if this position has been filled or what the status might be of that position? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker and AngajukKâk Sheppard. I myself don't personally know of any hirings or dealings with Human Resources-related matters. That would come from my counterpart Minister, Honourable Tony Andersen, but in the same breath as elected officials, we have no dealings with Human Resources as that is a separate entity within the Civil Service. So we can look into it, however, it will be redirected to the Deputy Minister level or the Human Resources Managers level within our government as it is more of a confidential and private issue, as we are not aware of any dealings with HR unless — even then it goes to the deputy level and it does not come to the executive level of Executive Council. So but you can inquire yourself, if you wish, through Human Resources or the team leader within your community. If not, if you don't get the appropriate response, please reach out and I'll definitely look into this or direct you with my deputy. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't and thank you for your response, Minister.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek, Uhatti*. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Social Health and Development, Gerald Asivak. Sorry, to pick on you. I know

that it is an undertaking to look at taking over the Child Welfare System from the Provincial Government into Nunatsiavut Government and your department. Are you able to provide an update of what's involved? How far along we are? What's left to be done?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me. You just have one question this time. I know it's a very big, important topic, but can you just phrase one question for now, please?

MS. ONALIK: Are you able to provide a detailed update on where we are with that?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much for that, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ordinary Member Onalik for your very important question regarding child welfare of our Inuit children and families in Nunatsiavut and in Canada. We do have very important updates coming. I will not give a detailed update right now as it would be very lengthy and it would require much more time. But I will give you a brief update summary that even before my time as Minister, this mission, this plan, this vision has been at the table with Nunatsiavut Government for many years before. So we want to see the devolution of services meaning taking control of our child welfare for Inuit families. Over the years we worked with the Department of Education and Economic Development. We have offered two bachelor of social work programs to recruit to train social workers for our communities. Luckily, we have many social workers involved, employed within DHSD offering great programs and services. We are in talks with the Provincial Government

of Newfoundland and Labrador and have been. They are actively engaged. Preliminary, they are very supportive. The Federal Government has recently announced funding for this project for all Indigenous organizations in government who are able, willing and ready to take control of their own child welfare for their communities. I am very pleased right now and honoured to say Nunatsiavut Governments were at that table. We have a strong department and support with the Director of Legal Services to work with us on this. We do have a plan. We cannot release the full plan as of yet, but rest assured, we are working toward this. It will take a few years for their development as there are targets each year that we would have to maintain and achieve and prove that we can succeed in taking over our own child welfare for our communities. That might entail further training, including social worker, social worker assistants, community service workers, infrastructure such as buildings. Right now, the Provincial Government have and own their own buildings, vehicles, transportation and such. So this is a very, very large endeavour which we are ready and willing to take. I will not give a timeline that it will take, but one of the first things that we plan is a transition plan and that will take a couple of years, but right now we are moving forward. But as more plans and details are finalized, they will be gladly shared with the Assembly and updates throughout the next year including September, January and March of our progress and our achievements to keep everyone involved. This is very positive. As we all know, there are historical traumas, as you noted, and

other Members with residential school relocation, addictions, and we can rhyme it off. It's time for our government take control of a self-government and I'm very pleased with it and I look forward to updating you in the near future. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Yes, I do. *Nakummek*, and thank you, Minister Asivak, for providing that summary. My question is what programs and services exist in the interim that are on the ground in communities such as Roddickton that can support the transition process for our Inuit children in care?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Currently, as the Provincial Government has and holds the authority of child welfare in our province, they have full jurisdiction of child protection. We do have what's called Indigenous representative within our governments. So if a child came into the care of the Provincial Government, we are immediately notified. We also have cultural continuity plans meaning if a child comes into care, we expect that the government will allow and follow anything that the child is involved with culturally. This could be including, but not limited to, language. So if that's their mother tongue, *Inuttitut*, or if there's traditional projects or steel making classes and such, whatever is available within that area we will try to promote. Also with technology, if it's appropriate and safe for

the child, Facetime could be an option. Also, with that there are visitations to the child's home community, again, in the safety and the best interests of the child. Some of our children in care have experienced traumas as well, inter-generational. So we work closely with, you know, that level of government, however, every case plan is different. It's not just one uniform policy because they are a descendent or identify as Inuit that is going to fit each. So, like any other program or services, when a child is placed outside of Nunatsiavut or Upper Lake Melville, they work closely with Department of Health and Social Development in their best interest. However, each case is not going to fit for everyone. So we do work out, you know, when possible, and if you know of any situations or anyone in this room that they need support, for example, in Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville, we have Family Connections Program that has worked remarkably well that the Federal Government has approved continued funding over the years and other governments and Indigenous groups have followed this program that we created ourselves as a support program for our families. These programs, such as Family Connections, support the family. This could include visits to health professionals, to lawyers, to other service agencies, to ensuring that, you know what? If there is a plan in place that we can follow with that family. So those are a few examples. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Minister Asivak. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Yes, I do. I'm wondering if you can speak to the accountability process and what that looks like when you are having meetings with the Province and making sure that their legislation trickles down on the ground to the children in these communities.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Ordinary Member Onalik. As you requested, the accountability is such a broad and large term. I can guarantee you that there are regular meetings with children, senior and social development on advancing Inuit rights, child protection and the best interests of the child. Within social work, as you may know, I'm still an active registered social worker, the inherent right of a child is the first and foremost important thing that we all look at. There are continuous meetings and I'm even involved with meetings with the Minister of CSSD in advancing and saying you know what? We need improvements in certain areas and these are ongoing discussions. With the discussions with the Province, it's not a written report that's shared widely with the community because there are a lot of sensitive and personal and private matters and, you know what? With a lot of things, it don't take overnight. It can be an issue such as logistics, housing, visitation, departmental issues that we hear of within Human Resources. There are many issues and, you know what? The accountability is that we're, as a department, moving forward, as I stated, on the devolution of services. That's accountability right then and there taking control of our own self-

government eventually within the child welfare system. And with our government agencies, they are so large and so many policies that, you know, we can't be accountable for every one, such as our own, you know, policies within our own government. So the work is being done and, you know, it's a very large, broad subject and when you're dealing with children and families and communities. So I will not say that, you know, even briefly, like, you know, I won't even say that what you're looking for, that is a large, large that could not be answered. Even, it'd be a detailed report, and right now our NRG is meeting with the government on the issues at hand that mattered the most instead of trying to create another document. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Minister Asivak. I now call upon the Sivunivut Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Maxene Winters.

