



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**FOURTH ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

SPRING SESSION 10th Session 2nd - SITTING

**kAVAMALIGIJET
KAUJITITSIUTINGA
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

March 8, 2022

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Ms. Susan Onalik

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

Acting President and First Minister and Ordinary Member for Postville, Honourable Tyler Edmunds

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

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

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

Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville Honourable Marlene Winters Wheeler

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Mrs .Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

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

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

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Legal Counsel, Ms. Elizabeth Zarpa

Acting Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ms. Mary Sillett

Absent:

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

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

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mrs. Charlotte Wolfrey

Legal Counsel, Ms. Avi Flomen

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings
were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
March 8, 2022
Assembly commenced at 9:00AM March 8, 2022**

- MS. ONALIK:** I would like to call to order the 10th session of the 4th Nunatsiavut Assembly and ask Ms. Marlene Winters Wheeler to say the opening prayer.
- MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:** [Recites prayer]
- MS. ONALIK:** *Nakummek.* Item Two of *Orders of the Day*. As Members are aware, President Lampe is unable to attend this sitting. I, along with all Members wish President Lampe the very best and trust he will be back with us in this Chamber soon. Under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds, has taken the oath as Acting President and he will be acting in the President's capacity for this sitting. I will now ask for the Acting President's opening address.
- MR. EDMUNDS:** *Nakummek, Uhalitik.* As the Speaker just stated, the President is unavailable to be with us here today. He is in St. John's undergoing treatment for cancer and will not be able to attend. And we all wish him the best as he undertakes his journey in healing. I wanna thank all the Members for participating this morning in the oath. It was good to be able to share this moment with all of you in this building. As First Minister, and on behalf of the Assembly and indeed all beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, I'd like to pass on my sincere best wishes to President Lampe as he goes through this difficult time.

And our thoughts and our prayers are with his family. Madam Speaker, this will be the last time that we gather before elections are held in May for Ordinary Members. For those seeking re-election, please accept my best wishes in your campaign. For those who aren't seeking re-election, I want to thank you for all that you've done over the last few years and I wish you nothing but the best in the future. As you know, Madam Speaker, it takes a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication to serve in public office. And you should be commended for taking on that challenge. I'd also like to take this opportunity to ask beneficiaries to take some time to think about what you may have to offer in stepping up to serve Labrador Inuit in this upcoming election as well. Madam Speaker, on February 23rd, Minister Lyall, Minister Flowers and I, joined President Lampe along with Federal Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Minister Steven Guilbeault, in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to assess the feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Protected Area in Northern Labrador under the *Canada National Marine Conservations Areas Act*. The signing of this MOU follows the 2017 signing of the Statement of Intent to Advance the Imappivut Marine Planning Initiative of the Nunatsiavut Government. The study area is 14,900 square kilometers which is three times larger than Prince Edward Island. It's located in the coastal waters adjacent to the Torngat Mountains National Park. Madam Speaker, an Indigenous Protected Area will conserve a portion of the Labrador Shelf Marine Region which will increase connectivity and protect the fjords that

extends into our park. These areas are critical to the many species that thrive in this region, including beluga whales, seals, migrating seabirds and waterfowl and a variety of fish. The MOU confirms the proposed study area boundary as well as topics to be assessed and the consultations to be undertaken during the feasibility assessment. In addition to conserving biodiversity, protecting these ecosystems will contribute to the vitality of our culture and traditions and well-being. Our Traditional Knowledge coupled with western science will be used as a foundation for the feasibility assessment of the Indigenous Protected Area. One second, Madam Speaker. I apologize. MOU underlines the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation through a renewed nation to nation and government to government relationship with Indigenous Peoples and a shared interest of Parks Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government to protect the ecological and cultural integrity of the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of Northern Labrador. Labrador Inuit culture, knowledge, livelihood and health, is directly connected to the ocean, Madam Speaker. And the signing of the MOU with the Government of Canada is another important step in managing the waters off our coast. We look forward to continued progress towards establishing an Indigenous Protected Area and safeguarding Labrador Inuit culture and identity, as well as the fish and animals that we rely on. Madam Speaker, as we continue to adapt to living in a Covid-19 world, knowing that the virus is still among us, I'd like to thank all Members of our Assembly for your steadfast efforts in trying to protect our people

and our communities. The work that we have done collectively, *Uhalitik*, is encouraging and promoting Public Health protocols, including getting vaccinated and in discouraging non-essential travel to, from and between our communities has made a significant difference. I wanna thank all residents in all Labrador Inuit communities for remaining vigilant, for looking out for one another and remaining calm and kind. Our Public Health and other staff, Madam Speaker, who have done a very good job in helping us navigate during these uncertain times, also deserve to be recognized for their efforts over these past years. But we are still not out of the woods. Public Health officials continue to stress that it is likely the virus that causes Covid-19 will continue to present itself in all of our communities. And so, we all have to assume that the virus is present among us at all times and to not let our guards down. In April, Madam Speaker, President Lampe will join ITK President Natan Obed and other Inuit leaders for the Annual Meeting of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee. This meeting will also be attended by Prime Minister Trudeau and key Federal Ministers. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to once again thank all Assembly Members, as well as support staff for what has been a tough and challenging, yet a very productive four years. *Nakummek, Uhalitik.*

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Acting President Edmunds. Item Three, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." This is the first face-to-face Assembly we have had since the last round of Covid-19. Public Health measures were introduced by the Province. Our last sitting was held

virtually, under the Special Standing Orders. It seems that later in March, the Province is gearing towards business as usual before Covid-19. It is good to be back, and I would like to welcome those in the gallery today and thank them for their interest in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Are there any Members who wish to recognize visitors in the gallery? Acting President?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. It would be remiss of me if I didn't acknowledge that this morning I have the distinct privilege of having my family be here as I undertook the oath and Madam Speaker, I do look forward to looking up and seeing them monitor this session over the next couple days. So hello son and hi Brooklyn and hello Gillian. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, and welcome. I'd also like to recognize our Legal Counsel, Mark Gillette and Elizabeth Zarpa. It's good to have you both here and our comptroller, Rexanne Crawford. For the information of the Assembly, President Johannes Lampe, the Minister of Culture, Language and Tourism, the Honourable Jim Lyall, and the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen have all been properly excused from this Assembly sitting. The other elected officials who are properly excused from this sitting are Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet and Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak the Chair of NunaKatiget Corporation, but we should expect her arrival and presence later this afternoon. I'd like to take this moment also to wish each and every one of them good health. Until the existing Public Health measures regarding Covid-19 are fully lifted, we will not be having pages, but we plan to have pages again for

the May sitting. The interpreter translators today are Katie Winters and Gus Semigak. *Nakummek*. Ches Evans is IT staff assisting this Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize OK staff, Sarah Abel. Today is also International Women's Day. I wanna recognize all the contributions and strengths and sacrifices that our Labrador Inuit Women give and carry all past and present and future. Happy International Women's Day everybody. Item Four, "Ministers Statements". Are there any Minister statements? I now call upon the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll briefly update this morning on community programs and mental health and wellness. Since the relaxing of Public Health restrictions and the elimination of alert levels, communities are resuming regular in-house programming while following Public Health protocols. Many communities are working on developing their Annual Community Health Plans. The Community Health Worker position for Postville has been filled by Ms. Samantha Jacque who started on February 21st. Welcome to the team. Emergency Food Program continues still receiving new application, mainly Canadian Constituency and Upper Lake Melville. The admin position is very busy as the workload is very heavy. Food centres in Nain and Hopedale have begun offering programs once the Public Health measures lifted, planning a land-based program in Nain for later in March. School snacks and lunches are being offered again. The Food Security Program manager will be speaking at a online event about the Future of Food presented by the Royal Canadian

Institute for Science, on Sunday March the 27th, as part of or 2021-2022 program series. This event is free and open to the public. Aboriginal Head Start Urban and Northern Council Youth Video Project: Atlantic Aboriginal Head Start sites are completing videos. It is truly a testament to the success of the AHS Program. It is such an innovated way to look at evaluation of an early childcare program. The four Atlantic provinces are involved in producing 12 videos and Hopedale Aboriginal Head Start is part of the project. There will be workshops from March 21st to the 31st to share videos and provide information about Aboriginal Head Start. Hopedale will host a workshop at DHSD Community Office with the date and time to be announced. Folks in Upper Lake Melville can go to the Lawrence O'Brien Centre and see Hopedale video along with the video from Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Madam Speaker, under Mental Health and Wellness-, we have developed three new Mental Health and Addiction counsellor positions to be located in Nain. One position-, one position in Hopedale and one position shared between Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet. These positions have gone to be translated and will be advertised soon. The Trauma and Addictions Counsellor position is on its fourth posting and are hoping to recruit during this competition which closed on February 23rd. We have received funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls support coordinator and will be hopefully rolling out that work soon. Madam Speaker, we have received funding for an Inuit Cultural Justice Educator under the Gladue Principals Federal Funding. The job description has been written and next steps will

be to go through the process to have this approved and posted. The focus is on cultural education for Mainstream Justice Service providers as well as the impacts of intergenerational trauma leading to overrepresentation of Inuit in the Justice System. We have been approved for funding to have community staff in the region trained to facilitate a family violence prevention/intervention program to families who are involved or at risk for Child Protection involvement. Lastly, Madam Speaker, the Community Shed Programs have now opened to two to three participants for either woodworking, Komatik-making in Rigolet and, or woodworking and small engine repair in Hopedale. The Nain Community Shed coordinator is partnering with the other Youth Staff for traditional focus programs in the near future. And also partnered with Heather and Kayla to pick up wood from Voisey's Bay, sawed, chopped and delivered to elders and single moms. *Nakummek.*

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Asivak. I now call upon the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in our Renewable Resources, in the fishery we are currently attending virtual DFO Science Advisory Meetings on the Northern Shrimp and Snow Crab advisory and they have been completed to date. The Torngat Fishery Board are holding their annual workshops in Goose Bay on March 8th, 9th and 10th. Myself and my staff will be attending, Madam Speaker. We are pleased to see multi numbers of applicants under our new Multi-Year Designation Policy coming in to be reviewed. The Wildlife, Madam Speaker, our

moose hunting season opened on September 14th and closed on March 7th. We had a total of 25 moose to be harvested in LISA this season. Twelve licences were filled. The Torngat Wildlife Board in partnership with my department have carried out two moose surveys this winter, one in the Rigolet area and one in the Hopedale are. Results are yet to be completed. Madam Speaker, the 2022 polar bear hunt season opened on February 2nd and NG received 12 licences from the Province. To date, six licences have been filled, three in Nain, two in Hopedale and one in Makkovik. Madam Speaker, several incidents of rabies have been reported in Nunatsiavut. There have been multiple confirmed cases in Nain and a case in Hopedale with additional results pending. My staff are working closely with the Province and our own DHSD Public Health Division on these issues. Madam Speaker, the Renewable Resource Division has been working closely with the Province Department of Enforcement on Illegal Caribou Harvest of the George River Caribou Herd. Our conservation officers have joined them on patrols as well as sharing information on suspected caribou harvest. Lastly, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that my department have been able to secure 125 caribou and 125 musk ox again from Nunavut this year. We expect our shipments to arrive in Goose Bay on March 26th. Further details will be provided, directed to our Community Freezers in Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville as we get closer to that delivery. From our Lands Division, Madam Speaker, the Manager of Lands reported one land use application has been submitted in 2022. Also, Madam Speaker, two two-week

permits were issued to the German army for snowmobile training. And I think them coming in with their flag flying last evening through-, from north of here. Madam Speaker, since the last Assembly, the GIS specialist has prepared several maps for land use. They have recently finished a set of maps for Nunatsiavut project and are currently working on geographic for the Tourism Division. Madam Speaker, officials from my department met with NGC to discuss the draft plan on the cleanup of the former quarry located in Ten Mile Bay. NGC committed to cleaning up the quarry and they indicated that it will happen this summer and it will likely be a multi-year project. *Impact and Benefits Agreement*, Madam Speaker. The Voisey's Bay mine mill and mine expansion is continuing. There have been a few job ads out in the last month, but we are not getting a lot of beneficiaries applying at this time. If any beneficiary are interested in jobs, they can submit the resume through our IBA coordinator or Vale's Inuit Employing coordinator. Madam Speaker, Vale continues to take every precaution to limit the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Vale and NG Public Health Team are in constant contact in relations to Covid. Also, Madam Speaker, the AngajukKâks are now regularly informed of the protocol and how many cases are on site. Madam Speaker, that is it for today. I will do non-renewable tomorrow and also Environment Division. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. I now call upon the Minister for Department of Education and Economic Development, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Today I will provide an update on the Economic Development Division. Under the Rigolet Gas Station, the Rigolet Inuit Community Government continues as the interim operator of the Rigolet Gas Station. The initial contract period of September 2021 has been extended until the end of May 31st, 2022. As of March, we are engaging a consultant to work with a private operator to prepare potential business proposal for the gas station operation. Once the business plan is received, the NEC will be presented with the documents and options for review. Under Business Support, between January and March, the Division had four new businesses added to the Inuit Business Registry regarding procurement. Four underground and four regular site operation packages were received from Vale with our Division submitting 29 Inuit Business nominations and two QBE nominations. There are total of 17 clients, 15 business start-up and two business growth. Madam Speaker, the Small Business Start-up Tour focusing on youth engagement, client engagement, generating interest and small business development and community meetings, still has two outstanding community visits to complete. We will reschedule both the Nain follow-up and Rigolet sessions once Covid Public Health measures permit. The *Fiscal Financing Agreement*: We have received an application from the-, please excuse me-, Agvituk Historical Society regarding wharf development for increased access to the Moravian Mission Complex in Hopedale. We are working with the Society through a consultant to confirm their proposal development to determine next steps in funding the development. We

have funds available in this program related to Economic Development, Employment and Business Development opportunities. Applications are welcome and reviewed on a continuous intake and evaluation. The Community Economic Development Program contributions have nearly reached the annual \$150,000 allotment. We continue to accept applications on a continuous intake and evaluation process. The Federal Indigenous Community Business Partnership, or ICBF Program targets small businesses and artisans impacted by the pandemic. The ICBF is valued at \$266,525 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The Division developed a program in partnership with the Division of Tourism to allow access to these funds. The Covid-19 Microbusiness and Artist Relief Fund: The program was approved by the NEC on January 24th, 2022 and publicly launched on February the 2nd 2022. The uptake of the program has been extremely high. The Division has received over 60 applications. We have approved 45 applications to date and have released \$99,000 to businesses and artists. The program operates on a continuous intake process and reviews applications weekly. We expect high-, sorry, we expect additional funds to be released in the coming weeks and will be on target to meet, if not exceed, our required annual spend of \$116,525 for this fiscal year. Microbusinesses and artisans impacted by Covid-19 are encouraged to apply for this grant program. Self-employment Benefits Program: The transfer of Self-Employment Benefits Program from Education to Economic Development, Madam Speaker, is near complete and is expected to be presented to NEC in April. In the

meantime, existing Self-employment Benefit Program has been reinstated to allow the program to address existing client demand. The operation of this program is a partnership between our Education and Economic Division. The program has received three applications and has approved all three clients. Two are expected to receive financial assistance for a 26-week period which is expected to be extended into the-, with the new program launch with one starting the benefit in the summer. This program operates on a continuous intake and evaluation process and start-ups are encouraged to contact the Department to learn more about the program and apply. Madam Speaker, under staff, we still continue to have two vacancies in our Division, the Business Development Officer, and the Business Development Officer positions. Both roles have been advertised multiple times without success. We are seeking a service contract to bridge essential delivery program during this recruitment period and are exploring alternative employment options to address our labour shortage. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I now call upon Honourable Minister, Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A few highlights from my Department, Madam Speaker and I'll do some more tomorrow. Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has received its Annual General Assessment from Indigenous Services Canada. I'm so pleased, Madam Speaker to stand here and inform the Assembly that the Nunatsiavut Government has a zero-risk rating. It's an amazing achievement Madam Speaker and