MS. WINTERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers. Is the Department of Lands and Natural Resources looking into purchasing another allotment of caribou and musk ox for Labrador Inuit Land Claims beneficiaries in the near future?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Sivunivut Chair, Ms. Winters. I now call upon the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Chair of Sivuvivut, for your question. I guess I could certainly say yes and that'd be the short answer. We don't have an explanation and we certainly would have to bring that

back to the NEC to see if the NEC would agree to it, but I had some just internal with my Deputy Minister and Directors that I think that, you know, it went over well, even though there was some small issues and I said in my report yesterday that, you know, my biggest, I guess, my biggest concern was that there wasn't enough meat to go around, especially in the outside of Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville and Canada. So I think going forward we certainly have to look at that and see how we can do things a bit different, I guess. But the short answer is yes, we certainly will be engaging again in trying to get the meat for the beneficiaries of this *Land Claim Agreement*. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, Ms. Sivunivut Chair Winters?

MS. WINTERS:

No, I don't. Thank you very much.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, Uhatti. My question is for the First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. And we understand there's going to be a new DHSD building in Rigolet and this is coming from one of my councillors. They want to know if there's going to be something done to repurpose it, or if it has to be tore down. Like we were wondering. I know that the building in Hopedale's going to be repurposed. Are there any plans to do anything similar in Rigolet? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the AngajukKâk for the question. I will say I don't have the details right now on that question, but I'd like to take it under notice and have a response back to the AngajukKâk. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. That question will be taken under notice. Thank you very much. Do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you. *Nakummek*.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for First Minister Honourable Tyler Edmunds. What is the timeframe for the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission to be up and fully running?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker, and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers for your question. I tabled the work plan within the Assembly at this sitting as I have said previously. Within, again, that work plan there's very clear objectives from month to month to keep our department, our government accountable as we work towards ensuring that the Housing Commission is operational. By March of next year, we'll be in a position to present for assent to the President, the *Housing Act* and our ability to

establish the Housing Commission. Once that receives the signature from the President, once that legislation receives assent, the Housing Commission will be operational. The steps that will be taking place over the next year will ensure that everything is ready to go once the President signs that document and the Housing Commission will be in a position to offer programs and services immediately after that piece of legislation is approved and signed by the President. So *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, I do. Once this is up and running, that's a huge undertaking and a lot more cost to our government, where will the money be coming for or the budget for the Housing Commission to operate?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the AngajukKâk for that question. The AngajukKâk is right. It will be a big expense going forward for the Housing Commission. They will have a very expansive mandate to undertake as they build homes, as they build units and deliver programs. We know that there's significant gaps right now within our communities, and we do expect the Housing Commission to be responsive to those needs. In terms of where the dollars will come from, as the Assembly is aware, each year we do transfer just shy of \$3 million on our Fiscal

Financing Agreement to the Torngat Regional Housing Association. Once the Housing Commission is in place, those funds will be transferred to the Housing Commission for their operation, and I will remind the Assembly that over the next six, seven years, we do expect to receive a continued contribution from the Federal Government of \$7.5 million over and above that 3 million under our Fiscal Financing Agreement. So all those funds will be flowed through the Housing Commission and, again, we will continue to try to lobby for additional housing dollars and are really anxious and really eager to see the Inuit-specific and distinctions-based infrastructure funding that will be flowing as was announced in this year's federal budget. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a final supplementary question, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't, thank you. And thank you to the Minister.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*. I now call upon the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Chair, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Development. It was recently announced that there is a new permanent Director or Manager for the Northern Zone for child, seniors and social development. This person has been rather controversial in other Indigenous groups so much that the person is barred from two Innu communities. Is there any way that Nunatsiavut Government can lobby to be more involved in selection of the person? I

know there's a Public Service Commission with the Provincial Government. However, this is such an important position for the children in Nunatsiavut that is there a way that DHSD an advocate or lobby to have key positions such as this to be involved in decision-making? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. As you noted in your question, this is a Public Service Commission matter as Newfoundland and Labrador Government's public sector. We do not have control over who they hire within their positions. The position you're speaking about directly is called Zone Manager, and that would be associated with our Inuit zone in our land claims. This position is an administrative managerial position that oversee clinical program supervisors. This zone manager reports directly to the regional director. As I noted in another question I answered this morning, we are aware of some issues within their service delivery as there is high turnover. We do not, you know, say who they can hire and where they would be based out of. However, we can work closely with them if there are issues, but until that is brought forward or, specifically, like any other department, this person deserves the right to work in their position, but if there are any concerns, we'll be watching closely. As I noted, this is more of an administrative position that covers management for that zone. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, NunaKâtiget Chair Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, Madam Speaker. There has been public media on the issues with this person as it relates to children in care. It's been publicized. It's been on....

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Excuse me, can you please ask your question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Oh, sorry.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Could DHSD play a role in advocacy to ensure issues such as what happened in the past will not continue?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. I now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: In short? No. This is a Public Service Commission matter held by the Provincial Government and Newfoundland and Labrador. If this was Nunatsiavut Government who had full authority of eventual devolution of services, yes. We would have full opportunity for screening applicants, ensuring that things are followed within Human Resources, following policies, protocol or government. However, we still work closely, as I noted in my previous answer and other answers, we work closely with CSSD. However, we don't have the authority to overrule or overtake any employee relations as we will not overstep boundaries such as that. But if there are major issues, we will be at the table. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Minister Asivak. Do you have a final supplementary question, Chair Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Yes, Madam Speaker. Another issue with the position in question is the position is not situated within Nunatsiavut or the Inuit zone. Is there, again, a way to advocate or lobby for that position to be situated in Nunatsiavut?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Chair Kemuksigak. Now call upon the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Chair Kemuksigak. I don't know how much more I can explain this to you. We don't have control of this. Ideally, like many own positions within our own government, we have positions posted within LISA. Sometimes they go vacant for an extended period of time, and then it might be readvertised in another community. If a position is vacant, the work don't stop. It builds up and builds up and you know what? After awhile it's troublesome and things are not getting done. Yes, we could request it, but we don't have the inside story of how many times that position was posted, who the applicants were. Did they have the qualifications? There might be a need for extensive travel. That is none of our, you know, we're not the employer in this. So, again, anything related to logistics? Sure, we can, you know, put that on the agenda. We can write letters. We can advocate to have people there within the zone, I think it's N, for Inuit Region. However, you know, CSSD can come back with a reply and say, you know what? This has been vacant, for example, I don't know how long. Two years. Three years.

Four years. They do need an administrative manager to oversee the clinical program supervisors and the day to day. So that's not an easy solution and, again, it's outside of our *Constitution* that we cannot say we oversee the Provincial Government in their hiring, their logistics, their location and what they do. Until we have the authority of our own, then we'll work with the government and say, okay, we continue to say let's improve on services and program delivery and our first and foremost is the children, not the administrative side of it. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Minister Asivak. I now call upon the Chair of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Maxene Winters.

MS. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Madam Chair. My question is to the Honourable Tony Andersen, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. With new positions being created, people moving around and possible new positions coming up, would it be possible to send the elected official organizational charges for various Nunatsiavut departments? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Chair Winters. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for the question. Sure, you can, and I'll make sure that the elected officials will get those organizational charts updated or, you know, over as there are changes made to department staff. Certainly, and that's something that we can do very quickly, I believe.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Minister Andersen. Do you have a supplementary question, Chairperson Winters? Thank you. Thank you very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, please, Mr. John Andersen.

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for Mr. President, the Honourable Johannes Lampe. Can the Nunatsiavut Executive Council send out an email to those who are not in the Nunatsiavut Executive Council when they make decisions that affect Nunatsiavut before it goes to social media or just keep everyone up to date on what is happening or planning for Nunatsiavut?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ordinary Member, Andersen. I now call upon the President of the Nunatsiavut Government, Mr. Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT: *Nakummek, Uhatti. Nakummek, Ordinary Member. (Speaks in Inuttitut).* First of all, Madam Speaker, all efforts are made to keep all Members and indeed all beneficiaries up to date on all issues as much as possible in an efficient and timely manner. All media releases are sent to all Members in advance of that being published on our website and on social media. Public notices, particularly, those that are time-sensitive, are released as soon as possible and not always distributed in advance to media or to others including Members of Assembly as many are only applicable to a particular community or specific to a particular program. Many of these notices do not necessarily need NEC approval. We have also made a point to contact Inuit Community Governments directly to advise of any

major decisions before notices or releases and we will continue to do that. *Nakummek, Uhatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSEN: Yes, I do, but kind of don't know how to word it. I guess, Honourable President, that so I've been here a little over a year and all I hear from the ones who are not in the Executive Committee that they don't know what's going on most of the time. So my question is, I guess, can there be more effort to get everybody involved in decisions that Executive Council makes concerning NG?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

MR. PRESIDENT: *Nakummek, Uhatti. Nakummek, (Speaks in Inuttitut)* for the supplementary question. We have the Nunatsiavut Assembly and also, we have, as government, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. And so the work that the Nunatsiavut Executive Council does require very good care in what it is that we are planning to do and what work is on the go. And so that work also involves the Federal Government Departments or the Provincial Government Departments, and that work sometimes is challenging, and that work also requires the Federal Government and the Provincial Government's approval in the work that we do. And at times the Federal Government and the Provincial Government will want to make statements or to put out releases to the public. And so many

times we cannot put out information of the work that we are doing. But for the work that we are doing directly as Nunatsiavut Executive Council, we are doing that and we will continue to do that. And communication is a challenge and it has always been and so we will continue to make that communication as much better as we can. I hope that answers your question, Ordinary Member for Makkovik. *Nakummek, Uhatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member, Andersen?

MR. J. ANDERSON: No, I don't. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank Mr. President for the update and hope it gets better. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Andersen. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey. Excuse me, can you please turn on your microphone. Thank you very much.

MS. WOLFREY: Sorry, *Nakummek*. My question is for the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Greg Flowers. Can you tell me what the consequences to the Rigolet Inuit Community Government will be if we don't produce an environmental protection plan for our rock quarry?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: My, that's a loaded question. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, AngajukKâk for Rigolet for your question. I guess, as you are aware, you're referring to March when we passed the bill stating that all Inuit Community Governments now outside their own jurisdiction, has to

apply for like what Nain, Postville and Rigolet has applied for; a quarry permit outside of your own area. The consequences? I don't know, but certainly we want you to follow the guidelines that we put in place for your own protection and ours and our lands that we have. So to answer your question, I don't know what the consequences would be, but I certainly could get back to you on what the consequences of that issue would be if you did not fill out your form, but we certainly stated to all the AngajukKâks who's applying that the forms we want to protect our lands are filled out in a kindly manner, and if you have any issues with filling out the forms that we require that our department is there to help assist with your application form so that we can get it right and to protect our lands that we so proudly, I guess, work for. And it's in the best interests of all of Nunatsiavut to have the forms filled out the right way and to protect ourselves and protect our communities. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you, Madam Speaker, but I'm only talking about a hole in the ground. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I now call upon the Chair of NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Greg Flowers. Recently, on