one that should be celebrated. I don't know that there are any other zero-ratings in this country and it shows the path that we're on and how we spend our money, how we administer programs, not only the Federal Government's, but our own as well, funding from different levels of Government. And it is an achievement. We're all aware, Madam Speaker that earlier in the fall season and early winter, there were four outages in less than 60 days affecting conductivity in Nunatsiavut. Phones, WiFi, cell phones-, officials from my department, Robert Ford and Rexanne Crawford met with officials from Bell to discuss the causes of those outages as well as the path forward. Madam Speaker, Bell is now instated manual daily checks on their sites, no longer waiting for their alarm from each system to inform them of upcoming issue. If an issue is identified, there's a 70-, 80-hour battery life giving Bell time to put a plan in place and be proactive. They've also replaced some equipment and have plans to upgrade at other sites. The Human Resource Division continues to work on Occupational Health and Safety designed to bring an increased focus on safety and wellness in all Nunatsiavut workplaces and ensure compliance with the legislation for Federally regulated entities. Madam Speaker, employees have been inquiring about the Employment Assistance Program commonly referred to as EAP. The EAP's a voluntary and confidential service designed to help employees who have personal concerns that affect their person or well being or work performance. I am pleased to say that our Government will be in a position to offer this service this coming spring. Communications will be

released when this service is available. And I continue my update tomorrow, Madam Speaker. I'll just save some of my breath for my very important budget thing this afternoon, I suppose.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I now call upon the Acting President, First Minister, Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *Uhalitik*, and I've leaned on your discretion here to be able to allow me to present on behalf of my department and thank you, for that. *Uhalitik*. The Director of Housing has been working on components of the workplan over the last two months, with the focus on the Board of Commissioners. Establishing the Board is critical for the Housing Commission and the *Housing Act* lays out the selection process which involves the Joint Management Committee, creating a list of potential board members for submission to the President, to be appointed by the NEC. There have been several meetings with the JMC. I'd like to thank the treasurer and his officials, the secretariat and the ICGs for their assistance. The list of potential commissioners will be finalized this week and submitted to the President's office for consideration. The Director is also working on the orientation package for the board members, including draft policies and bylaws, and *Code of Conduct*. The draft Conflict of Interest Policy and a draft sub-committee structure. This package and training will also be developed and adapted for the local Inuit Housing Committees as well, *Uhalitik*. We continue to work with Torngat Regional Housing Association as they wind down operations. There have been several meetings and conversations with the board and

staff as we attempt to create a smooth transfer between their closure and the coming onstream of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. Over the last year we have focused on bringing the Housing Bill to the President for Assent in the spring of 2022. While we are making progress on the work plan, Madam Speaker, the delay encountered by hiring the director to implement the workplan has meant that achieving that target was unrealistic. While the Home Repair Program is going forward this year, and new construction is happening. The workplan to establish the Commission had to be adjusted seeing assent being pushed later into the calendar year. Throughout the summer and into the fall, the local Inuit Housing Committees will be brought online. The Commission will be incorporated, and the Commission will be structurally and fundamentally set up, however assenting to the Bill this spring was not possible until these other components were finalized. *Uhalitik*, I did want to stress that this summer will be one of the most intensive construction seasons for the Nunatsiavut Government to date, where 12 units for seniors are being constructed between Hopedale and Nain, up to 10 staff housing units along with a modular home being brought into Nain for shelter. Selections will be taking place for the Repair Program this spring. And we are focused on creating more quality control within the program and a quicker implementation of the Emergency Repair Program. To that effect, the NEC has approved Nunatsiavut Affairs to create a new position of Housing Inspector which will be critical for our current programs and for the functioning of the Commission. Over today and tomorrow,

Madam Speaker, we'll be seeking support from the Assembly on an Amendment to the *Housing Initiatives Act* and to the Housing Bill. The Amendment to the *Housing Initiatives Act* will seek to give more flexibility in allocating units under the Family Connections Program, while the amendment to the Housing Bill will seek to give us the ability to flow funds to Torngat beyond March 31st, 2022. The amendment to the Housing Bill, Madam Speaker, is necessary so that we can finalize the asset transfer between the Nunatsiavut Government and the Housing Commission. And I want to be clear that this is not so that TRHA can continue with a building or construction season. Madam Speaker, I will provide a quick update on the Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program. There is some outstanding work from this past year's program, undertaken by Nunatsiavut Group of Companies with some work being complicated by the ability to work inside homes during high periods of Covid-19 activity. They expect to resume work and finish remaining repairs in the near future. The application process is underway for the 2022 Home Repair Program. And I wanna stress that the deadline is March 11th and that's this upcoming Friday. Under the Emergency Repair Program, 11 homes have been inspected and contracts are being awarded. Madam Speaker, as I spoke to a moment ago, the NEC has approved the position of Housing Inspector, and I trust that that position will be invaluable as we administer the Emergency Repair Program on a go forward basis. Madam Speaker, that is it for my updates today.

Tomorrow's update will focus on the Registrar, Transportation, and the Infrastructure and Public Property Files. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Acting President and First Minister. I now call upon Honourable Minister Asivak on behalf of Honourable Minister Lyall.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to provide an update from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. I want to highlight the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on February 23rd, 2022 to assess the feasibility of establishing a new protected area along the Northern Labrador coast. The MOU confirms the commitment to determine the feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Protected Area under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* adjacent to Torngat Mountains National Park by the Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Canada. Protected areas play a vital role in conserving natural and cultural marine heritage, fighting climate change and biodiversity loss and providing Canadians with opportunities to learn more about our iconic cultural and natural settings. It was a great virtual turnout for the official signing with the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada and President Johannes Lampe of Nunatsiavut Government. The signing of this MOU follows the 2017 signing of a Statement of Intent to advance the Imappivut Marine Planning Initiative of the Nunatsiavut Government. The study area of 14,906 square kilometers or three times larger than Prince Edward Island and is located on the coastal waters adjacent to Torngat Mountains National Park. An

Indigenous Protected Area will conserve a portion of the Labrador Shelf Marine Region which will increase connectivity and protect the fjords that extend into Torngat Mountains National Park. In addition to conserving biodiversity, protecting these ecosystems in Northern Labrador will contribute to the vitality of Inuit culture and traditions and the well-being of Labrador Inuit who have been stewards of this region since time immemorial. Labrador Inuit have extensive knowledge of the land, water and sea ice in this area, and are sustained to this day by its wildlife. Inuit knowledge coupled with science will be used as a foundation for the feasibility assessment of the Indigenous Protected Area. The steering committee is planning for community engagement later this month to inform our people on what Indigenous Protected Area means, and a National Marine Conservation Area, to understand from our people what they use that our area for presently, in the past, and how they may use it in the future. They will also be discussing and asking what is important to our people in this area. Once these have been completed, they will draft what we heard documents to bring back to community. There may be many engagement sessions throughout the feasibility assessment process. Lastly, Madam Speaker, the MOU underlines the Government of Canada commitment to reconciliation through our renewed Nation to Nation and Government to Government relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the shared interests of Parks Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government to protect the ecological and

cultural integrity, of the terrestrial and marine ecosystem of Northern Labrador. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ministers for your statements this morning. We will now move on to Item Five, "Members Statements". Are there any Members Statements? I now call upon Ordinary Member Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. *Ullakut*. I would like to send well wishes to President Johannes Lampe, Minister Jim Lyall, Ordinary Member John Andersen. It's not hard to miss them at this Assembly. They're definitely missed and they're in my thoughts and prayers and I wish them a speedy recovery, and I hope to see them again soon. On March 2nd, my colleague and I, Mr. Asivak, Ms. Kemuksigak from the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, and the Community Freezer coordinator Debbie Hines traveled to Mudd Lake for a community lunch, provided some Nunatsiavut Government updates, had a few games of Bingo, wonderfully called by our colleague who has a future career I'm sure, and we had some great discussion. They're always very appreciative whenever we get down to Mud Lake. So, that's always good to see. We also had an open house in Happy Valley, Goose Bay: and had some great discussion there and I think my colleague will discuss that a bit more. I'd also like to recognize International Women's Day today. There've been some very influential women in my life, namely, our mother who never stepped down from a challenge. She broke some barriers of her own. We have also, some very strong women around the Assembly table, our

speaker, our clerk is unfortunately-, Acting Clerk, right now, who's not here right now, Marjorie, and of course my sister. We have a great Speaker in Susan. You've done a great job. We also have Mary Simon who's also been a great leader and inspiration for Inuit women as our first Governor General. We've also had very fortunately on our side, fighting for our *Land Claims Agreement*, working countless hours, Ms. Isabella Pain. We've also had our first female President, Ms. Sarah Leo. And I'd like to thank them for their time and service and inspiration to all other Inuit women. And my dad always used to say, when he was at the Assembly, that along with former First Minister, Ms. Kate Mitchell, that he would never wanna be in a meeting sitting across the table from Ms. Pain, our First Minister, Kate Mitchell and Sarah Leo our President, because, he said, in his words, "Those women knew exactly what they were talking about and nobody could pull the wool over their eyes." He was always very inspired by them. And I just wanted to acknowledge their work and, thank you. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker First of all, condolences go out to the following families. Elias Tuglavina, Michael Ford, Adam Lidd and Leah Ford, who had relatives in Nain. On a happier note, Nain welcomes three new births to Rachel Tuglavina and Nick Ittulak, Victoria Bennett and Crystal Allen and Gustave Barbour. Congratulations to them and best wishes. Madam Speaker, as we speak, the winter trail from Natuashish

to Nain has been completed today. Due to, first of all, poor response to the jobs, and a combination of bad weather. Each one has been completed and a big thank you go out to the boys for a job well done. And finally, Madam Speaker, we held our, "Young Girls Day", this past Sunday, March 6, 2022. The NICG had to think of number of groups for that. First appreciative thank you goes to Illusuak and NG for allowing it to be held at their facility. Ullapitsaijet, for donating monies and goods, 'cause without their help, this would have not been possible. And lastly, the church group and the folks who gave their time, ensured the girls had a time they would not forget for the rest of their lives. This was a successful day for them, and it was made possible when the community comes together for them. That's all I have. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Today, March 8, 2022 is known as International Women's Day. It is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Today also marks action to increasing women's equality. International Women's Day has occurred for well over a century, with the first International Women's Day gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. International Women's Day belongs to all groups, collectively, everywhere. International Women's Day is not a country, a group or organization specific. And the campaign theme for this year is, "Break the Bias". Imagine a gender-equal world, a world free of bias, stereotypes and

discrimination, a world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive, a world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively, we can all break the bias. Be part of a movement. Individually, we'll all responsible for our own thoughts and actions, all day, every day. We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplace. We can break the bias in our schools, our colleges and universities. Together, we can all break the bias on International Women's Day and beyond. Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough. Action is needed to level the playing field. Are you in? Will you actively call out gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping each time you see it? Will you help break the bias? Cross your arms to show solidarity. To all women, including our delegation of women sitting around this table today, I wish you a happy International Women's Day. Let us break the bias. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. I cross my arms with you. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Kaipokok, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and good morning to you all. As you can see, I'm putting on my glasses. As I was sitting there and thinking, you know, that not only goes with age but, you know, in my latter years of experiencing on the trap line with my grandfather, that was one of his worst enemies to wear glasses out in the cold and go in the cabin and they all steam up. However, Madam Speaker, this morning, I want to say a few words before I get into what I have written up there. And that's,

when our Acting President, Tyler was taking the Oath of Office this morning, Madam Speaker, I couldn't help but think back on the years of my service with NG as an Ordinary Member for Postville. And at that time, Madam Speaker, one of my daily constituents that would contact my office would be his grandmother. And I had great respect for her and his grandfather, as well. With a lump in my throat this morning, Madam Speaker, I listened to our Acting President do the Oath in his grandmother's mother-tongue language which I very much appreciate. And this morning, I can only say, hats off to you, Tyler, for taking on this responsibility and doing such a good job. Madam Speaker, I noticed this morning that the clock is to the back of the wall here to me, so-, and I don't have any time in front of me, so if I exceed my time, just please let me know. I know I have five minutes. But Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity this morning to wish a belated birthday greeting to one of the elders in my community that has been an example throughout the years. Job Edmund celebrated his birthday on February the 25th and he was 86 years old. So I would like to wish him a belated birthday greeting. That's my real uncle and that's also Tyler's Uncle. He was one of the guys, elders, in our communities, Madam Speaker, much like a lot of our elders in our communities. He did things with his hands. He didn't depend on electric tools to build. As a matter of fact, Madam Speaker, that elder-, that man built a 32-foot boat called a Long Liner, and as far as I know he made a sail in North West, but by using his hands-, hand planer, hand saws-, everything was done by hand. Madam

Speaker, he was a great example in our community and he's still around today. So God love those types of people. Madam Speaker, as I look around this morning at the table, I see a representation with the exception of probably one community, and that would be Rigolet, that I see AngajukKâk, I see Ministers, I see Ordinary Members, I see Chairs. And I see you as a speaker, Madam Speaker, this morning, and you know, if I think back to the last three and half years of my service up to now, as AngajukKâk, I have to say and officially thank each Minister for their responses to me, whether it was by email, whether it was by telephone calls or what have you. At times, Madam Speaker, I was probably one of their biggest critic, at times, when it come to issues of concern for our communities, and realizing, Madam Speaker, that we have a *Constitution* and a *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* that was settled and ratified in the year of 2005 which many have fought very, very hard for. If I look around on the wall, Madam Speaker, and see people that has worked diligently on our behalf, on our grandchildren's behalf for the betterment of our communities, behind me I have a list people behind me who has been Vice Presidents of the Labrador Inuit Association for years and years and years. And Madam Speaker, I have to say this morning, before I sit, that this is probably the last time we will see our former Clerk sitting around this table with us. Over the years, Mary has been a great inspiration to me. I served as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources in the year of 2014 for a short period of time, and at that time, I looked to Mary for a lot of my advice. I looked to Mary for-, I saw her as an

example to our Assembly. And today, as I see her and as I talk to her and this may be her last sitting around the table to join us, I just wanna wish you, Mary, a very well future. I know you have other plans as we discussed this morning, but, you know, in your future plans, I wish you and your family nothing but the best. And may God bless you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers . I now call upon the Chair of Sivunivut, Ms. Maxene Winters. Thank you.

MS. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. We are happy to announce that the Sivunivut office is open once again to the public. We would like to thank everyone for their patience when the latest Covid outbreak shut everything down. Hopefully, this will be the last time we will ever have to close our doors to our Members. Members who are 55 and up, can either pick up, call in, or have their food delivered. Just call the office and talk to Shirley. We are hoping to have more programming in the near future and looking forward to seeing everyone out and about as the weather warms, as this winter was just so cold. I would like to pass along condolences to the family of the late Little Joe Tuglavina during this difficult time. It is obvious how well-liked he was in our little community with the outpouring of support that his friends are holding for the family. His smile lit up a room and would help anyone in need. He was a volunteer fire fighter for the town of Northwest River, an athlete in the Labrador Winter Games, and a father of two beautiful children. Best wishes to our Clerk of the Assembly, Mary Sillett in her last sitting. Mary,

you will be missed, and we wish you nothing but the best with your new adventure you are about to begin. In closing, I would like to wish all our-, the Ordinary Members the best of luck in their future endeavours, whether it be running again for their seat or starting a new adventure. I would like to thank you all for your knowledge and support over the last three and a half years. It was a pleasure working with you all during our time and through a pandemic which lasted longer than anyone has ever thought. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ms. Maxene Winters. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon, Assembly Members. It's wonderful to see everyone. It's good to see the people that we have here, and welcome back, once again, Mary Sillett. It's an honour to be in your presence, once more. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Canadian Constituency, Members that have received the Food Supplement thank the Nunatsiavut Government, ITK and the Federal Government for the funds supplied up to this time. It has been a help to all Members, especially, the low income and the seniors. Hopefully the program can be extended in the near future for a little bit longer, maybe. Madam Speaker, the Food Supplement Program had Members that fell through the cracks, mainly because of unforeseen reasons, different applications, miscommunications, whatever. Case in point, several Members are disabled and on pensions. But because of the table set up by NEC, they did not qualify. The working poor is similar. I'm sure there's lots of

people in all the communities anywhere that fall between the cracks because they're the working poor. They can't afford the food, the housing and they don't qualify because of that. And it's a sin that they do fall between those cracks. They don't get the funding, and I'm sure it's also happened within the communities on the coast. I'm not sure, but I think so. Madam Speaker, Covid became the focal point of life for all across Canada roughly two years ago, but Newfoundland and Labrador stemmed the flow for a very long time because of the measures put in place, and especially the ones that were put in place by NG. And it's almost appeased, so if you can keep the restrictions in place, I think you can beat it. Once again, there's gonna be small outbreaks everywhere. That's inevitable. Madam Speaker, it's been a learning experience for myself and anyone that serves in this Assembly, thanks to President Lampe, First Minister Edmunds, all the clerks-, the Clerk of the Assembly, all the Speakers, Honourable Ministers who are doing an excellent job, AngajukKâks for their representation, and for the help and guidance of the staff that's in this building along the way. And another thing I would like to wish is that good health for President Lampe, Minister Lyall, Member Andersen and anyone else that has an illness, especially, Charlotte Wolfrey. I know she's going through a rough time right now. And Madam Speaker, I'm also asking on behalf of all Members here to pray for the people in Ukraine during this invasion and keep them as safe as possible. It has been a pleasure and honour to meet all of you and to work with you, and once again, all the best in the future. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

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

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like today to remember the late Cynthia Jacque who passed away on the 26th of February 2022. Cynthia worked at the local fish plant and was a fixture there for many years as a culler and a grader of all the types of fish that were landed. She has touched many people in her time working at the dock. Join me in extending condolences to her family and friends. Also, to the family of the late Joseph Tuglavina of Makkovik, please accept our deepest condolences at this time as well. Joseph had connections to Makkovik and it's good to hear that our NunaKatiget Member referred to him as Little Joe. I think that we all remember Joe as Little Joe. Also, on a better note, Madam Speaker, our CEEP Program has completed in Makkovik. The Community Enhancement Employment Program is completed. All four people have got their EI hours. And those are people who are in the vulnerable sector in our community. So they are now on their way to getting their EI claims set up. And I also understand that Marjorie and Break the Bias. As we speak, JCR, Junior Canadian Ranger Hannah Gear, from Makkovik is on her way to Deer Lake and is going to Max Simms Camp for a Breaking the Bias, all female get together for the Junior Canadian Rangers, staffed by Captain Jan-Marie Gill, who is also a Captain in the Department of National Defence female person, but a corporal as well who are all female. So the Breaking the Bias initiative is under way and it's alive and well, I think in our province, starting with the younger

people like JCR Gear, I think is a good start to Breaking the Bias for all the females. And I extend my best wishes, as well to Mary Sillett. You've been a fixture around here since I have been here and have been a great help to everybody, I think, whether it come to policies and procedures of this Assembly, all the best in your future endeavours. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. Are there any more Member statements? I now recognize Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Condolences to the families of the late Mr. Robert Lyall of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, the late Ms. Marion Broomfield of Mudd Lake, to the late Ms. Brigette Saunders of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, to the late Ms. Leah Ford of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Mr. Kenneth Hooker Broomfield of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, formerly of Mud Lake, to the late Mr. Joseph Tuglavina of Northwest River. Thoughts and prayers with you on the passing of your loved ones. May you find comfort in knowing that Nunatsiavut Assembly are praying for you during this sad time. I send well-wishes to President Lampe and his family during this time. You are in my thoughts. On behalf of all beneficiaries, we are there for you to support you in whatever way we can. Also, to Ordinary Member and Minister, Mr. Jim Lyall, of Nain, and Ordinary Member, Mr. John Andersen in Makkovik, well wishes to you both. We are thinking of you and missing you at Assembly. Madam Speaker, Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Tourism Association is pleased announce the appointment of Jillian Larkham, Director of Tourism, NG as Interim

Chairperson effective February 26, 2022. Ms. Larkham has been involved in the development of the organization since the first Indigenous Tourism Forum in February 2018 and serving as Vice-chair of the NLITA since April of 2020. Ms. Larkham has extensive experience and knowledge in this field. Congrats on your appointment. We wish you all the best. My colleague, Ms. Wheeler, mentioned our open house in Mud Lake. I'll briefly discuss our open house in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. We hosted an open house the following evening, Thursday March 3rd at the Royal Canadian Legion. It was a catered supper of hot roast beef and all the trimmings, dessert, tea and coffee. We provided Nunatsiavut Government updates where each question and answer was very popular with a lot of questions and feedback. The Members in attendance were very positive, very appreciative, and they encouraged not only us as Ordinary Member, but Government as a whole to get back to our open forum. However, we did note since the pandemic that this was not possible. We offered a few door prizes. Both events were by pre-registration. We followed Newfoundland and Labrador Covid-19 protocols by scanning the Newfoundland and Labrador Vax-pass, hand sanitization, wearing our masks and a sign-in contact tracing list. We advertised both events on CBC Labrador Morning and our Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Facebook page. Thanks to Ms. Winters and working well together to successfully put off these open houses which we really enjoyed getting out and listening and meeting with our Members. And we devoted that in the beginning to be there, to be

available, to be visible and I think we've done that and will continue right up to the end of our term. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any Members wishing to make a statement? I recognize Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wasn't going to get up this morning when it came to our Members statements. But seeing we're talking about women and it's Women's Day today, it got me thinking about the late Ruth Flowers, who was married to Abe and was very close to me. I remember the story that she was telling us one time. We were sitting around in the house and there was this man. He was blasting the women-, "Women this and women that." And Ruth was the type of woman that would say what was in her mind and, you know, I respected her and, and what she would say and she said, "You talking about women like that, you wouldn't have been born if it wasn't for a woman." So I'd just like to say, you know, it was a great honour for me to know her as my aunt and married to Abe. I mean people look at it in a different light today, but you know, as far as I can remember back, she was really strong about women and their rights. So I just like to, you know, I didn't know if I wanted to cross my arms, but I will today, Marjorie, cross my arms for women and, you know, more power to you and I'd just like to say thank you to my wife for putting up for me sometimes. So anyway, thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other Members wishing to make statements? I call upon the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Madam Speaker, I rise again this morning for this statement on behalf of Ordinary Member for Makkovik, John Andersen. So Ordinary Member Andersen said, "I would like to thank the Nunatsiavut Government for giving me the opportunity to represent my community in the Nunatsiavut Government. I'm impressed with the amount of projects that are ongoing in all departments and the progress that has been made during this term in Government. I especially, want to thank the Department of Education and Economic Development for all their efforts to make it possible to have a music teacher in Makkovik which I lobbied for, not only for Nunatsiavut Government but for many years prior too, with other organizations. I would like to mention now, one area that really needs improving. I found out that if you're not part of the Nunatsiavut Executive Committee, you don't have a lot to say in what happens, no chance to debate or have a say on behalf of the community you represent. I would like to see an executive committee that has at least one Member from each of the communities on it. This would improve communications. Not being on the Executive can leave a Member unable to inform constituents on how decisions are reached. Also, as an elected representative, I often found out news releases at the same time to general public. More communication with the elected members is needed. Again, Madam Speaker, I thank the Ministers and all other

Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly for helping to improve the living conditions of all beneficiaries through-, of all the Nunatsiavut Government. Sorry about that, Madam Speaker. So that's the Members statement from Honourable John Andersen.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. As I sit around the table this morning, I notice a few of our Members of this Assembly have been excused due to medical issues. I'd like to send well wishes to President Lampe, Honourable Jim Lyall, John Andersen, Charlotte Wolfrey and Patricia Kemuksigak. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time and were certainly missed at this Assembly sitting. I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to family and friends of Cynthia Jacque of Makkovik. Cynthia passed away after a sudden diagnosis with cancer. Her presence will be greatly missed in the community. And also, condolences going out to family of Joseph Tuglavina. We are with you in thought and prayer. And condolences to the family and friends of the young lady in Natuashish who perished on the ice 10 kilometers from Natuashish. We are small communities, Madam Speaker and when one hurt, we all hurt. My thoughts and prayers are with all who are hurting. Madam Speaker, I want to speak briefly on a topic that is of growing concern in our community, and that is bootlegging. Tragedies are happening and many social issues occurring from the illegal sale of alcohol. It is sad to see this going on in our towns today. To those

bootlegging alcohol, please think of what you're doing to our families, our friends, and our community. We need to become more vocal in reporting these illegal actions to the RCMP. Let us band together to help our community become healthier and stronger. Think of our children and our grandchildren. Let us fix this issue so that they can have a better life and a healthier community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Are there any more Members wishing to make statements? Any more Members? Seeing none, with that, we will conclude our Members Statements this morning. We'll take a quick 10, 15-minute recess. And we'll convene right after that.

[Recess]

MS. ONALIK:

That concludes our break for this morning and then now, we'll move on to Item Six, "Return to Oral Questions." At the January 2022 Assembly sitting, the Chair of the NunaKatiget Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak asked a question which was redirected to the Minister of Health and Social Development, Honourable Gerald Asivak. If KN-95 or N-95 masks and face shields would be provided to frontline NG workers? Minister Asivak, would you please provide your response.

MR. ASIVAK:

Yes, Madam Speaker. The masks have been ordered for Home Support Staff and other appropriate frontline staff. They are KN-95 masks, as N-95 masks are generally reserved for hospital staff, for aerosol generating procedures and have to be fit tested for individual staff members. We have some face shields available, but if you have a properly fitting face

mask, it would not be necessary for everyday use. If staff are actually working with a client who has tested positive for Covid, all appropriate personal protective equipment would be provided.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Also, in January 2022, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, asked Honourable Tyler Edmunds, the First Minister, if the Nunatsiavut Government was considering the building of personal care homes for seniors in Nunatsiavut. I would like to recognize Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds, to provide his response.

MR. EDMUNDS:

[Speaks Inuttitut] *Uhalitik*, and *Nakummek* to AngajukKâk Flowers again for that question. In consultation with DHSD, the response to the question is as follows: Several housing units have been constructed specifically for units in Nain and more units for Hopedale will be constructed in the upcoming year. While these units are designated for seniors who are independent, there is potential for wrap-around services in the future on a case-by-case basis. There have been discussions about adding more supportive living units and the elderly could apply if they're able to live independently or with some minimum support, pending land availability or putting out another request for private homes for sale which could fall under the Supportive Living Program. The Long-Term Care facility would be owned and operated by Labrador Grenfell Health and operating in Nunatsiavut would be extremely challenging due to the requirements for health care professionals. In order to make a personal care home feasible, we would require 16 to 24 beds which would be

difficult in any one Nunatsiavut community. Provincial and Federal funding would be vital as well, for the operation and sustainability. At present, the focus is on programs like the assisted living model in Happy Valley, Goose Bay where four individuals live in a unit with 24/7 staffing. The Province has funded this model and for this to be implemented in Nunatsiavut, Provincial and Federal funding would be necessary, not only for the construction, but operation and sustainability. It has been clear that our seniors would prefer to live closer to home to remain connected to their families and communities, however, the most practical way to achieve this goal in Nunatsiavut is through the Assistive Living Model and not the conventional long-term care facility. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. The AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey asked the Minister of DEED, Minister Marlene Winters-Wheeler, if the Nunatsiavut Government had been consulted around students going back to school. I would like to recognize Minister Winters-Wheeler to provide her response.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I'd like to thank AngajukKâk Wolfrey for her question, as well. Hopefully she's listening to us. Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Nunatsiavut Government has not been consulted, as this is a Provincial responsibility at this time. The Return to School Action Plan was rolled out consistently across all schools in our Province.
Nakummek.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Minister Winters-Wheeler. The Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders asked the President Johannes Lampe the following: Harbourview Manor is a not-for-profit personal care home in Mary's Harbour NL. The maximum capacity of the facility is 20 residents. Due to the loss of funding from the Government of NL in 2019, they have had to reduce the number of residents to 14, 8 of which are Nunatsiavut members. They also reduced the number of staff, LPN, PCA, kitchen and office staff, so they can continue to operate. The main source of income over the last two years have been donations from local and South Coast businesses, Labrador Shrimp Company, NunatuKavut Corporation and fund raising from volunteer members in Mary's Harbour. NunatuKavut Corporation donated an extra 5000 for the operation of the bus the facility uses to transport their clients to hospital and shopping. Each year, since 2019, NunatuKavut Corporation has donated 3000 of funding for social functions and gatherings for the residents. I'm asking that Nunatsiavut make a yearly donation of 20,000 to Harbourview Manor, so they can continue to operate. The Nunatsiavut members that are in the facility are from the Coastal Communities and are missing home and relatives. I would like to recognize Acting President to provide a response.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *Uhalitik* and *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders for the question. The Nunatsiavut Government does not have a program or service that would fund the operations of a privately run Assisted Living home or any other non-profit or profit organization. NG does not provide

cash donations unless it is a sponsorship as set out in the Sponsorship Policy. There are some points that need to be considered. There has been no business case or data to support that request. There is no official letter of support or request from the Manor itself, just so far, the request from the Member. It appears that NCC does not provide funding for operations but supports specific items like event and cultural activities. NG has similar things and may be able to provide some supports, but not for operations. As an example of what could be possible, HSD has provided to the residents of the Long-Term Care facility in Goose Bay, radios, so they could listen to OKâlaKatiget Radio, iPads for virtual visits with families, Inuit artwork, traditional food, cultural items for prizes, special events. And some have asked for translation support as well-, promotional items for Orange Shirt Day and other requests for Indigenous Peoples Day. There are currently, seven beneficiaries at the Harbourview Manor, and from a historical perspective, this facility was originally built with Provincial Government dollars. And there was a point of controversy as other personal care homes in the Province were private and had no capital costs when they started operations. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. There are no more return to oral questions today, so we will continue with Item Seven on *Orders of the Day*, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions? I'd like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Kaipokok, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Minister Flowers. And my question would be related to his statement his morning where I think, if I'm correct, it was mentioned that there's 125 caribou coming our way and there's 125 muskox. My question related to that would be-, my memory is short, so bear with me-, would be, how does this compare to 2021 with what we had shipped in for numbers-wise? How does it compare? Thankyou.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Honourable Minister Greg Flowers?

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard for your question. I'd certainly like to clarify, I was-, so whenever we went on break, I didn't realize that I said 125 muskox. It's 25 muskox. I do apologize for that mistake. It is 15 more caribou than last year, and the muskox is the same as last year, 25. So I apologize for that mistake, but for your question it is 15 more caribou than last year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you. No, I don't, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. I call upon the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Acting President, regarding the Protected Indigenous Area that was signed recently. Will that come under Parks or will that be separate, in its own entity?

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker. Acting President, Honourable Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, *Uhalitik* and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker for the question. I guess it should be stressed that as we're engaging in this process, the one term that we've heard continually is collaboration, whether or not that's collaboration between the Nunatsiavut Government and Parks or collaboration between Western Science, Western Knowledge and traditional Indigenous Knowledge. So I think, as we undertake this process and we figure out the best path forward, figure out the feasibility studies, community engagement, I think collaboration is at the core of all of this. And it will be a joint-led approach with Nunatsiavut Government and Parks working collaboratively to ensure that we are staying connected with the communities and trying to move this file forward in the way that the communities would like to see it. So this is a collaborative approach, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister, Acting President. Mr. Joe Dicker, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. DICKER: No. I will just let it go there for now and keep an eye on it.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. In our last Assembly sitting, we heard that there will be apartments in place of the shelter that was supposed to go

here. My question is, when will that be available to residents who are displaced and don't have a home to go to? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ms. Flowers for that question. Honourable Minister Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *Uhalitik* and *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. The AngajukKâk is correct, at the last Assembly sitting, I did state that we had abandoned the plans to renovate the previous DHSD building with hopes of acquiring some NLHC units that are in the community here to help support homelessness. We are still moving forward on that. We have been speaking with NLHC over the last couple of months and coordinating the lease agreement. It is something that is still being worked on. I understand that it is an urgent issue and I understand that, you know, the need is very urgent. But we are still working on it and we are still committed to acquiring those units to help deal with this issue in the community. So thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Edmunds. AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Yeah, thank you. And now that this is our last Assembly sitting, my question is will this still be worked on up to the election process, which I think is in May, 'cause it's a very urgent issue? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. And thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. I guess, in terms of decisions that can be made as we enter

elections and caretaker mode, these are big decisions and new decisions where our hands are a little tied. And there has been support here from the NEC and from all fronts, to move this file forward. It is a decision that was made with this Government and we will continue to work on this in the background as we try to enter into the elections mode. So thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Thank you, Honourable Edmunds. Ms. Flowers, do you have a final supplementary question? No? Are there any other oral questions? I call upon the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this question is for the Finance Minister. Canadian Constituency is still having problems with registration of their Members. Can the NEC or, and the Finance Minister have any additional intake people to assist in the registration of the Members that are applying? We've run into a terrible problem in the last three months. We really, need some help. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Honourable Minister?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, for the question. The Emergency Food Voucher Program, Madam Speaker is not administered by my Department per se, but I have been involved to some degree in helping individuals move their application forward, and I have to say that the Member in his statement this morning, suggested that there were individuals who fell through the cracks. And it's true, people have. When we got this funding, we tried very hard to put together a program very

quickly using the resource that we had. We didn't bring in new hires to administer the program. So mistakes have been made. There have been people fall through the cracks. I have worked with officials from my department to assist community liaison workers and others who were trying to keep up with the intake for the program. We continue to add people and of late, we have been going back retro to the date of their application. So if someone has had an application in for a couple of months, we recognize the date that, that application came forward. But they're not retro to the beginning of the program. They're retro to the date of the application. And I wanna make that clear, Madam Speaker, okay? But I will, as the Minister of Finance, give assurances to all Members that my department will assist the administrators of the program to ensure that it's fair and that those people that have fallen through the cracks will be pulled out of the cracks and receive the food voucher or other benefits retro to the date on their application. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I hope that's helpful to the Member.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. Ordinary Member for Canada, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Yes, I do, thank you. I've had some phone conversations, quite a few seniors that have applied and because they live in the home, seniors with living assistance, they don't get any funding. Now that never, ever, in applications, did it state that if you're living in an assisted living home, you would not get funding. So I'm just wondering, all those seniors, they

should be funded. Can you, NEC, make sure that there is funding for the seniors that have applied, please? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

I understand that, that was a question directed to the NEC but Minister Andersen, would you like to take on that supplementary question?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Yeah. The-, thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Member. The Member has posed a very unique circumstance to us that these people are living in long-term care and private-run assisted living facilities, is something different that perhaps we didn't take into account when the program and the guidelines for the program was drafted. I take the Member's question under notice and certainly, I will bring back to the Acting President and other Members of the NEC for consideration and I promise to give the Member a timely response. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. I call upon the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise again on behalf of the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen. And if it pleases the speaker, I could read the question as is written. Madam Speaker, this very important was asked at the Assembly at least once before. That is on Section 6.4.4, I guess of the *Constitution*, which states that Members of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service may not serve as an elected official of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, ICG or Upper Lake Melville Area. It is hard to fill

positions in our Inuit Community Governments with qualified candidates.