various social media we have seen hosts of people in Nunatsiavut receiving another meal of caribou and musk ox. How can the beneficiaries in Nunatsiavut communities receive more than a meal or two of caribou when in Upper Lake Melville we did not receive enough caribou to even give one piece to our elders?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much Chairperson Kemuksigak. I now call upon the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Community Chair for Upper Lake Melville, for your question. The answer, I guess for that question has been answered a few times and I'll just use the same answer as we all know. There was a formula put in place by the Executive Council on the meat distribution, not only for caribou. Caribou fell under that same criteria as the moose. We use a formula system that has been used by former Ministers and was put in place, and we actually did increase the allocation for Upper Lake Melville. I'm not quite sure the percentages. I don't have them here, but I guess the easiest way to say this without, you know, going into too much detail, the amount of boxes that came, the percentages was used. If there was more caribou in some boxes than others, then maybe there was a number of boxes that might have had more meat in them, and when the AngajukKâks or whoever shared out the meats in each community tried to distribute it as evenly as possible to the communities, and I think that maybe there was probably some extra pieces of meat at the community freezer. I was not involved in the delivery or the process. As a Minister, all I informed our directors, our

people to do was make sure that the AngajukKâks in the community distribute the meat as equal as possible to the communities. And to answer that question, maybe there was extra pieces of meat. I know that's the way the formula was. The formula is what the formula is. It's been reviewed. We stuck to the policy, that's what it is, and if someone else got a extra piece of meat, I hope they shared it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, Chair Kemuksigak? No? Thank you very much. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek, Uhatti.* My question is for the Honourable First Minister, Tyler Edmunds. My question is regarding the Membership Committees and the individuals that are appointed to these committees. Are there eligibility requirements put under review before being appointed to these committees?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker, and *Nakummek* to the Member for Canada for your question. The ability for an individual to serve on any particular local membership committee is the fact that they are beneficiary and the fact that they are connected to that community. Now, obviously, there's an appointments process that we go through that involves several officials within NG before appointments are removed, but, again, those

individuals are able to get a seat on the Membership Committee because they are beneficiary and because they are connected to the community. Now under the process, as I've spoken to this fall, there was an amendment in 2013 to a piece of legislation that made it clear that another beneficiary can flag the status of another beneficiary, but, ultimately, those powers and those abilities to review and beneficiary's application rests with the Registrar and with the local Membership Committees. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Yes, I do. Thank you, First Minister. Are you able to provide a better or clear interpretation of summary of the process of the review that is being undertaken by the Membership Committees? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

If the Ordinary Member wants a detailed response as to the process, I can make sure that that process is laid out and that there is a response provided to the Ordinary Member so I'll take that particular question under notice, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, First Minister Edmunds. Do you have a final supplementary question, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Yes, I do. With that written question and response, are you able to, I guess, develop so that it is something that I can share with Canadian

Constituency so they have a clearer and more understanding of the process? Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, Ordinary Member Onalik. I now call upon the First Minister, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. When questions are taken under notice, the process is that the Minister, I believe, has 10 days to provide a response to the Assembly. That will be sent out, I trust, through email given that we are on our summer break soon, and what becomes of that response after the fact is not for me to say. It is information that's provided to the Assembly members for their benefit and if the Member for Canada wishes to share that with her constituents, then that's her prerogative. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much, First Minister Edmunds, for that clarification. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question's for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Minister Greg Flowers. With the rapid decline of moose in our area, can hunters expect in this hunting season 2021-2022, can hunters expect any additional measures to protect the numbers of moose in our area? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Minister Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk for Postville for your question. We certainly do know that there are reduced number of

moose in especially the Postville and Makkovik area for the last number of years. One of the things that we are waiting on to look at if we're going to change the numbers — right now I think is 21 animals for all of Nunatsiavut. Some they allocate to each community. But we were doing another aerial survey this past winter just north of Postville at Kanajittuk and Adlatok right far as our land claims inside of Natuashish. That survey was put on hold because we had one day survey and the COVID interfered with that again and everything was shut down. But in that one day fly out of Hopedale there was three moose spotted just outside of Hopedale. I know that they were quite encouraged to get the survey done, but the help was put on. So we want to get this survey done, hopefully this winter, to look at what's in the area before we make any decision on anything else. But we did reduce the numbers. I think you're aware that we did reduce the numbers last year. I think there used to be 32. We dropped that number down. We're staying at that number now until we can finally see if the moose are rebounding in the areas and we will make a decision after that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much, Minister Flowers. Do you have a supplementary question, AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you. No, I don't, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Mrs. Minister.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you very much. That brings us to the one-hour mark of our question period. Are there any other Members who wish to ask a question? Seeing none, I'll move on to our next agenda item, *Orders of the Day*, excuse me. "Written Questions." Are there any written

questions today? Seeing none, we will move on to item number seven, "Return to Written Questions." There are no return to written questions so we'll move on to item number nine, "Petitions." Are there any petitions today? Seeing none, we will move now on to item number 10 which is "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions. We will now move on to item number 11, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees." There are no reports of standing and special committees today. We will move on to item number 12 which is the "Tabling of Documents." There are no documents to be tabled today and with that we will take our lunch break. It is now 11:42 a.m. We will break until 12:30 and we will see you back in session. Thank you.