This is not...

MS. ONALIK: Sorry for interrupting. Is this a question that should be brought in writing? It seems complex.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Okay. I can table it as a Written Question?

MS. ONALIK: Yeah, you can...

MR. B. ANDERSEN: ...on behalf of the Minister-, or the Ordinary Member?

MS. ONALIK: And who will it be directed to?

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Oh, sorry, First Minister, Tyler Edmunds.

MS. ONALIK: Okay. We will take the question in writing.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Assembly.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any other oral questions? AngajukKâk Sheppard?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak. During the Honourable Minister's statement, Madam Speaker, he mentioned about the Shed Program in a couple of communities. And I think one was Rigolet. And I'm not sure of the other one. I'd just like to ask the Minister if he could elaborate on the program and if there's other communities that's involved in this program other than what was mentioned this morning? Thank you, Madam Speaker,

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and AngajukKâk for the question. Yes, as I noted this morning, the Community Shed Programs are open in Rigolet and Hopedale. Nain Community Shed coordinator is also working. As noted, before in past updates and statements around the Community Shed, these programs are under the Mental Health and Wellness Initiative to provide services for the community. However, we have not secured long-term funding from the Federal Government. A lot of these funding programs are based on annual grants. And we continuously apply for extensions. And this is the end of the fiscal year and I'm hoping that, you know, other communities will avail of Community Sheds, pending funding. As soon as we receive updates on funding applications, we can incorporate within our communities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, no I don't and thank you, Minister for your response.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other oral questions? I recognize AngajukKâk Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Tony Andersen, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. I know that there was funding applied for through for the

upgrading the internet services. And my question is where is-, do you know where this application is right now? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Honourable Minister?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister-, the Federal Minister responsible, Minister Hutchings and Yvonne Jones, and a number of other people made an announcement of broadband funding for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It was a huge pot of money, but it didn't break down where the money would be spent. I can only tell you that we expect that very soon, and we're very hopeful-, hopeful is not a good word because I suppose hope means waiting for someone else to do something but we are-, and we are waiting for them to do something-, hopeful and believe that we will have an announcement forthcoming from the Federal Government before the end of March so that things will be, you know, ready to go when the season allows. But, yeah, just some time, we hope, before the end of March, there'll be good news. That's all I can say at this time, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS:

No, I don't. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Are there any other oral questions? I'd like to ask permission from the Assembly to ask an oral question and call upon my Deputy Minister to take the seat. Permission? Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you. You may go ahead, Ordinary Member for Canada.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* My question is for the Honourable Minister for Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology. It's International Women's Day and it would be, you know, hard for me not to ask this question in relation to the Covid funding. There's discrepancy between the amount that males and females receive. I noticed that you know-, will the NEC rectify that and bring both amounts for male and female up to par?

MR. SAUNDERS: Ordinary Member Andersen, will you answer the question?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I have to say that, you know, the program is not administered by my department. And I can't answer the question. I'll have to take the question under notice if there is such a discrepancy. And, you know, to communicate to the Member, if that is so, what is the reasoning for it, and can it be fixed? But I certainly, hear the Member and promise to have a response in short order.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Ordinary Member Onalik, do you have a supplemental question?

MS. ONALIK: I believe you are aware that there is a discrepancy in the amount of money that is given to male versus female. We've had the conversation about that and I'm wondering, in your statement earlier when you said that people will be retro'd from the date of their application, once this discrepancy is talked about and brought to light, will women beneficiaries be able to have that amount adjusted to the date that they applied?

MR. SAUNDERS: Minister Andersen?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker I don't know how many questions there were there, but I am aware and as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, my department does not administer the fund. If there is a discrepancy in funding between male and female-, if there was a reason for it, you know, we have to find out if it is-, why it is-, why males receive more than females. If it is a mistake, then I believe, certainly, they should be, you know receive compensation retro to the date that the mistake was made. That's all I can say. I mean, just as one Minister I certainly, can't guarantee that, but I would think that would be fair practice. Again, I'll take the Member's question under notice and I'll bring it to the Ministers of the program and the, you know, the Committee as well, to seek answers to her questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. Are there any other questions, Ordinary Member Onalik?

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Gregory Flowers. You announced this morning that there would be more caribou distributed, and ox, and I'm wondering if any elderly beneficiaries will be receiving any of that outside of Upper Lake Melville and LISA?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Minister Flowers? Will you answer?

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member from Canada for your question. I guess my short answer is no, not at this time, but we will certainly leave it open and probably have more discussion on it as we

move forward or getting closer to the date. But right now, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at the Upper Lake Melville area and Nunatsiavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Flowers. Ordinary Member Onalik to you have a supplemental?

MS. ONALIK: Yes, I do. Honourable, Minister Flowers, will you advocate for elders in the Canadian Constituency to be able to receive, or apply to receive, some traditional wild food?

MR. SAUNDERS: Minister Flowers, would you like to respond?

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly, as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, believe that if it's possible that the NEC and myself as the Minister, if we can go, you know, if there's a-, it's not black and white, and, you know, it's a very difficult decision we have to make around the caribou, but I can say, at this time, I can certainly speak again to the NEC and take your, you know, take in consideration that we could provide some kind of a meal outside of Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville, even, you know, looking-, probably look at getting a bit of caribou out there, but at this time, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly do whatever, as the Minister. But I take my direction also Mr. Speaker, from the NEC on this caribou meat which is a very touchy subject. And we certainly know there's a lot of circumstances surrounding this caribou meat. But I certainly will look again, Mr. Speaker. That's all I can say at this time. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Flowers. Are there any other questions? I would like to return the Chair to our Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Assembly for allowing me that opportunity and thank you for your answers. All right. Are there any more oral questions? I believe AngajukKâk Flowers, you've asked two questions already this morning. Are there any more oral questions? I'm seeing none. So that concludes our oral questions for the day. We will now move on to Item number eight, "Written Questions." So this morning, the AngajukKâk for Makkovik submitted the written question from the Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen. This question reads, "Question for First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds, Madam Speaker, this very important question was asked at the Assembly at least once before, that is Section 6.4.4 that says that Members of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service may not serve as an elected official of Nunatsiavut Assembly, ICG or IGC in Upper Lake Melville. It is hard to fill positions on Inuit Community Governments with the qualified candidates. This is a problem in all Nunatsiavut communities, especially in the smaller ones. I realize that there is a fear that problems would arise due to conflict of interest. But this is solvable and minor when you consider the bigger issue. I think that persons in conflict would excuse themselves from the decision making on matters where a conflict exists. There would be no personal gain for NG employees to sit on Inuit Community Governments. My question is, could this clause be reviewed and revised?" So this question is taken under, "Written Questions" and will be filed with the Clerk with a

response in 10 days. Thank you. Are there any other written questions today? I'm seeing none. "Return to Written Questions." There are no return to written questions, today so we'll move on to Item 10, "Petitions". There are no petitions today, so we'll move on to Item 11, "Responses to Petitions". There'll be no responses today. We'll move on to Item 12, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees". I would like to recognize the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen to give a report from the Standing Committee on Alcohol and Drugs. Mr. Andersen is the Chair of that Standing Committee.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you mentioned, the Chair of the Committee is myself, Barry Andersen. The other committee Members are Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development, Honourable Marjorie Flowers, AngajukKâk for Hopedale and Honourable Patricia Kemuksigak NunaKatiget Chair. Madam Speaker, the Alcohol and Drug Committee is pleased to provide the committee this progress report. The Committee was convened on June 2nd, 2021 after Ms. Kaila de Boer left the Director role and Ms. Laurie Russel Director of Mental Wellness and Healing was selected to sit on the committee as a new inform of Technical Support. The following meetings on June 2nd, 2021, September 8th, 2021, October 13th, 2021, November 10th, 2021 and January 12th, 2022 had focused on introducing Ms. Russell to priorities of the Committee and making a plan for the remainder of the term for the present Committee Members. Now that we have a Senior Staff position within the Nunatsiavut Government

Department of Health and Social Development to be a part of this group, we are able to delegate some of the coordinating work which includes arranging of the meetings, and travel and collaboration and liaising with other Provincial and Federal Government Departments and development of necessary reports. We are also able to link the priorities to the work which has been carried out under DHSD already, as well as address gaps surrounding current alcohol and drug use in the region and incorporate the Committee goals which are essentially the goals of the community into the ongoing work. Following the last five meetings, we have been focusing on the following: Circling back to the draft Drug and Alcohol Abuse Hearings Preliminary Report 2006, to scan the recommendations in priority areas for gaps. This will assist the Committee in building a timeline and in highlighting the goals of the Committee on a go-forward basis. Second, bringing in guests from both DHSD and the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation. This is specific to exploring options and initiatives that focus on reducing the harms of alcohol and drugs in our communities through limitation and alternative options, and to get the sense of the work that is currently underway within DHSD in the area of harm reduction. In November 2021 we had also experienced some change in the Committee composition which left our Chairperson position vacant. Since then we have welcomed Patricia Kemuksigak to the committee and have appointed existing Committee Member, Barry Andersen as the new Chairperson for the remainder of its new term. The Alcohol and Drug Committee plans to continue meetings as scheduled on

the second Wednesday of each month. We meet virtually via Teams on a regular basis and in person when necessary, as time allows. We will be meeting again on February 9th to continue to work on various identified priorities. The Committee plans to solicit feedback from the communities on current concerns and the way forward in re-establishing the Alcohol and Drug Committees in each community. Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers, that the report from the Standing Committee on Alcohol and Drugs be received and adopted.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. Thank you. The Motion is now in order. Would you like to speak to the Motion?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

No, I do not, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Does anybody else wish to speak to the Motion? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yeah, I wish to close debate on the Motion, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

That concludes debate. Those in favour? Those against? The Motion is carried. There are no further reports of standing in special committees today, so we move on to Item 13, "Tabling of Documents". I would like to recognize the Treasurer of Nunatsiavut Government, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As required by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan 2022-2023. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you, Minister Andersen. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 01-4(10). I would again like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Once again, thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to table the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ended March 31st, 2021 and the report of the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2021. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ended March 31st, 2021 will be numbered as Tabled Document 02-4(10) and the Report on the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2021 will be numbered as Tabled document 03-4(10). I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: There we go. Thank you. *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. I am pleased to table the final report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Saunders. The Final Report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency will be numbered as

Tabled Document 04-4(10). I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2020- 2021 Annual Report with the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. The 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Department of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology will be numbered as Tabled Document 05-4(10). And with that, there are no more documents to be tabled today. Just one second. I'm going to debrief with my Clerk here to look at timing to see about moving on to the next Item or breaking. Just one second, please, thanks. Moving on to Item 14, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds the Tabled Document 01-4(10), the Financial Plan 2022-2023 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022* and with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And Madam Speaker, I'm seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his Motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays"? There are none. Mr. Andersen, you have consent to bring your Motion today at the appropriate time. I'd like to again recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 9th 2022 I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Documents 02-4(10), Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government and 03-4(10) the Report of the Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration and approval with witnesses from Deloitte LLP and the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, Ms. Rexanne Crawford. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. I would like to recognize Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, after the presentation of the Tabled Document 04-4(10), the Final Report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency, under Item 11, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees". I will move, seconded by the AngajukKâk, Honourable Barry Andersen that the Assembly now be referred to the Committee of the Whole to discuss that report with Witness Mark Gillette, the Director of Legal Services.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Saunders. There are no more Notices of Motions today, so we'll move on to Item 15, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." I recognize the Minister of Finances and Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March the 9th, 2022, I will move, seconded by the First Minister and Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds, the First Reading of Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022*. And Madam Speaker, I'm seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to First Reading of the Bill today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Any, "Nays"? There are none. Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. I recognize the Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik*. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Anthony Andersen, the First Reading of Bill 2022-02, an Act to Amend the *Housing Initiatives Act 2022*. And Madam Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to First Reading of the Bill today. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his Motion today. All those in favour? Any, "Nays"? There are none. Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. Thank you, Acting President Edmunds. I understand you have another Notice for the First Reading of Bills today?

MR. EDMUNDS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Further, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, I will move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Anthony Andersen, the First Reading of Bill 2022-03, *An Act to Amend the Housing Act 2022.* *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* That concludes the Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills today. We now move on to Item 16, "Motions". The Minister of Finance, the Honourable Anthony Andersen did give notice earlier that the Financial Plan, 2022-2023 will be discussed in conjunction with the Budget Bill 2022 at the appropriate time under the *Orders of the Day.* There are no more motions today. So we'll move on to-, so we will break for lunch now and then we'll pick up in an hour with Item 17.

Nakummek.

[Recess]

MS. ONALIK: All right. Welcome back everybody. We are now in Item 17, "First Reading of Bills." I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister and Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds, that Bill 2022-01, *The*

Budget Act 2022 now be introduced and read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Give me a minute. I need to dress appropriate.

MS. ONALIK:

Okay.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to deliver my last Budget Speech as Treasurer of the Fourth Nunatsiavut Assembly. Since 1990, Madam Speaker, it has been an honour and a privilege to have represented Labrador Inuit on the LIA Board and at the Nunatsiavut Assembly, as Ordinary Member and as AngajukKâk of Nain from time to time. I've seen firsthand, the great strides made in improving our communities, Madam Speaker, and in protecting and promoting the resources of Nunatsiavut and improving the mental and physical well-being of Labrador Inuit. And while we have made considerable progress over the years, Madam Speaker, there is still much more to do. And I remember, Madam Speaker, in those early years, our leaders at the time were fighting for gymnasiums for the physical and mental well-being of our youth. And today, Madam Speaker, we're looking at highways. Over the last year, Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council has worked on a strategic plan, one that I believe will continue the progress made and set a clear roadmap for the future. In addition to the overall strategy for the Nunatsiavut Government, many departments have developed

ones for priority areas such as the Language Strategy, Nunatsiavut Housing Strategy, Nunatsiavut Energy Plan, the Nunatsiavut Art Strategy and the Regional Health Plan, just to name a few, Madam Speaker. Those strategies guide the development of this *Budget Act 2022*. Madam Speaker, this Budget is about progress, acting on the Government's commitments to advance the priorities of the Nunatsiavut and Labrador Inuit. The Government has worked with the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Working Group, the Inuit Regions and with the Inuit Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, advocating and putting forth our positions in many priority areas at the Federal Government levels and with great success, I might add. This Budget reflects a record of \$96 million being remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government this fiscal year, the highest amount ever received in one year under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. In addition to the funds received under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government has budgeted revenues received from personal income taxes, the *GST Agreement*, Interest and Investment income, for a total overall revenue of \$264 million. Strategic priorities, Infrastructure: Of the \$96 million, under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, \$17million is allocated to address infrastructure needs. There are many pressing infrastructure needs within our communities, from air and marine transportation to broadband and land development and waster and water systems, just to name a few. Nunatsiavut Affairs is working collaboratively to develop the plans for those funds, using evidence from the Infrastructure Assessment to address the gaps in making progress.

Some of them were highlighted in First Minister's statement this morning, Madam Speaker. Housing: Housing continues to be a priority area for our Government, Madam Speaker. The Government of Canada has committed an additional \$7.5 million under *Fiscal Financing Agreement* for 2022-2023 fiscal year, bringing a total amount for Housing to \$41 million. We're on track to have the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission up and running by the end of 2022 when operational, funds will be transferred for the operations and programs and services. There are commitments for the 2021 and 2022 Housing Repair Program as well as the Emergency Repair Program. There is \$5.4 million committed to the design and construction of senior units and quadplexes in Nain and Hopedale and a duplex in Makkovik. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, there was a commitment of \$7.5 million for land development in Nunatsiavut.

In Language: Revitalization of Inuttitut is of utmost importance. During the fiscal year, the Nunatsiavut Government Executive Council approved the Language Strategy with the hope that this strategy and the associated funding allocated under this Budget will build on the progress to date of Labrador Inuit speaking Inuttitut and using Inuttitut as their first language. Minimal funding is received from the Government of Canada for language and cultural programs and services. The Nunatsiavut Government supports language and culture initiatives with our own-source revenues.

Energy and Food Security: As was the case when I brought down last year's budget, Madam Speaker, the pandemic has highlighted, the energy and food security issues faced by Labrador Inuit

on a daily basis. Over the past year we have made much progress with the Nain Micro grid, installation of high efficiency wood stoves and financial support for Beneficiaries to heat their homes and to supplement the purchases of food. Funds under this budget have been appropriated to continue to continue to address energy and food security initiatives.

Madam Speaker, as I noted earlier, we have made considerable over the years. We have grown as a Government. I should have said we have made considerable progress over the years. We have grown as a Government, providing a whole range of programs and services for people in our communities. But like I said, there is still much more to be done. In order for the Government to grow, increase our programs and services and act on priority areas, there is a need to expand our civil service and also our public properties. As such, there is an aggressive Capital Infrastructure Plan in place. While the funding received under the FFA, the GAP closing fund and governance, Madam Speaker, the Government will move forward with designing and constructing a multipurpose building in Nain, increasing office space in Makkovik, Postville, Rigolet and Nain and expanding the number of staff housing units. As was noted last year, increased funding has been committed for self-government. Those funds are meant to cover the administration of activities of operating a Government, Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Elections, just to name a few. This has allowed Nunatsiavut Government to increase funding for operations of the Inuit Community Governments. Adequate and stable funding allows

each community Government to address their current needs and prepare for future opportunities. Madam Speaker, I should note that as announced in last year's Budget, the Nunatsiavut Government has budgeted a two percent increase for Civil Servants this fiscal year. One final highlight is that the Government of Canada has also granted funds under targeted programs such as Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, the Inuit Health Survey, TB Elimination Programs and data. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I'm proud of the work of our Government. I see the progress we have made in improving the lives of Labrador Inuit. I see the growth in the programs and the services provided and the numbers of Labrador Inuit finding employment with us and progress being made within the Inuit communities. This Budget makes the commitment required to continue our progress. And often times, Madam Speaker, it is frustrating for the barriers that we run against. And many times-, and it's still being said, that the people of throughout the region of Nunatsiavut, the forgotten region of this Province when it comes to programs, services, infrastructures such as broadband, marine services and the like. But as I said in the beginning, Madam Speaker, there was a time when we fought for gymnasiums for our kids. Highways? Why not? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Tony Andersen. The Motion is now in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? If no Member wishes to speak, does the Minister of Finance, and Nunatsiavut Treasurer wish to conclude the debate?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Minister. That concludes the debate of the first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2022-01 on the first reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? The Motion is carried and accordingly, Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022* has had first reading. I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, Honourable Anthony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive standing order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022*, today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with Second Reading of Bill 2022-1, *The Budget Act 2022*, today. All those in favour? Any, "Nays"? There is none. Minister, you have unanimous consent, so the Bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time. I would like to recognize the Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik*, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen, that Bill 2022-02 *An Act to Amend the Housing Initiatives Act 2022* be now introduced and read for the first time. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. Would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I will be very brief, as I introduce the Bill. And really, it is just to state that this is a very straightforward amendment to the *Housing Initiatives Act* and it seeks to give a bit more flexibility within this legislation to ensure that programming that's run by the Department of Health and Social Development, namely the Family Connections Program, can take advantage of different structures and single homes if need be. The priority all along has been to try to be as efficient as possible with land. And that's why when this legislation was drafted, that maybe single homes weren't taken into consideration. But again, this is a very straight amendment that we're proposing to the *Housing Initiatives Act*, just to give some more flexibility under this program. And that's really all I wanted to say, and I hope that the Assembly endorses the Bill at second reading. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. The Motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? If no Member wishes to speak, does the Acting President wish to conclude debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker, I'd like to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Acting President. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2020-02 [*sic*], an *Act to Amend the Housing Initiatives Act 2022*, on first reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2022-02 has had first reading. I would like to, again, recognize the Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek, Uhalitik*, Honourable Speaker. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2022-02 *an Act to Amend the Housing Initiatives Act 2022* today. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d), to proceed with Second Reading of Bill 2022-02 *an Act to Amend the Housing Initiatives Act 2022*. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays"? There are none. Minister, you have unanimous consent so the Bill can proceed to Second Reading today under Item number 18. Item 18, "Second Reading of Bills". I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, Honourable Anthony Andersen for the Second Reading of Bills.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of the Budget Bill in Committee of the Whole. I move, seconded by the First Minister and Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, that Tabled Document 01-4(10), the Financial Plan 2022-2023 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2022-01 *The Budget Act 2022*, and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We are now moved into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial

Plan along with the Budget Bill and I would invite Rexanne Crawford, the NG comptroller to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole and we'll give a few minutes to invite Rexanne in. As Members are aware, the procedure for Second Reading Debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the budget. The Financial Plan is important for our decisions today and requires approval from the Assembly. It will be considered first today during our Committee of the Whole discussions and I will ask for the Assembly's agreement of each page of the Financial Plan. After agreement on the Financial Plan, we will move to the Annex of the Bill, *The Budget Act*, Annex A. Then onto the clauses of the Budget Bill. The Financial Plan 2022-2023 is 11 pages. Ms. Crawford will review each page as a page-by-page explanation of the Financial Plan before we get to the Budget Bill. Please proceed, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek. The first document that we will start with is the Financial Plan 2022-2023 with the logo of the Government on it. And this document has been prepared by the Department as we're responsible for the Annual Financial Plan. This document will help explain the numbers that are found in the *Budget Act* in a much more, hopefully clearer circumstance. So on page three, we start with the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. As we are all aware, we have a tripartite agreement with the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to receive financing to help support different categories. And the categories are outlined in the *Budget Act* and I'll run through them.

We-, as a point, we don't receive any funding from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, but we do receive funds from the Government of Canada. As the Minister mentioned in his speech, we're receiving a record \$96 million in the next year, as our current year allocation. While the Budget will reflect \$242 million under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, there are carry-over of funds that have been received in prior years but have not been expended. And we budgeted all those monies in the upcoming year. You probably remember me saying in the past that if we don't budget it, we can't spend it. So even if the funds are not committed at this point to a particular project or a particular program, we budget it all, so that as plans are made, strategies are completed, and implementation plans are ready to roll out, we want to make sure we have funds to be able to do so. Another item under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is that the Government of Canada, in respecting our Government to Government relationship, has allocated funds to flow through this grant program-, the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So there are targeted amounts of money received for the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, often heard as ISET, the Inuit Health Survey, the TB Elimination Program, and there are a few other health programs that we received targeted money for. I'm just gonna-, so I'm not sure if there's any questions on the Revenue. I'm just gonna go through the Allocation on the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and moving forward, and then I'll open up to any questions o the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So under the Expenditure

side, the way you'll see the schedule show is that there is an allocation to what we call like the General Operations or Section Two of the *Budget Act*. There is a significant allocation for Housing. As the Minister spoke earlier, housing is a significant priority area. The Director of Housing has been hired. There is significant progress being made on the establishment of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. And once that Commission is up and running, the programs and services and the funding will be there to support their programs and services. That being said, there are commitments of funds through the Housing Fund as well. The NG has committed to funding the 2021 and 2022 Home Repair Program. The 2021 Home Repair Program are those applicants that were accepted in the previous-, when the applications went out in the 2021 fall and we're now moving through the process of getting those repairs completed. There's funding allocated for the Emergency Repair Program. There's 5.4 million committed to the design and construction of the seniors' units and quadplexes in Nain and Hopedale and a duplex in Makkovik. The other sources of funding for those particular projects are being funded through the Reaching Home Initiatives which is a program under the Government of Canada. However, we do have to supplement within our own funds to support those projects. And there was also a commitment of 7.5million made in this fiscal year for land development in Nunatsiavut, which we can all agree is in short order in our communities and is a need for that. There is a small amount of funding for data, and a consultant has been engaged to do an environmental scan

of data sources and infrastructure as well as to develop a governance framework for Nunatsiavut Government. And this is funded through this- , what you'll see the category called, "Data". And there are no significant changes in the program plans for funding allocated to the Health and Social Development, Education and Economic Development, Language Culture and Tourism and Lands and Natural Resources. They all have small pockets or in Health's case a large pocket of money funded-, or allocated to them. And as a reminder, the Inuit Community Government's funding is based on two components. So we have a Governance Allocation and we have a Service Allocation. Both allocations were increased in this upcoming budget by inflation which is about 4.5 percent. I didn't bring in the actual increase, but that's the increase that's been flowed to us from the Government of Canada. We all know inflation is rising through the roof and it's been flowed through under this agreement. The Service Allocation is based on the number of private and commercial dwellings in our communities. And our communities supply that data source to me in order to allocate those amounts, that category, based on their percentage of buildings in their communities. So the allocation this year for Inuit Community Governments is 7.4 million and there is a schedule in the Annex which allocates the money by each Inuit community and shows that allocation. So I'll pause here, because this will be the entire Section One of the Budget and pause for questions.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Ms. Crawford. Are there any questions? Seeing none, please continue. Oh, sorry, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. In regards to the Inuit Community Governments and capital works, it says that the allocation will not go forward till 2022-2023. Is there anything based on the 2021-2022 infrastructure season that is gonna increase, like is there monies that's forthcoming to ICGs?

MS. CRAWFORD: Joe, I apologize. Can you repeat the first part of your question about the 2023?

MR. DICKER: The-, I'm sorry, the allocation for the Inuit Community Governments increased by 7.44 for 2022-2023. My question is for 2021-2022 season, is there an increase in there that's retroactive to this year?

MS. CRAWFORD: So any of the funds that you received in the 2021 and 2022, are based on the increases that we've received from the Government of Canada. So-, but the increase was not as high in the previous year as it is in the upcoming year, because they do their calculation based on-, it's FDDPI so there's two kind of categories, population and volume, but in this particular case, the inflation, I think was 1.8 for '21-'22. It's based on the December-, like there's a certain-, they use the same time point every year in order to do that calculation. So the budget we're considering right now is for '22-'23. The monies that we approved in the last *Budget Act* were based on the inflation at that time period.

MR. DICKER: Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Ms. Marjorie Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. I'm not sure if this is the right place to ask the question but I've asked before about funding for IT support for the ICGs. Is there anything in the Budget that we will get IT support from Nunatsiavut Government? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: So I think there's two components to your question. So one, under our Governance Funding, it does cover off areas like Information Technology, Audit, Human Resources, et cetera. I know that that question has been posed before, about Nunatsiavut Government IT staff providing support to the Inuit Community Governments and at this time we simply don't have the capacity in our own Government to be able to provide services to each of the Inuit Community Governments and we have had issues in trying to recruit positions in Nunatsiavut. We added a temporary position. What our IT division is currently looking at is-, we're in the final stages of it-, is creating an IT Support Assistant Position, trying to recruit someone who hasn't got the educational background but has the interest in becoming an IT support, and training them internally, so that we would be able to build our own capacity within, rather than looking for someone who already has the, you know, the IT education background. But unfortunately, at this time, we just simply don't have the capacity within our own division to do that.

MS. FLOWERS: I know this Budget is for 2022-2023. Will you have capacity or try and get the capacity in the next few years, because this is the next Budget coming up, right?

MS. CRAWFORD: I guess, what I can say, is if we do get to a point where we have capacity that would be able to support the ICGs, we would most definitely, want to do that. I'm hopeful, but I don't know. We've had difficulty with recruitment in the past.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions? Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, I guess, just for clarity's sake, when we look at the adjustment related to inflation, I must have missed something along the way. What mechanism or method is used, like based on future cost? The reason I'm asking is that, you know, we are in the process now of finalizing our second land lot, to get brought up to standard. So-, and we're finding out that the request for proposals coming in much higher than they were last year. So, what mechanism was used, or method for like the future-, let's just say from this year to next year?

MS. CRAWFORD: The formula for the adjuster on our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is documented in the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and it's a set agreement and it looks at-, one of the components looks at inflation, and the inflation number is based on-, I can't-, I'm sorry, I don't have it in front of me. But it's either October or it's December. It's one of those two months and filed before, because we had to have certainty on our numbers moving into the next year. And the other one is our own data on population. So the numbers come from, you know, ourselves and we

agree to the numbers on our population. But it is-, it's an agreed to in our *Fiscal Financing Agreement* has a note, if the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Table is a Table with the Government of Canada and the 23 self-governing Indigenous Governments. There has been significant work being completed on adjustors and looking at is FDDPI the right adjustor? And we're near the end stages of it but we don't have the final approval or authority, because once we come to an agreement, then it has to go internal into the Federal Government system for them to bring through their processes. So I guess it's kind of a complicated answer to your question.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. I also just wanna take pause for a second and say welcome to Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak for joining us. We're now in the Committee of the Whole. I think Mary had brought you up to speed. Are there any other questions for Rexanne on this section? No? You may proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Okay, on page five, we talk about Own-Source Revenue. So we are moving into Section Two of Annex A of the *Budget Act*. So, Own-Source Revenues are what funds various components of the *Budget Act*. We allocate, in the current year, 26.6 million from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. A lot of this is coming from the Governance money. We have revenues from personal income tax which is projected to be 5 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. That's our annual remittance. And in the past, we've received additional funds for personal income tax that have not been budgeted or have been expended. And of these amounts, the Government has budgeted 3.5 million for operations. As a reminder, our personal income

tax agreement with the Government of Canada remits to us 95 percent of the Federal Income Tax that is received by the Government of Canada through the filing of income tax returns for those people who live in Nunatsiavut. We have agreed to an annual remittance of \$5 million, and then as Canada Revenue Agency, at the request of the Department of Finance Canada completes their audits on a particular year and thankfully, each year, so far, it's been increases, they will then to a bulk payment in March. They usually communicate it to us in March and do an increase in our payment related to about two to three years prior. The NG has a Fisheries Fund and we do have some funding under Environment, valued at a total of \$5.9 million. These funds are internally restricted. As a reminder, under the Fishery Fund, we collect access fees from fishers for the use of our fishing licenses. And this has been occurring over the last six years in accordance with the Commercial Fishery Policy. And as I noted earlier, if we don't budget the money, we can't expend it. And often times what happens in the fishery, is that opportunities come up that you need to avail of right away. So in the past couple of years, we purchased a couple of licenses, and so the timing of our Assemblies if we didn't budget it under our *Budget Act*, we wouldn't be able to avail of those licenses. They simply would've been bought out by an outside entity and not with the NG. And there is also a new Commercial Fisheries Designation Policy and the funding under this Fishery Fund will be used in accordance with parts of this policy. And the funds under the Environment Fund are committed for the rental expenses of the Nunatsiavut Research Centre and

offices for the division. Other sources of revenue include 50 percent of the investment income earned on the *Implementation Trust* in the previous calendar year. And this is budgeted at 3.2 million. We also budget interest and investment income which is interest earned on our bank accounts and also from our long-term investments. We do have an agreement for GST which allows us to receive a certain percentage of the GST collected in Nunatsiavut. And this is based on an estimate from the Government of Canada and it's estimated to be 1.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The other revenue category includes funds received from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* for the Habitat Stewardship Program Facilitator position in their programs, external sales from Nunatsiavut Visual Design and rental revenue, to name a couple of those items. Again, I will remind everyone, and I'm sure it's all top of everyone's mind, that we have not received any mining royalties and do not expect to receive any mining royalties in the upcoming year. I'll pause here, as that's the section on our Own-Source Revenues, for questions. *Nakummek.*