(Recess)

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Good afternoon. The call back to session. 12:35 p.m. Welcome everybody back from our lunch break. We are now onto item number 13, "Notices of Motions." I recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 10, 2021, I will move, seconded by Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, the following motion. Whereas National Indigenous People's Day is an important day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of Inuit First Nations and Metis people, and whereas the Nunatsiavut Executive Council has designated "National Indigenous People's Day" as a paid holiday for employees in the Nunatsiavut Civil Service. And whereas the

Elected Officials Policy Manual sets out, among other things, the holidays observed by the Nunatsiavut Assembly and specifically states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly follow the paid holiday list as per the Nunatsiavut Government. And whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly must approve amendments to the Elected Officials Policy Manual. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, that the Elected Officials Policy Manual be amended by adding the following day to the list of holidays under Part 3, subsection 1 of that policy manual, National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21st. Madam Speaker, I'm requesting the unanimous consent of the Assembly under standing order 16(1) to waive the notice period required by standing order 37(1) to deal with this motion today.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to deal with her motion today. All those in favour? Thank you. Any opposed? Seeing none, there is unanimous consent. Ms. Onalik, you may now present your motion today at the appropriate time. Okay. Thank you. We will now move on to item number 14, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of first reading of bills today. We will move on to item number 15. I recognize the item number 15, "Motions." I recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada, the following motion. Whereas National Indigenous Peoples Day is an important day for all Canadians to recognize and

celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of Inuit, First Nations and Metis people. And, whereas, Nunatsiavut Executive Council has designated National Indigenous Peoples Day as a paid holiday for employees in the Nunatsiavut Civil Service. And, whereas, the elected official policy manual sets out, among other things, the holidays observed by the Nunatsiavut Assembly and specifically states that the Nunatsiavut Assembly followed a paid holiday list as per the Nunatsiavut Government. And, whereas, the Nunatsiavut Assembly must approve amendments to the Elected Officials Policy Manual. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada that the Elected Official Policy Manual be amended by adding the following day to the list of holidays under Part 3, subsection 1 of that policy manual, National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21st.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ms. Onalik. Your motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MS. ONALIK: No, I do not.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? No other Members wish to speak to the motion. Does the mover wish to close debate?

MS. ONALIK: I wish to close debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: *Nakummek.* That concludes the debate. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you

very much. The "First Reading of Bills." There are no first reading of bills for today. We will now move onto item number 17. "The Second Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, for the second reading of bills.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Bill 2021-03, The Nunatsiavut Constitution "Amendment Bill 2021" in Committee of the Whole with witness, Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Anthony Andersen, that Bill 2021-03 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with the mentioned witness. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. The motion is now in order. All those in favour? Any opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. We are now in Committee of the Whole. Now in the Committee of the Whole, we will consider the Bill 2021-03, the Nunatsiavut Constitution amendment Bill 2021, and I would invite Mr. Mark Gillette, the Director of Legal Services for the Nunatsiavut Government to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole. As Members are aware, the procedure of the second reading of the debate will be page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of Bill 2021-03.

MR. GILLETTE:

Good afternoon. The bill's been circulated for some period of time for you to review. So and the First Minister's already made preliminary remarks yesterday with regards to the bill, and the bill is directly related

to the proposal that was previously submitted by, or tabled by the First Minister. So I'm not going to purport to do any type of major explanation here. I'd be willing to entertain questions from the Members of the Assembly as they arise as we're going through the bill. The only thing I will say is as the First Minister explained in his remarks yesterday when he moved first reading that the purpose behind this is merely technical amendments that will allow and facilitate some amendments to the *Constitution* and the *Elections Act* only so far as it allows for a election date for either the elections for President or Ordinary Members or Inuit Community Governments to be moved or postponed in the event of an emergency. That's the entire purpose of this. These are technical amendments. They're not intended to change, essentially, what's already in our electoral law either set out in the *Constitution* or in the appropriate *Elections Act*, whichever election we're talking about. I should try to slow down a little bit for the interpreter, but so that's the purpose behind this. And so the *Constitution* sets out that if you have amendments to the *Constitution*, they have to be dealt with in a separate bill. So that's why this bill has coming first. If this bill was passed and if the Labrador Inuit, in the course of the referendum that will follow, agree to this bill being passed, then they'll be another bill or bills come probably in the fall session to deal with the other technical amendments to the other legislations that will follow that. But so that's just some introductory remarks. I'm happy to answer any questions as we go through the bill.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'd like to remind the Members that in accordance with Standing Order 55(3), we will start at the beginning of the substantive provisions beginning with Section 1 and then at the end we will go back to consider the preamble and then the long title. You can find this in your binders. If you're unsure of where it is, under Tab 5. It starts at page 3. So it starts at the very top. It says, "Nunatsiavut Assembly. Bill Number 20-21-03." Does everybody have it okay? Okay. And, as our witness has stated, you will answer questions as they arise by the clauses. Is that okay? So, actually, I'll go to the right page, page 3. So we will start as we stated earlier, we'll start at the clauses. So we'll go down to the bottom of the page, just under "Short Title". It's at the bottom of your page, clause 1. Everybody just have a read. Are there any questions? Seeing no questions, we will move on to 2, which is under "Interpretation." So it's at the very bottom of page 3 and continues on to page 4.

MR. GILLETTE: I'm sorry. I think you might want to ask if clause 1 is adopted.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I'm sorry. Thank you for that. Are we ready to adopt clause 1? All those in favour? Thank you very much for that. Clause 1 is adopted. Now we move on to number 2, the interpretation. As I stated, is at the bottom of page 3 and continues to the top of page 4. Are there any questions on clause 2? Yes. I recognize Chairperson Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is I'm wondering is it possible to make an amendment to the Bill as we have discovered over the years looking at the *Constitution*, there might be more areas that may need to

be changed, and if you're going to get a vote for the Inuit public, maybe we should look at other areas that may have confusion or controversy.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Okay. I recognize our witness, Mr. Gillette.