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Just to backtrack, my apologies before we move to page five questions, can I get agreement for page three and four? Everybody in agreement for page three and four? Okay. Thank you. Now, any questions for page five? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Just I need to be reminded again, it seems to skip me every time but how come we don't receive any mining royalties? Seems like that mining is prospering quite well and we're not getting any royalties through it.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So there are two streams of revenues that-, there's the stream that goes to the *Tasiujatsoak Trust*. I don't sit as a Trustee on that trust, but my understanding is there is revenues received through the IBA. What I'm speaking about here are the revenues under part 7.5 of our *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. And we are in court over that. So we litigated against the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador because we don't agree that we shouldn't have received any mining royalties. In their, I guess, defence, they say that the capital costs of the construction of the Long Harbour facility, the allowable expenses from those-, that facility has whittled down any mining royalties that may have been payable from the Voisey Bay area to nil. And so, we have been in court. We went back last fall for the appeal, and now we're in-, I don't know what the legal terms would be at this point, so I'm not really in a position to kind of explain where we're kind of stuck to. We don't have the formal appeal received. We just have what we heard in the court room. And so, once we hear and receive that formal documentation, we'll be able to give more information. Right now, it's just I really don't know. I'm sorry. But that's why it's the formula that they used.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Any other questions from page five? Are we all in agreement for page five? Yes? Rexanne, please proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

There are two schedules in the Annex, one called Projected Budget and one called Five-Year Plan. The projected budget will also have a couple of other categories there. So one being a Contingency Fund that has to be

established as per Section 8.5.5 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. So a total of 736 thousand has been appropriated for the upcoming fiscal year related to this Contingency Fund, bringing the Accumulated Contingency Fund to 6.9 million. The *Labrador Inuit Constitution* also gives the authority for the approval of the budgets for the two Inuit Community Corporations to the Executive Council. Both corporations have submitted budgets to the Executive Council and have been approved, and the budgets are consistent with the prior year of \$161,500. And again, since I-, since we've been participating in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy process, the Government of Canada has suspended the Own-Source Revenue or OSR capacity clawback that would occur under the *OSR Capacity Agreement* and this is in good faith, so that the work that was happening at that table could proceed without having that white elephant in the room. And it's been suspended until we get to the point that the other components of the Fiscal Policy are completed. And the changes in the five-year plan for the next five years really look at 1), the differences in whether it's an election year or not because, as you know, in the times that there's an election year, expenses are significantly higher than the non-election years. And also, it's driven significantly by Capital Infrastructure Plan. So what we are planning in the next couple years, you know, or in any given year, will cause fluctuations in that five-year plan.

MS. ONALIK:

Any questions for Ms. Crawford on page six? Sorry, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I'm a little bit hard of hearing. Did you ask if there were any questions?
Okay.

MS. ONALIK: So you don't have a question? You do? You may proceed.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: In the category where they were mentioning the Inuit Community Corporations, is there any thought into giving us a cost of living increase like we had last year? And also, a sum of money to help with the election costs, as election costs are very high and takes away from our programming.

MS. CRAWFORD: The budget that you have submitted, and I don't have it in front of me, and my apologies, to have that exact document, I believe that almost the-, I believe the entire amount was supported either through Government Grant and the significant carry forward of deferred revenue that you had from a previous year of the NG funding. I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I can get them. I think, Patricia, or Chairperson, that if I recall, it's in the tens of thousands that you have carried forward from the NG Grant from a prior year. And I know partly, it's due to Covid and also due to receiving external sources of funding, which meant that you didn't have to expend NG money.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions for page six? Seeing none, are we all in agreeance for page six? Perfect. You can proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'll go page-by-page on this one and I won't go through the entire Departmental Budget. I know there's a lot of information by each of the departments and I said this as I was developing the budget and getting

information from each of the departments, that it is really exciting and it's really, especially for sitting in the position I do, because I get to hear from each of the departments of what their plans are for the upcoming year, and the exciting initiatives that they plan or the continued programs that they're continuing with because of the uptake from Labrador Inuit, the significant impacts it's having, you know, whether it's the sewing circle held at the program or you know, any other programs that are held under the Language Division. So I do, I take immense amount of pride and-, in what we're doing as a Government. So at the start, there is a two percent increase as the Minister mentioned for civil servants and their wages. And that was-, had been approved three years ago and we're in the third year of this wage increase. So Nunatsiavut Secretariat, or the President's Office, is responsible for the planning and priority setting of the Nunatsiavut Government, developing the legislative agenda, as well as intergovernmental relations. They do sit and represent the NG at the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee and so there are some-, they continue to advance Labrador Inuit priorities through finalization and implementation of NG's Strategic Plan. They will continue to participate the ICPC and advancement of the Nunatsiavut Energy Plan. There also continues to be funds to address data management needs and establish a library of Labrador Inuit Association and NG reports and resources. They're also responsible for external public relations, public information, communications and the operation of Nunatsiavut visual design. And there are no significant changes in the operations of these two divisions

from prior years. Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, housing, legal services and the Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries and Public Property. So there are no significant changes in the departmental plans for implantation or legal services. As you've heard us mention in the past, when the Ministers speak too, they had budgeted in the prior year to move forward with an Inuit Ancestry Project. So they had, you know, put out a request for proposals. The proposal that came in didn't meet what they were trying to achieve. But what they did realize by putting out that proposal was that the amount that was budgeted in a prior year of 75,000 is simply not enough money. So they've doubled the amount budgeted for this particular project. They're on their second round of a request for proposals to be able to implement that project. And so the ultimate goal of this project is to have a database with accurate and up-to-date ancestral information. The plan is also to have Membership Committees and the Inuit Membership Appeal Board participate in an additional workshop on top of their annual workshop related to Inuit Ancestry. And this did not occur in the prior year and, you know, I know sometimes it sounds like a broken record, but the global pandemic did have an impact on the ability to have in-person meetings, and even to be able to effectively move on some of these projects. The Minister this morning as well as the Treasurer spoke about there is an aggressive Capital Infrastructure Plan and they've been exceptionally busy managing our current stock and coordinating plans and constructions of new office and program spaces. So they have

four new divisions budgeted for their operations, a Capital Projects Coordinator, a Policy Analyst for Infrastructure, an additional fulltime Maintenance Person for the community of Nain, as well as a part-time position for Hopedale. There are also capital requirements for these positions-, for ATVs with wagons in all of the communities, and an additional vehicle for Nain.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any questions for Ms. Crawford on page seven? Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Sorry about that and thank you, Madam Chair. At the-, in the last paragraph for infrastructure, the Capital Projects Coordinator position, would that include ICGs or just the Nunatsiavut Government coordinator?

MS. CRAWFORD:

This is just to help with the NG properties and the number of projects that we have going forward. It is a really labour-intensive and time-consuming process to manage the current stock of properties as well as keep an oversight on our current project lists that we have.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Okay, thank you. I think we're-, at the ICG level as well, we're having some issues with the, I guess the costs of getting capital projects moving forward and I think-, I was just thinking maybe if we could have one of those coordinators as well for the ICGs. While we're looking at capital works projects such as water and sewer infrastructure-, well, it could be anything really that-, any project that we might see or need in the communities, I think I can probably speak-, I'm not gonna speak for the other AngajukKât but we see issues and delays when we don't have the right people in place,

depending on the Provincial Government's department there in Goose Bay, a lot of times. So it would be great to see a coordinator for the ICGs Capital Works Projects as well. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Any other questions for Ms. Crawford on page seven? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. It's further to my colleague here, is there any money that we can apply to within Nunatsiavut for these sorts of projects to help offset the increased costs for infrastructure and things like that? Our budgets are low as they are, and with everything going up, we need to engage in hiring these people too.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I guess what I can say is there's no particular program that's established for applying to. I think the questions that you're asking would be best brought to the Joint Management Committee table to discuss your request for coordinators or if there is inadequate funds being allocated to Capital Works projects in your communities and the costs arising, I think that's a discussion that maybe best held at the Joint Management Committee and then once we know what those costs are is looking for the source of revenue to help support it.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions for Ms. Crawford on page seven? Seeing none, are we all in agreeance on page seven? Okay. Please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The Department of Finance, Human Resource and Information Technology, as you are aware is responsible for the financial affairs, the human resource needs and supplying and managing information

technology needs and resources of the Government. So finance has a role in the implementation of strategic priorities through review of forecasts, budgets, policies, tax agreements, funding agreements, contracting, et cetera. And so the demand on the finance division has exceeded its human resource capacity. So we have requested and budgeted for a Senior Financial Analyst that would be required to assist with this financial reporting, budgeting analysis, et cetera. The Human Resource Division continues to move forward with the strategic objective of making the NG an employer of choice. So there's a lot of progress being made in the area of Occupational Health and Safety and there are funds budgeted to continue with the implementation. As we get to that point, training and hiring of a dedicated staff member to ensure that we're in compliance with all the Occupational Health and Safety requirements. Training costs have increased significantly as we've engaged the Gardiner Centre to deliver a Supervisory Management Program. At this point, we've got to cohorts going through-, one starting, and one being based in the next couple of months going through this program. And we continue to budget \$25,000 for the summer student program. In terms of Information Technology, there is a requirement to purchase some additional capital assets related to data storage, backups, at a projected cost of \$105,000 and this will also provide the infrastructure required for our data management needs. I always highlight this because it looks obscure when you look at the budget and you'll see \$313,000 under the Subscription line item and these cover all our licenses for all our software. So the Microsoft volume license is just

over \$200,000 on an annual basis. And we have other licences, your anti-virus license. I mean there's a list that Robert gives me about 20 or more and there's different renewal periods. Department of Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for a multitude of things. I won't read out what's in the document. There are no significant changes planned for the Programs and Services of the Non-renewable Division or the Lands Division. Planning will continue on conducting inspections on various sights in LIL with potential environment concerns, as recommended by the Community Land and Resource committees. And it's not just planning. They actually do conduct these inspections when they have notice of and figure out which ones they are going to. They'll go off and do their inspections. Renewable Resources Division reflects an appropriation related to the fishery fund which we spoke about under the Revenue Section. The Renewable Resources Division will participate in research projects related to moose and to the Annual Fishery Workshop. It continues to implement its Capital Replacement Plan. There's an allocation for a purchase of a new vehicle and three new snowmobiles as well as the appropriate safety gear required to meet Transport Canada Regulations and the training required for our staff under these regulations. And there are no significant changes to the current program plans for the Environment Division. They continue to have appropriations for the Northern Contaminants Program, the Lake Melville Baseline Study, Sustainable Communities, Imappivut and research projects.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any questions for Ms. Crawford on page eight? Ms. Marjorie Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. Under the IT with the funds and the licences, I know in the past there was some monies for the ICGs to help with fees and professional fees and things like that. Would there be anything in this budget to help, like if we can't get the IT support, is there any monies that we can avail of for licences for our ICGs and things like that?

MS. CRAWFORD: So under the funding for the ICGs, those are areas that would be covered under your Governance Budget. But I also think your question poses another opportunity. And I don't have the answer, to be quite honest. And that would be, are you able to be grouped in with our NG volume licence and what would the incremental cost be? Would it be cheaper to do that versus going on? But that's not really a budget question. That might be an opportunity question that we could take out from this Budget discussion and talk to the Director of Information Technology to see what opportunities there are there.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Mr. Joe Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. It seems like at every-, for the past couple years anyway, you had problems retaining-, recruiting IT technologists. Is there any money in here to increase the chances of retaining those IT people? Seems like we're always short of them. We're operating on one person with one title but there's supposed to be another one under him in Nain

alone. Is there something in here that increased the monies available for recruitment?

MS. CRAWFORD:

There are no monies budgeted to help with recruitment but we have plans internally, on how we can try to encourage people to take IT, to train individuals from the ground up as I spoke about earlier with an IT support assistant position versus an IT support person that's coming in with their schooling and their experience. So we are looking at different ways. I'm gonna speak without asking my director, but I do think that an IT shortage is just not an anomaly for Nunatsiavut. I think that that is a technical area that is hard to find trained professionals in. And so we are doing our best to think outside the box and how can we do it so that we have enough IT capacity to support our needs?

MR. DICKER:

It's not a problem with NG. It's a problem with NICG's too, or ICGs. We have a need for that kind of person, or we don't know what to do. We usually, when the IT for Nunatsiavut has time, he comes over. That's just in Nain. I don't know what it's like in the other communities. This should be looked at further. It's a problem.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions for Ms. Crawford on page eight? Seeing none, are we in agreement on page eight? Perfect. Please continue to page nine.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So Health and Social Development. The bulk of their program funding comes under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and comes under the areas of Health Services, Community Programs, Mental Wellness and Healing,

Family Services. There are funding that we receive through various contribution agreements. However, our budget does do an allocation to help support what I always call under Section Two of the Budget, for some of the Family Services positions for youth, for elders, for the Status of Women and also for Food Security. And often times by us supporting it, it allows the Department to leverage so much more additional funding. But it does give permanency for a lot of these positions. Education and Economic Development. A significant portion of their funding again, is also budgeted under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. As a note in this-, and this, as you all know, we have closed St. John's office and all the staff-, sorry, not all the staff-, the Department was restructured, and the positions have been recruited into Nunatsiavut and filled there. So this have reduced some of their operating costs related to rent, heat, light, insurance, et cetera, because they are all, at this point, in a building in our Makkovik office. And Education expenditures are primarily supported through the FFA funding, such as the Post Secondary Student Support and the Inuit Post Secondary Education Strategies. The Department also budgets for some programs such as wage subsidies, the Community Economic Development Program and programs related to the development of Inuit businesses. And there are no significant changes in their program or their operational plans for the upcoming year. I just wanted to highlight there would be a change in some of their operational costs. Language, Culture and Tourism. The Department released two strategies this year, the Nunatsiavut Art Strategy and the Language

Strategy. These strategies, along with the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy, guided the development of their budget. The Culture Division is responsible for the management of Illusuak Cultural Centre. A consultant has been hired to help develop a Marketing and Promotion Plan and this will be completed in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. And there has been a portion of the consultant's fees budgeted in this budget. An additional position has been budgeted for the cultural centre to assist with the development and implementation of programming and funding continues to be appropriated for programs such as the Inuttitut Radio Hour on the OKâlaKatiget Society Radio Station, the Language Nest, the Interpreter Translator Annual Workshops and the Inuttitut Master Apprenticeship Program. The Archaeology Office will continue with projects such as the Digital Outreach and Oral History Initiative, the Labrador Kayak Revival Project, the Annual Heritage Forum, Place Names Project and the Identification and Designation of Historically Significant Buildings in Nunatsiavut. They had a couple of very interesting projects that they're going to do in the upcoming year. So one, they will be collecting data about living knowledge of sod houses in Nunatsiavut. And they will use this information to help construct a sod house that will be accessible to the community through various programming. They will also be collecting data regarding spiritual practices both past and present of Nunatsiavimmiut will also be started this year. These and other stories will be available on the Nunatsiavut Stories website. The Tourism Division is a lead for Tourism in Nunatsiavut, in Hebron and the Torngat Mountains

Base Camp and Research Centre. As we know, Hebron is an exceptionally important place for Labrador Inuit. The continuation of the Hebron Ambassador and Restoration Programs is planned for the 2022 summer season. The NG has committed to the operations on a Youth Leadership Program at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre. And we will contribute funds for recreational activities and the Torngat Recreation Commission through the Inuit Community Governments. The Nunatsiavut Art Strategy, you'll notice is guided by three pillars: Improve Access, Building Strong Partnerships and Artist Development. And this budget supports these pillars by budgeting for an additional position of coordination of Arts Programs and Services. And also for investments in a trade show and artist fund, development of tool kit, to name some of the initiatives they're moving forward with. And if I can just finish the one last line on the next section then we can take questions on both pages.

Administration: NG, we do really keep an effort to keep our administration costs down low. We review our costs, you know, regularly to make sure that we're making the best decisions we can, and not being wasteful, and trying to keep our administration costs very low. There is a six percent increase, and mostly it is being driven by inflation. Also, when you increase the number of buildings, you increase your phone costs. You increase some of the heating costs. So those are some of the costs there.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there questions for Ms. Crawford on page 9 and 10? Mr. Joe Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Tourism Division, you're forgetting about an important area which is Okak. That's not mentioned in this area of Tourism. Isn't it closer to Nain? And it too is important to Labrador Inuit as a hundred years ago, the community died off. There's nothing left there. It's completely forgotten. I think you should put that in there.

MS. CRAWFORD:

What I can do, is bring your recommendation back to the Department. I can only build into the Budget what's brought to me. And, unfortunately, the Minister is not here but I will commit to bringing that back to the Department.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions for Ms. Crawford? Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, I don't see anything under the Culture Division where it says, it's responsible for the management of the Illusuak Cultural Centre, and a consultant has been hired. I think the initial plan back in the day was once the Illusuak Cultural Centre got up and running, that programs and, you know, options would be available to our communities for our young people to be able to basically, walk in the Illusuak Cultural Centre through today's technology. I'm wondering if that's the case or if that's been worked on or where does that just sit? You know, I'm home in Postville and I don't-, I'm not aware of anything of that nature. So if you can elaborate on that, it would be great. Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I think that's a question that, while it's very important, it's not one that I can address under the *Budget Act*. It may be more appropriate for an Oral

Question Period. But I will also bring it back internally, to let them know the question was asked. It's just that it wouldn't be brought forward as a written question or a response to the question. Again, the notes that I have in developing the Financial Plan, are the ones that come to me through the Budget documents and through the narrative that they provide. But I don't always have the answers to everything. My apologies.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Okay. Thank you. I think the reason I asked the question was, where a consultant has been hired to develop a marketing promotional plan, and that was-, I think my question should've been, is that part of the plan, to interconnect the communities?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I'm not sure of the entire components of what the deliverables are or what components are included in that strategy. I know-, I can tell you that there's a portion of funds budgeted to make the final payment on the consultant, but I can't tell you what the deliverables are.

MS. ONALIK:

Are there any other questions? Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I had one question related to the Inuttitut Master Apprentice Program. Will that be for just the five Inuit Communities again, or is there-, was there anything built into expand it to Upper Lake Melville and Canada?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Again, I'm not-, I feel really bad, because I keep saying, like I can tell you the numbers. There's an amount budgeted for the Inuttitut Master Apprenticeship Program. I'm not sure what the delivery plan is or what their plans are for the-, like how they continue to deliver that program into

the upcoming year. I think that question, again, is best directed to the Minister or to the Department.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions for page 9 and 10? Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just had a question. Under the Family Support Program, which is family support workers, where does the money for that come from? Does that come from FFA or from Nunatsiavut Funding or the Province, or whatever?

MS. CRAWFORD: Are you talking-, just to clarify, are you speaking about the Family Connections Program, the ones that work with children in care? Okay. We do budget some funding through our Own-Source Revenues, which is why it's in Section Two of the *Budget Act*. However, we have been successful in receiving external sources of funding to help supplement the operations of that program and to help support that. I'm sitting here racking my mind through, trying to figure out which *Contribution Agreement* it is, and unfortunately, I can't tell you exactly what department it is. But if you want that information, we can provide it.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any other questions for page 9 and 10? Are we all in agreeance of page 9 and 10? Okay. Please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: The next section of the Annex A is on Nunatsiavut Assembly and I won't spend any other-, any time on that, other than to provide a reminder that this section, this schedule of the Budget was approved at the January

sitting. And so, it is just built in as a component. The Implementation Schedule of Annex A. So we have a tripartite arrangement with the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to support the Budget of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. And the schedule that you see in this *Budget Act* reflects the NG's commitment for those boards. And all that is part of our *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Any questions for Ms. Crawford on page 11? Seeing none, all in agreeance? Perfect. Please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The last page of the Financial Plan. And this gets into a discussion about Capital Infrastructure. So we've been reviewing the current office and storage requirements in each of our Inuit Communities as well as an assessment of current office buildings. And there is a five-year plan completed to address our current and future needs. And some of the activities that were planned for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were delayed due to the Covid pandemic. So if you had gone back and looked at the Financial Plan, you will see that some of these items we unfortunately, didn't get to begin or didn't get as far as we wanted to in this fiscal year. We do have an aggressive Capital Plan to address the significant office shortage we have, and the requirements for staff housing to help fill some of our positions and recruit people back into our communities to fill these positions. So in Nain, the Design and Site work for a multipurpose building will begin. And the funding for this particular project is under Section One of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. It comes through a gap-closing fund

that we received. There is a plan for two buildings, one in Nain, and one in Hopedale and we're beginning with the one in Nain. We also have plans to address the growing demand for office space in Makkovik, Postville and Nain. I'm sure you've heard one of the Ministers speak about a regional office for our Education Division. And also, to address significant shortages of office space. In Rigolet, we're moved into the construction of a new community office for the Department of Health and Social Development. And with insufficient and inadequate apartments currently available in either the private market or with the NG, staff housing continues to be an issue as we try to recruit and retain employees. So we've developed a five-year plan to address staff housing in all of our Inuit Communities. And there are a number of Capital Plans being funded and moved forward with external sources of funding. And these include items such as a daycare in Postville, senior units in Nain and Hopedale. As I mentioned previously, there are some funds being committed under *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and the remaining funds under the Reaching Home Initiative. Multi-unit homes in Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik-, again, partially funded by the Nunatsiavut Government and also funded by the Reaching Home Initiative and Marine Storage facilities in Nain, Postville and Rigolet. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Any questions for Ms. Crawford on page 12? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

I'm speaking on behalf of Nain only. The design and site work for the multi-purpose building in Nain will begin. Have you-, do you know if the land has been gotten and what exactly is involved in multi-purpose? Is that something that the Community Government is missing, here?

MS. ONALIK: I think I will direct your question to Honourable Tyler Edmunds

MR. EDMUNDS: I had a little bit of a hard time just hearing Mr. Dicker. Could I ask if you'll repeat that?

MR. DICKER: I'm sorry. Has the land been retained for the multi-purpose building, first of all? And is the ICG missing something as a multi-purpose building, you don't explain what it's for.

MR. EDMUNDS: Okay. *Nakummek*, [speaks in Inuttitut] and thank you, Mr. Dicker. As far as I understand, the land is secured for the Marine Safe Freight Storage and that contract has been awarded to BERA. So if that was your first question, and the question of the multi-purpose building, I'll let Rexanne answer that. But I think the understanding is that it's gonna be a combination of maybe offices and spaces for programming and whatever else. But Rexanne can add to that as well.

MS. CRAWFORD: I'm going off my memory which I will admit is getting a little bit tangly, but I do believe we have the land secured. It's one of the pieces of land we already own. The multi-purpose building will be used for the Food Program. We're going to try to consolidate some of the program areas into one space. We can't say for certain if the shelter or some of the programming for some of the shelter clients, the Food Security Program, I definitely, know is one. And I feel like there's another program area that for some reason has just slipped my mind. Those are all gonna be consolidated into one new office-, like one-, and it's not offices. It's like program space.

MR. DICKER: Would that include the Community Shed?

MS. CRAWFORD: I believe the Community Shed is at a different location. I know that there were just some decisions made as to the location of it. Again, it's-, because it's not part of the Budget I don't have it as top of mind as to exactly where the location is. But again, you know, if the question wants to be brought to Oral Question Period, or I can take it here and try to find out.

MR. DICKER: It's just that (inaudible) thank you. The multi-purpose building to me is something like Jeremias Sillett Centre and not what you described it to be.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions for Ms. Crawford on page 12? Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. My question is around the Marine Storage Facilities. I know in the past that for Hopedale and I believe Makkovik, we didn't want the storage facilities because there was very little laydown area. My question is will there be any funding to have-, build up the laydown area so eventually, there can be facilities here? Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Ms. Flowers. We will be moving forward with looking at the laydown areas for Hopedale and Makkovik and I understand there were maybe some discussions that the AngajukKâk for Makkovik may have had around-, maybe even identifying a space already for a building. So we are having these background conversations, but in terms of developing that laydown area, we've been assured that we are eligible to apply under the OPP, Ocean's Protections Plan in the future, to be able to move that forward. And we are going to look at financing the feasibility studies for

those laydown areas in the very near future. So we do believe that we do have some access funding under the current, *Contribution Agreement* that we can fund those feasibility studies. But we've been given the assurance that for the laydown areas for both communities, it will be eligible in the future for that pot of funding.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. That's very encouraging but will it be continued on, because I know that our time is almost up as Members of this Assembly with the new Assembly coming on, Members, will it be carried forward? Thank you.

MR. EDMUNDS:

I think that our Department is aware, you know, and the NEC has been aware of like this is an infrastructure priority. So, you know, I know that we are interested in applying to the next call of applications when they're announced. So...

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions regarding page 12? Seeing none, are we all in agreeance of page 12? Perfect. All right. So now, I want to call your attention to page seven, Annex A of the actual Budget. All right so here I'm gonna go make it as painless as possible and just do the bottom dollar amount and then we'll move into agreement of that and questions of that. Perfect. So under page seven, Annex A, Administration for 8,258,500 *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, 215 million. Sorry, the other one is 48,258,500, *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, 215 million, 773,500 and total 264,032,000. Any questions on page seven?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I just wanna take the opportunity to explain what this schedule is. This is just a Summary Schedule. So it will show under the Administration Column, what we see in Section Two of the Budget and what department takes the responsibility for these items and the responsibility for *Fiscal Financing Agreement* is found under Section One of the *Budget Act* as we move forward into the Annexes and just gives a total. The total number by department, you'll find, when we get into the body of the Budget Bill, that's the number that will tie back to this particular schedule. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Okay. I wonder, Rexanne, do you think that it would be beneficial for each page to have an explanation or do you think I should just continue with the bottom dollar amount and then...

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes, I can. And we can do it page by page, just do an overall page. I'm not sure-, unless, requested by the Assembly Members, we want to go into all the numbers. I'm also cognizant of being-, our translators.

MS. ONALIK:

So we'll go page by page. Did you want to take that, or shall I continue? Okay. All right. So page seven, are all in agreement? Any questions? Sorry? None. Agreement, yes. Page eight, Revenue. Total projected revenue, 264,032,000, expenditures total 264,032,000. Any questions? In agreement? Thank you. Page nine, the Annual Budget. The bottom dollar amount here is 215,773,500. Any questions on page nine? We in agreement? Page 10? The actual for 2021-2022, 7,112,000. The budget for 2022-2023, 7,440,000. Any questions on page 10? In agreement? Page 11, Projected sources of revenue, April 2022-March 2023. Total expenditure, 48,258,500. Any questions on page 11? In agreement? I was

asked to slow down for the translator, so I'm just gonna pause to make sure that I'm respectful of their services. On page 12, Nunatsiavut Government projected budget April 1st, 2022-March 31, 2023, Budget requested 48,258,500. Any questions? In agreement? Page 13, Projected budget of 2021, 33,184,500, Projected budget 2022, 39,943,500. Budgeted for 2023, 48,258,500. Budgeted 2024, 49,337,000. Budgeted 2025, 40,460,000. Any questions on page 13? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKEER:

What's that OSR claw-back?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So that's back on-, well, it's also reflected here. If you recall, when I went through the Financial Plan, I talked about there are 23 self-governing Indigenous Governments that sit with the Government of Canada and we're developing collaboratively, a new fiscal policy for Indigenous self-governments. OSR claw-back is under our *Own-source Revenue Capacity Agreement* where the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will claw back or take back a certain percentage of our Own-source Revenues. And it's all outlined in the agreement. It is a source of contention. And so what Government of Canada has done is suspended this agreement while the Collaborative Fiscal Policy process is ongoing until we get to that point and we actually develop a policy that we all collaboratively agree with. And so that-, we continue to reflect it because it will come in the future, but at this point it is suspended for collection.

MR. DICKER:

It's a source of revenue or is it an expenditure?

MS. CRAWFORD: Own-source Revenue include things like personal income taxes, GST that's collected in Nunatsiavut, investment income, rental income, property income, any of those sources of income that the Government generates itself.

MR. DICKER: Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: Any other questions for page 13? Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, when I look at the Budget 2025, it says 40,460,000 and if I look at Budget 2024 it's 49, looking at a difference of probably 9,000,000 there. And now if I look at the expenditure list, it looks like Capital Infrastructure is the one that makes the big difference there. I'm sure, you know, you don't need rocket science to figure that one out, but is there a reason, that as we progress into the years, that Capital Infrastructure will become less when we're talking about moving departments within Nunatsiavut into the Land Claims Area? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: So the Budget uses the projection of what the plan is at today's point in time. But as we move forward each year, the plan does change, and it's a fluid plan. So there is quite an aggressive Capital Infrastructure plan over the next two years to try to address the need in Postville, the need in Nain and the need in Makkovik for office space. And at that point-, by the time we even get to that point, I'm sure there's gonna be increased need and we'll be starting to move, and you'll see that number change. But at this point, it's our best projection for that year.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Any other questions regarding page 13? All in agreement? Okay, page 14. Total Expenditure, Nunatsiavut Secretariat, 2,741,500. Nunatsiavut Affairs, 4,136,500. Finance and Human Resources, 4,390,000, Lands and Natural Resources, 10,467,000, Health and Social Development, 1,342,500, Education and Economic Development, 1,457,500, Language, Culture and Tourism, 4,218,500, Administration, 845,000, totalling 29,598,500. Any questions on page 14? Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was wondering what is covered under Professional Fees, as it is a quite large expenditure?

MS. CRAWFORD: There are fees for auditors . There are fees for lawyers. There are fees for our participation in the ICC, not ICPC, but the Inuit Circumpolar Council. I'm trying to go through. There's some projected budgeted for consultants for the Illusuak Cultural Centre we just spoke about, some consultants for some of the environmental projects that are ongoing, some of the research that may happen or professional advice that may be needed has moved forward with feasibility studies, et cetera.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Any more questions? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER: Sorry. It seems like I'm asking a lot of questions, but I have to. Housing, I don't see it. I mean it's a Department by itself. It's not in here, or is it hidden away somewhere?

MS. CRAWFORD: If you draw your attention back to page nine of the Annex, there is a schedule called Section One, *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and there is \$41,102,000 budgeted for housing. And we spoke about, in going through

the Financial Plan, that there are commitments related to that amount. Sorry, Joe it looks-, page nine. Just wait a moment. It's page nine. You'll see under, "Expenditure", there are different categories, Governance, Health-, Housing is the third one there. And again, it's 41,102,000 that we're budgeting for Housing. And if you recall, when I went through the Financial Plan, there are certain commitments already made in terms of, you know, the Director of Housing. There's commitments towards the seniors' units in Nain and Hopedale, the quadplexes, the duplex in Makkovik, commitments for land development and the programming with Home Repair and Emergency Prepare Programs. But we also budget everything, so that once the Commission is up and running this year, they do have the funds available to them to be able to implement and deliver their own programming.

MR. DICKER:

I must be missing something here. You just confused me. If you've got it budgeted for that 41 million and you got on page 14, you've got Department budgets, I don't see it. I mean is it only a one-time budget or what's going on?

MS. CRAWFORD:

There are two sections in the Annex. So Section One covers what we will be expending under *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Section two, which page 14 is under, looks at things through kinda the operations and administration of the Government alone, not necessarily addressing our priorities.

MS. ONALIK:

Thank you. Any more questions regarding page 14? Everybody in agreement? Page 15, Nunatsiavut Government, Nunatsiavut Assembly,

April 1, 2022-March 31st, 2023, upper total is 3,504,000. Any questions regarding page 15? Seeing none, all in agreement? Page 16, "Implementation Plan, Year Ended". The Actual, 507,500, Actual 2022, 517,500, Budgeted 2023, 521,500. Projected 2024, 541,500, projected 2025, 563,500. Any questions regarding page 16? Seeing none-, sorry, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

That-, thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, that Dispute Resolution, is that the things we have in court now? The Dispute Resolution, we got 2021-2022 but nothing after that. Is that what's in courts now?

MS. CRAWFORD:

The-, it's a really complicated thing. So we haven't renewed the budgets for the Dispute Resolution Board and there are some considerations about that particular board or whether it would be better to look at a different form of mechanism of resolving disputes under LILCA.