MR. GILLETTE:

Yeah, I would say that at any time, you know, Labrador Inuit have right under the *Constitution* to question or propose amendments to the *Constitution*. Right now, this particular bill deals with only with a certain technical amendment, and any other amendments to the *Constitution*, other than what's dealt with here would be outside the bounds of this particular bill. So it would not be appropriate to introduce, at this stage, any other *Constitutional* evidence to this particular bill. This particular bill is for one particular purpose. That does not mean that at any point in the future, if individuals of the Inuit public or Members of the Assembly think that there's appropriate time to propose a *Constitutional* amendment, those things can always be considered. But, at this time, this particular bill, the bounds of this particular bill are set particularly to these particular amendments to facilitate the changing of election dates and emergencies.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Mr. Gillette. Is that okay? It's good, Chair Kemuksigak? Okay. Any other question? No other questions? On clause 2, can I get a vote on approval for clause 2, please? Any objections? Seeing none, we'll now move on to Part 1. "Elections for President of Nunatsiavut." Will you please read that clause. Are there any questions on that clause? Seeing none, all those in favour of the clause? Opposed? Seeing none, clause 3 is adopted. We now move onto clause 4 which is about halfway through

the page and down. Do you have a question, AngajukKâk Wolfrey, Ms. Wolfrey, seeing as we're Committee of the Whole?

MS. WOLFREY:

Are we going to have a definition of emergency, or are we just going to leave it at emergency?

MR. GILLETTE:

Forgive me. I don't have the proposal that was tabled earlier, but I believe emergency was going to be defined in the *Elections Acts*, but, generally, emergency would mean, you know, some sort of pressing circumstance that prevents something from happening in the normal course. So COVID would have been a public health emergency. A typhon would be a public health emergency. An earthquake would be, you know, it has to be something that's if you have an election that's set and it's going to happen in a normal course, it has to be something that's immediate and pressing that will prevent that from happening, right? So that's the normal dictionary term of an emergency. I can take under advisement that we may, if we haven't already, I think we may have, but if we have not already, we can certainly include a definition of emergency in the legislation that will follow this.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Is that answer okay? I'm sorry. All those in favour? Thank you for the purpose of Hansard. Any opposed? No? Thank you. The clause 4 is adopted. We now move on to the next page, page 5, clause 5. Give you just a minute to read. Okay. Very brief. We are, just for the purpose of everybody in the room, we are under Tab 5, page 5 of reviewing the bill. So any questions on clause 5? Seeing none, can I get a vote in adoption

of clause 5? Any opposed? Seeing none. We now move on to clause 6.

Okay. Do you have a question, Ms. Onalik, on clause 6?

MS. ONALIK:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. My question in regards to elections for ordinary members in considering the Canadian Constituency in the event of an emergency, our Canadian Constituency is vastly spread out across Canada. So an emergency for a jurisdiction like BC, and voters being able to participate, how would the emergency be defined in that subsection?

MR. GILLETTE:

What the *Constitution* does is lay out, generally, so I appreciate we're doing this in two different stages. So the *Constitution* lays out generally; these provisions lay out generally when they're going to occur. The actual administration of elections in the Canadian Constituency for either President or for Ordinary Members are governed by the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* and so there's a set of amendments that are coming after adoption of it. If this is adopted, there's a set of amendments to deal with that and I believe, if I'm not mistaken, the package that's been previously proposed would deal with when there will be an emergency in the Canadian Constituency and how voting is affected there. So it's not specifically related to this particular amendment, but that's where those rules will be set out in that other.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. My apologies. Any other questions on clause 6? Seeing none, can I get a vote in for adoption of clause 6, please? Thank you. Any opposed? Seeing none, we now move on to clause 7. Are there any questions for clause 7? Seeing none, can I please get a vote to approve clause 7? Any opposed? Thank you. Seeing none. Unanimous. We now

turn the page to page 6 under clause 8. Are there any questions on clause 8? Seeing none. All those in favour of adopting clause 8? Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. Now move on to clause 9. Any questions on clause 9? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 9? Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. Clause 9 is adopted. You're now under clause 10.

MS. GILLETTE:

If I may, Madam Chair. Just for clarity, this particular section doesn't change anything that's already in our electoral law as it is right now. All this does is the way that that particular section of the *Constitution* are structured, this was kind of stuck in behind another section without an appropriate head note on it. A head note is like the text that tells you what the section's about. So unless you had read through every section, if you were looking for this rule, you wouldn't find it because it was kind of tucked away in a place where it shouldn't have been. So this amendment only moves it to a place that it's more prominent. So if you're looking for that rule, you'll be able to find it, but it doesn't change anything that this is an exact statement of the law as it already exists. So it just puts a different number on the section really. Thank you. Are there any questions on clause 10? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 10? Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. We are now on to clause 11 which continue on to page 7. Are there any questions on clause 11? Seeing no questions, oh, sorry. I recognize Ms. Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. So we're not going to change the rules for the counsels then for electing an AngajukKâk. It's the second Tuesday, or

whatever it is, the Tuesday in September. We're not going to change that. It's only for the election of President, isn't it? Like I'm wondering why we wouldn't change that at the same time.

MR. GILLETTE:

No, we are changing that. Well, lookit. So this bill and the parts that you've already dealt with; Part 1 dealt with President, Part 2 deals with Ordinary Members. And this part, Part 3, deals with the Inuit Community Government elections because we found in going through the *Constitution* that there were the set dates for all those offices. And so what would have happened, what we had happen last year with the presidential election where there wasn't the formula for or a specific provision to allow moving of that thing in an election, in an emergency, the same thing could have happened for an Ordinary Member's election or for the ICG elections. So all this clause does, it maintains what's already there, but it just gives a little bit of greater flexibility in saying that if a date has to be moved for the counsellor's election, then the AngajukKâk's election would be moved similarly. Right now, there is a specific day it has to happen on, and there's no real way to change that day. It's a very minor change in wording that allows for a date to be set in the case of an emergency and then the other one would be held in a close proximity as it already is. So that's really the only change there is to it.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you. I must have misread it somehow. It's a muck for lawyer's stuff anyway, but I must have misread it somehow.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Ms. Wolfrey. Are there — oh, sorry. Ms. Onalik, you have a question?

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Madam Chair. I read it the same as AngajukKâk Charlotte. Am I missing something that is changed in somewhere else that doesn't fix this date for AngajukKâks and the community councillors?

MR. GILLETTE: It's very similar. It's very similar. Basically, it's mostly a restructuring of that section to what's currently there. So, currently, what the provision of Section 10(4)(11) of the *Constitution* says that elections for Inuit Community councillors shall take place every four years on the last Tuesday in September or such other date as may be established by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Elections for AngajukKâk shall take place every four years on the second Tuesday in September or other such date which is two weeks prior to that date that may be established by the Nunatsiavut Assembly. An unsuccessful candidate — and the second part of — I'm also getting ahead of myself. And I should have been clear about this. So the previous section where we talked about in Section 10 where the wording about the ability of a unsuccessful candidate for AngajukKâk to run in the councillor's election, that was included in 10(4)(11) or is included in 10(4)(11) currently. So which was the inappropriate place for it to be because if you were looking for that rule, you wouldn't look for it when elections are held. You'd be looking for eligibility. So in deciding to move that section, we decided to do a minor restructuring of 10(4)(11). So really 10(4)(11) doesn't change much than what's already there other than that second rule about the eligibility

requirement was moved to a more prominent section to allow it to be found if you're looking for that rule. So, again, the long and short of it is this particular section doesn't really change the elections law or the timing in that election as it is right now as it exists. It's a restructuring of those two sections. So, forgive me, I should have been clear about that earlier.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Mr. Gillette. Does that answer your question, Ms. Onalik? Yes? Okay. Thank you. Okay. Are there any other questions on clause 11? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 11? Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. We'll now move on to clause 12. Are there any questions on clause 12? Seeing no questions? Oh. Do you have one? Okay, I recognize Ms. Onalik.

MS. ONALIK:

So just for clarity, the Executive Council would determine if a election can be moved but not exceeding one year and, if it exceeds over one year, then it is brought to the Assembly?

MS. GILLETTE:

Yes, that's correct. That's a rule that currently exists under Section 10(4)(12) of the *Constitution* that the Executive Council, under the current *Constitution*, has the authority and ability to move elections in the ICG's. It doesn't really say in case of an emergency. So in this particular amendment, it specifies that it has to be an emergency, first of all and, second of all, the current section says that they're not allowed to exceed it past one year. Well, we've known from just experience through the current pandemic that we certainly hoped it wouldn't be an emergency that would last beyond a year, but who knows how things

might happen where things might have to be postponed, but so the current rule which is continued here is that the Executive Council could approve a deferring of an ICG election for a period time up to one year. That already exists. We've added to this that if the circumstances exist that the emergency would continue that the delay would have to be over a year. It would have to come to the Assembly to approve that. It's like a second layer of oversight in that regard.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Are there any other questions on clause 12? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 12? Any opposed? Seeing none, we've adopted clause 12. Move on to clause 13 which is on the next page, page 8.

MR. GILLETTE:

If I can. So this part, these last couple sections, don't deal with amendments. They deal specifically with when this particular bill comes in force and when the actual amendments to the *Constitution* are made. So, if I can, so Section 13, basically reiterates the fact that if this bill was passed today, it is not assented by the President because it's a *Constitutional* amendment bill. It has to be ratified in a referendum of Inuit. So that's what that sets out specifically with regards to this particular bill. And not to jump ahead, but I'm going to jump ahead. Section 14 basically says that it'll come into force on a day that the President designates, which I would hope would be in the event that this bill passes and is ratified by Inuit in the referendum that, as we said, there are other bills that would come with regards to the technical

amendments to the *Elections Acts*. And so there could be co-ordination between when all of those comes into force.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Are there any questions on clause 13? I recognize Mr. Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm confused with your last statement, Counsellor. Are you saying that once this *Act*, if we pass it or to the amendments, is approved by the Assembly, then does the Assembly then allow — we have to have a referendum of Inuit to consent to this? What's a referendum? I mean, like, what happens? That's my question. I need to explain that to Members of my community.

MR. GILLETTE:

So under the *Constitution* and under the *Constitutions* of most democratic governments, it's very difficult to change the *Constitution*, and that's there for a reason because your *Constitution* is your primary law that sets out your overall structure, your overall priorities and whatnot and is supposed to be somewhat difficult to change. In this particular instance, the *Constitutions* usually say in them what it takes to change the *Constitution*. It's not just the same as any other *Act* like the *Housing Act* or the *Budget Act* or things like that where the Assembly can say, oh, we're going to have to change something. For a change to the *Constitution*, there are a couple of different, what we call formulas to use, but in this particular instance, what's required is that this bill has to be passed, and it has to be passed with 60 percent of a vote. So it has to be called what we call a super majority. So 60 percent of the members of this Assembly have to approve this bill as opposed to just a regular 50 percent plus 1, so that's one thing. And the second thing is there has to

be a referendum of Inuit. What does that mean? That means that the President, if this bill passes, the President will direct the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer to conduct a vote of all beneficiaries aged 16 years or older as to whether or not they approve this. So every individual beneficiary age 16 years or older gets a vote to determine whether or not they accept this. So that's what a referendum is. And that would, in the event that this bill passes, the President would order the Electoral Officer to conduct that referendum. And if then the referendum is passed, if the majority of those people who cast a vote agree with this, I support that then and only then does this bill become effective. Okay? So similar to, I know it's quite awhile ago but similar to, when Canada, back in the early 90's, had, like, the Quebec Secession Referendum; whether or not Quebec was going to separate. They had a vote. That was a vote of everybody. That was a referendum of everybody in that Province, right, of what they wanted to do or, similarly, there was the vote about, like, Charlottetown Accords and things like that. The *Constitutional* amendments they had back in the early 90's, people had a vote about what they wanted to see or what they agreed to. So that's essentially what the process is.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Does that answer your question, Mr. Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

Except for one part. The majority part of it. With the referendum itself, you said 60 percent super majority for the Assembly, but with the referendum, is it just majority?

MR. GILLETTE:

I believe it is just the regular majority of Inuit in a referendum.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Okay. Ms. Kemuksigak, was a question.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: More for clarity, Chairperson Winters-Wheeler. Does that mean that — is it 60 percent of the people who, 50 percent of the people who voted, or is it 50 percent of the membership because, as you know, we don't always get a high percentage for voting and we might not in this case.

MR. GILLETTE: It's 50 percent of people who vote. That's set out specifically in the *Constitution*. Fifty percent of people who vote.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. We have a question from — oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you for that. Are there any other questions on clause 13? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 13? Thank you. Any opposed? Seeing none, clause 13 is adopted. We are now on to clause 14 which is pretty straightforward. Anyone, simple question? Any questions on clause 14? Seeing none, all those in favour of adopting clause 14? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? None. Seeing none, the clause 14 is adopted. We now move in your Tab 5 back to page 1, sorry, page, I'm sorry, page 3. My apologies. To the preamble. So, basically, the top of your page. Actually, you can — did you want to quickly talk about that, Mr. Gillette?

MR. GILLETTE: The preamble is what we call the whereas clauses, and they speak to what's in the bill. So we'll do those last in case there was an amendment to the bill, but so, generally, the whereas clauses talk about the purpose behind what the contents of the bill are.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Ms. Wolfrey has a question on the preamble.

MS. WOLFREY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't know if I'm allowed to ask this question or not. It's not really on the preamble. I'm just wondering how much is all of this going to cost us. Can I ask that?

MR. GILLETTE: That's not a question in relation to the bill or in relation to the preamble. So I won't go too far into it. I'm sure there's going to be cost in regards to a setting out a vote, but, specifically, at this moment, we're entertaining questions in regards to the contents of the preamble.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: I recognize Ms. Onalik.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. In regards to fair, electoral processes, I suspect that there will be some questions highlighted in regards to the process itself in mail-out ballots, and I'm hoping that this question is appropriate in regards to fair electoral processes. And, you know, in co-ordination with, I guess, the committee that was established to look into having a more fair electoral process, will that available for this referendum?

MR. GILLETTE: The referendums are as of, well, they are, the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* applies to referendums. So, basically, at the moment, what the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* says is that it applies to referendums, and voting is conducted in accordance with terms of that *Act* because that's what the law is at the moment. So that's the process that will be followed because that's the process that's laid out in law for it to be followed. I think all I can say is the referendum will be carried out in accordance with Inuit law as to how referendums are really carried out. That's about as much as I can say about that.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Are there any other questions on the preamble? Seeing none, all those in favour of the adoption of the preamble, those in favour? Thank you. Any opposed? Carried unanimously. Thank you. It's a little challenging sometimes when your eyes don't see the smaller size font. So we are now on to the title which is the top of that page 3, sorry. Give you a moment to read the title at page 3 under Tab 5. Okay. Any questions on the lawn title? Seeing none, all those in favour of adoption of the lawn title? Thank you. Any opposed? Seeing none. That carries. Okay. That concludes the page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. GILLETTE: *Nakummek*, Madam Chair. I would like to conclude debate.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. That concludes debate. All those in favour of the second reading of Bill 2021-03, the *Nunatsiavut Constitution Amendment Bill 2021*. All those in favour? *Nakummek*. Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion — oh, excuse me.

MR. GILLETTE: Sorry, Madam Chair. Just for the purposes of Hansard and because a particular majority is required for this particular vote, just, I think the record should reflect that it was a unanimous vote in favour of the bill.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you very much for clarifying that, Mr. Gillette. Let the Hansard show that the unanimous consent for the passing of the bill. Thank you for that. Motion is carried unanimously. Accordingly, Bill 2021-03, the *Nunatsiavut Constitution Amendment Bill 2021* has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister and the witness for their time and work

on this. We are now back into the regular Assembly. "Assent to Bills," item 18. Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2021-03, the *Nunatsiavut Constitution Amendment Bill 2021*.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nakummek, Uhatti. Honourable Speaker and Members, in accordance with the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the provisions of this bill must be approved in a referendum of Inuit before I can give assent to the bill. I advise that I will direct a referendum to be held. Assent to this bill will be completed at another sitting of the Assembly dependent on the outcome of the referendum. *Nakummek, Uhatti.*

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Honourable President. We will now move on to item number 19 which is "Adjournment." I would sincerely like to thank all the Ministers and Members for their ongoing contributions, their questions, their statements, the updates and for all of the work that our staff does. We have wonderful staff and they work very hard with the best of intentions and passion. If there are any questions on travel or logistics, please come talk to myself or Dawn Rose as we are co-ordinating the Charter. Our thoughts and prayers go to Tabea Onalik and her family, again on the tragic loss in her family. I would sincerely like to thank Ches Evans, our IT person, Gus. Thank you so much on your service and your time and your knowledge, and your passion for the *Inuttitut* language has been wonderful. It's been a pleasure to see Nicholas Flowers in the booth with him as well. I hope to see you again sometime, and I would also like to acknowledge and thank Valerie and Rueben Flowers who have been our drivers for the past few days and they have been phenomenal,

picking up and supporting us whenever we've needed it with being short staffed this week in the building. I truly, truly appreciate their help and assistance and I thank everybody. I wish everybody a very safe and happy and healthy summer and we are adjourned until September 20th. Thank you, at 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

[Adjourned]