MS. ONALIK:

Any other questions regarding page 16? All in agreement? Last but not least, page 17, "Capital Infrastructure Year Ended", 2023, \$13,733,500. 2024, \$13,537,000, 2025, \$4,206,000, 2026, \$950,000 and 2027, \$0.00 Any questions regarding page 17? Seeing none, all in agreement? Thank you. All right. And now we turn to go into the Budget Bill itself, which is Item Five in your binders, Item Five in mine. And then as per usual, we will start with the interpretation and go clause-by-clause. Okay. Everybody on page two, clause two? All right. So, I don't read it out, do I? Okay. Any questions on page two, clause two? All in agreement? Page-, one second, I'm a little bit confused. Page three, clause two continued. And clause three and all right-, sorry, it's my first time doing this part of my Speaker

duty so please, thank you, for your patience as I get this under control. Sorry about that guys. Okay. Page three, clause three, any questions? All in agreement? Page three, clause four? Any questions? All in agreement? Page four, clause five? Any questions? All in agreement? Page four, clause six? Any questions? Let me know if I'm going too fast. All in agreement? Page four, clause seven. Any questions? All in agreement? Page four, clause eight, any questions? All in agreement? Page five, under Nunatsiavut Secretariat, any questions? Agreement? Nunatsiavut Affairs, questions? Agreement? Department of Finance and Human Resources, any questions? In agreement? Department of Lands and Natural Resources, any questions? In agreement? Department of Health and Social Development, any questions? In agreement? Department of Education and Economic Development, any questions? Barry, do you have a question? Sorry. In agreement? Department of Language, Culture and Tourism? Any questions? In agreement? Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Government Budgets? Any questions? In agreement? Page six, a) and b), any questions? In agreement? Appropriation in respect of Inuit Community Corporation Budgets, any questions? In agreement? Page six, clause nine, any questions? In agreement? Page six, clause 10, any questions? In agreement? And page six, clause 11, any questions? In agreement? Then back to page two, the Short Title, any questions? In agreement? And then clause-, the final, the Long Title, any questions on the Long Title? In agreement? Perfect. So then that concludes the page-

by-page, clause-by-clause and Annex review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Mr. Minister. That concludes debate. All those in favour of Second Reading of Bill 2022-01, *the Budget Act 2022*? Any opposed? The Motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022* has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We are now back in the Assembly and with that we will take a 10-minute recess to stretch our legs. Thank you, and thank you, Ms. Crawford.

[Recess]

MS. ONALIK:

All right. Welcome back everybody. We were still on Item 18, "Second Reading of Bill 2022-02", A bill for an act to amend the *Housing Initiative Act*. I would like to recognize Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Uhalitik. Honourable Speaker, I would like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Bill 2022-02, a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives Act*, in Committee of the Whole. And I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, Information Technology and Human Resources, the Honourable Anthony Andersen, that Bill 2022-02 be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration, with Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services as witness. *Nakummek, UKatti*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister. The Motion is in order. To the Motion, all those in favour? Any opposed? The Motion is carried. We will now

move into the Committee of the Whole and consider Bill 2022-02, An Act to Amend the *Housing Initiatives Act* and I would invite Mr. Gillette to join us as a witness in the Committee of the Whole. As the Members are aware, the procedure for Second Reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Bill. And the pre-amble and the Short Title are considered last. We will now go to, in your binder, Tab five, the Bill 2022-02 and we will go into page two, clause two. Any questions? Seeing as that we're in Committee of the Whole, I'm gonna backtrack a little bit Joe, while you find your place, but invite Mr. Gillette, also to explain the Bill as well. Did you wanna explain the Bill before we go into it?

MR. GILLETTE:

Thank you, Madam Chair. It's a pleasure to be before the Committee of the Whole again this morning-, today, whatever time of the day it happen to be. This fairly simple Bill as the First Minister already explained at first reading this morning. The-, generally, the purpose of the bill is the current *Housing Initiatives Act* allows for allocations of buildings for certain programming established under that Act, specifically the-, where there's a prototype building in Nain, that runs a prototype program, and then there's also multi-unit buildings that are on the-, the name of the program escapes me at the moment but-, the Family Connections Program. There we go, which his also established under the Act. The Executive Council has found out there's been a little bit of a limitation there because if they wanted to allocate additional buildings for particularly, the Family Connections Program, right now, the current definition of building, it says

it has to be a multi-unit building. So if they ever came across a building, let's say a single home, like a single unit dwelling that would be good for using for that particular program, they're not allowed to allocate that building to that program because it doesn't fall under the definition of building. So this Act makes a couple really small, simple amendments. So in Section two, you'll see a number of definitions there. It was just easier to reproduce the entire set of definitions, but I'll highlight the only things that would be changing here in Section two are the definition of building, the very first definition there. Currently, it's the same definition in the current Legislation, but instead of the word, "Residential building", it says, "multi-unit building". So this changes the word multi-unit to residential building which make it more expansive. That would include single-unit dwellings. The only other change to Section two would be-, is actually, on the second page on page three. You'll see that there's now a sub-section two there. So after the definition of the word, "Unit", you'd see now there's a subsection two, and it just says, "For purposes of this Act, a single-family building is to be considered a building consisting of one unit." And the only reason for adding that was because by changing that definition slightly to include single-unit buildings, there was one or two sections later on in the Bill in which it didn't make grammatical sense. So there had to be a clarification that a single-unit building would also be considered a single-unit. It was just a grammatical thing. So that's the-, those are the only two changes to Section two. Everything else there is as it currently exists in the current Act.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Mr. Gillette. Questions for him, or no? Okay. We'll now to page two, clause two. Any questions on page two, clause two? Seeing none, everybody agree? Continuation of clause two on page three? Any questions on that? Seeing none, everybody in agreement? Page three, clause three? Any questions? In agreement? Page three, clause four, any questions? In agreement? And going back to page two, clause one, The Short Title? Any questions? In agreement? The Long Title, any questions? In agreement? That concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review. Does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek [speaks in Inuttitut]. I wish to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. That concludes debate. All those in favour of Second Reading of Bill 2020-02 an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives Act*? Any opposed? The Motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2020-02, an Act to amend the *Housings Initiatives Act* has a Second Reading. I would like to thank the Minister and the witness, Mr. Gillette for your time today and explanation. And we now move out of Committee of the Whole and on to Item 19, "Assent to Bills." Honourable Acting President, the Assembly has given Second Reading to Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022*, and Bill 2022-02, an Act to amend the *Housing Initiatives Act 2022* and wish to present them for assent.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *Uhalitik*. Honourable Speaker and Members, as Acting President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2022-01, *The Budget Act 2022* and Bill 2022-02 *An Act to amend the Housing Initiatives Act 2022*, and hereby sign them into Law.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Acting President. We will now move on to Item 20, "Adjournment". The Assembly is now adjourned until tomorrow morning, Tuesday March 9th, 2022. *Nakummek*, everybody, our interpreters, our IT, and Assembly staff, OK Society for all your services today. And we will see you tomorrow morning. Supper is at five o'clock. Any questions regarding travel, speak to Tabea. *Nakummek*.

[Adjourned]

Day 2 March 9, 2022

MS. ONALIK: (*Ullâkut Ilonnasi*). I would like to call to order day two of the 10th Session of the 4th Nunatsiavut Assembly and would invite Mary Sillett to say the opening prayer.

MS. SILLETT: (Recites prayer).

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. We will now go into Item 2, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." I would like to welcome those in the gallery today and thank them for their interest in Nunatsiavut Assembly. Are there any members who wish to recognize visitors in the gallery?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. Once more, I'd like to welcome my family for the second day. It's good to see that they returned after their experience through the first day. So welcome to my wife, my son and my daughter. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. We will now go onto Item 3, "Minister Statements." Are there any Minister Statements? I would like to invite Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll continue on with my mental health and wellness update as well as some general. It shouldn't take too long. Madam Speaker, Youth Outreach Worker in Hopedale has partnered with two similar wooding programs with Department of Health and Social Development staff to deliver to people in high need. Youth Outreach for Nain is planning and partnering to hold silapak making and holds a drop-in time at the youth centre for up to four youth every weekday from 3:00 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. The youth centre has allowed up to four to five youth for the drop-in time and also continues to support youth who need a safe space to rest at night. Regional youth administrators preparing the whole atiget making program partnered with the Nain Shed Co-ordinator. Also, she's going to start the forum for youth symposium and hopes to hold one in the near future. Trauma and Addictions Program Planning and Support Co-ordinator is working with Ms. Tracey Denniston, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Regional Provincial Co-ordinator, and MMIWG for programming. Trauma and Addictions Peer Support Worker is starting a girls' program in Hopedale and also starting residential school programming. Everything is going well with programming in each community. Because of the alert level for "Bell Let's Talk" and also in Kindness Week were held virtually. We are continuing to work with Correctional Service Canada to explore and

partner around supporting parolees and potential reintegration services. We presented on the foundational model of Indigenous harm reduction to Janeway, a patient psychiatry. A multi-disciplinary team comprised of social workers, nurses, doctors and psychiatrists. Madam Speaker, the Child Services Program is actively working to bridge the gaps in services for children age zero to 18 and their families. Our program is busy, as well, with submitting applications on behalf of children and families through Indigenous Services to fill the gaps. This fiscal year we have attained over \$800,000 to cover such things as respite, in-home support, student aids, fridge, beds, special child care, autism supports, winter clothes, travel to medical appointments and many other things. Families are very thankful for our program and services. The child and youth health mental specialists have been able to move everyone who are on a waiting list previously off the wait list. Those specialists are at their maximum capacity to take on therapy clients since moving clients off the wait list. The Youth Services Social Worker has been accepting referrals and open up client files since the beginning. So it currently does not have a wait list. The Youth Services Social Worker is based out of Makkovik. Briefly, Madam Speaker, under Family Services, our Family Connection staff were receiving an influx of requests for supervised access to occur between Nunatsiavut beneficiary families, children and their parents in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. In an effort to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, we hired a supervised access worker who began on February 28th, 2022 as working out of our Broomfield Street and office in

Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The overall objective is to increase access between children and their families as we develop this position in response to the identified need. DHSD acknowledges that transportation remains a challenge in Hopedale for many Family Connection clients. In response, we have hired a driver who is responsible for transporting community members to and from school, airports, grocery shopping and appointments. We know that sometimes children have had to walk long distances, and community members have reported missing appointments due to unavailability of transportation. We had developed this position to respond to the request of community members in Hopedale with a vision that it will create accessibility to education, healthcare and further access to necessities. Madam Speaker, World Tuberculosis Day is March 24th every year and it's used to draw attention and support to tuberculosis elimination activities. This year's theme is "Invest To End TB. Save Lives". It is meant to unite all those that fight against this ancient disease and to sound the alarm that low levels of funding for TB simply cannot continue if we expect to meet elimination targets and commitments set by global leaders back in 2018. World TB will be celebrated in Nunatsiavut with a variety of community activities and events to raise TB awareness and knowledge to end stigma associated with TB. Recently, I was pleased to be invited to an announcement for funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments to develop a housing navigator position connected to the housing hub in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The purpose of this position is to develop longer term

housing solutions for the homeless population, as well as to co-ordinate wraparound services for them. The funding is for two years and we are excited to further expand this work. A long-time employee of DHSD will be leaving us after 15 years. We'd like to recognize Michelle Wood for her 15 years of dedicated services. We'll miss her, but look forward to working with her in her new role with Indigenous Service Canada, Atlantic Region. Lastly, Madam Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge that March is social work month, National Social Work Month and the theme this year is Critical In Demand, and I'd like to thank our many social workers within my department for their dedication, especially during COVID 19 pandemic. They were there when needed without question. They stepped up. They were creative. They were helping families with mental health and wellness, supporting kids and they were available. So, thank you, social workers within my department. Enjoy the month. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Asivak. I now call upon Honourable Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. Today I deliver an update on the Education Division. Currently, we have 198 sponsored students supported by our funding program. Of these, 141 are studying full-time and 57 are part-time, Madam Speaker. We have 10 new applications for the spring and intercession and currently 109 new applications for the fall 2022 semester. We have 10 students graduate since Christmas and approximately 6 students have withdrawn from studies since winter semester began. There are many enhancements and supports in addition

to the new financial benefits to our students. The student handbook can be found on the Nunatsiavut website for anyone who would like to have a look. Design has been finalized and the engineering firm is now working on the electrical and mechanical plans for the new building in the Education Division in Makkovik, Madam Speaker. Consultations with the design team have taken place with opportunity for input from staff. We have been told that the tender should be released at this spring, and we are aiming for construction to start this summer. Student intern: We have Colleen Pottle is nearing the end of her 10-week internship for her Masters of Education Program. Her work on both the current and development of new culturally relevant resources for kindergarten to Grade 9 and the background research for the new Everyday Life Skills course has been invaluable and we will be retaining her on a short contract so she can continue to assist on these projects, Madam Speaker. Colleen is from Makkovik and is currently completing her Masters of Education degree. Colleen will be working alongside our contractor, Janice Shoening, with the development of the K to 9 social studies resources and the community engagement sessions required for the background research for the new Everyday Life Skills course. The Everyday Life Skills course. Work has begun on the development of a new high school course focusing on basic life skills such as financial literacy, service navigation, personal wellness and advocacy, home maintenance, time management and safety. We all know those are very important skills that we all learn and it's great to see that we'll be having

that in our schools. It's wonderful. Contract with Mintbrook Hill Content Solutions, which is Janice Schoening, has been signed and work has begun. With help from our intern, Colleen Pottle, much of the content review of old and current courses across the country with the same focus, Madam Speaker, has been completed. A survey from recent high school student graduates has been circulated and she is currently conducting community focus groups to gather more information.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Winters-Wheeler. I now call upon the Honourable Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I finished off yesterday and I'll resume with the Non-Renewable Resource Division. Madam Speaker, on the exploration from Vale's approved to conduct exploration on their mining licence adjacent to the mine, Vale also has been approved for underground drilling consisting of another 75 holes. Madam Speaker, the Division has received two prospecting application referrals from the Province for exploration on LISA. One applicant is interested in prospecting their claim at Ugjuktok fiord in Saglek Bay. The other application has applied to prospector claim 45 kilometres southwest of Voisey's Bay mine site. Both applications are still under review. Madam Speaker the geological survey of Canada in partnership with the geological survey of Newfoundland and Labrador has received funds from GEM-GeoNorth's program. They are planning a three-week program that will be based out of Hopedale. The area of interest is large

and will cover the areas of Hopedale, Postville and Makkovik. We are also pleased to announce that the earthquake experts will be visiting the communities of Postville and Makkovik in late April, early May to discuss earthquake activity in the area. I hope that's good news. I know the Ordinary Member for Makkovik and also the AngajukKâk for Postville was concerned and hopefully we can get some answers from these professionals. Madam Speaker, the Environmental Division. Since the last Assembly, the Environment Division has been engaged in the following files: The Environment Division continues the environmental assessment documents for the post-Nain Wind and Micro-Grid Project, the Voisey's Bay Wind Project and in helping support and reviewing other projects in Nunatsiavut communities. There is a lot of research projects being implemented throughout Nunatsiavut this winter and spring, and the Environment Division, through the Nunatsiavut Research Centre, is supporting those projects and with the help of other partners. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Gregory Flowers. I now call upon Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, UKallatik. Yesterday I said I would continue on with some brief updates on capital infrastructure projects, the registrar and transportation. So I'll continue on with that today. To speak to the freight storage facilities, Madam Speaker, in Nain, Postville and Rigolet, that construction contract has been awarded to BERA Limited Partnership and the completion date that's scheduled for those buildings

in September 26, 2022. We are looking at options for Makkovik to attempt to incorporate a building with some existing space. For Hopedale and Makkovik, we are still interested in the lay down areas, and that proposal is drafted to complete the feasibility studies for a new lay down area and the structure that would go on top of that in the future as well. With respect to the Makkovik Regional Educational Office, Minister Winters-Wheeler just provided an update that the design for that has been completed and we're excited to undertake that construction in this upcoming summer for the Rigolet DHSD building that has been tendered for construction and is closing at the end of this week. Under seniors' units for Hopedale and Nain, the drawing sets are completed and the tendering for construction will be released at the end of this month. With the lot proposed to build a duplex for seniors' units in Hopedale, the water and sewer service for neighbouring homes is complicating the build and we are looking at options, but at this point we may have to create a single unit on the lot that we have in mind. For employee housing units, as I spoke to yesterday, it is something that we are moving forward with this upcoming summer. The RFP is issued and we're anxious to undertake that work as well. The RHI for housing in Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik, the RFP's were issued March 7th for concept design and project management and the completion will be in 2023. I'm also pleased to announce that Terry Rice has transitioned into the role of Capital Projects Co-ordinator. The interviews are underway for the two new positions that I've previously provided updates on which are the

maintenance manager and policy analyst for infrastructure, and we do expect to fill those positions this month. Under the registrar, Madam Speaker, Celeste Anderson, who sits on the Inuit Membership Appeal Board, has been reappointed for another two years as her term was expiring in mid-February. We'd like to welcome her again and look forward to working with her for another two years as a member of the appeal board. All membership committee seats are filled. We are grateful for and appreciate our members for their hard work and their commitment when making the decisions that are necessary for enrollment. As of today, there are 6,999 beneficiaries on the registrar of beneficiaries. As always, we remind people to update their addresses with the registrar, if necessary. This is particularly important as we are preparing for the next general election and those who will require mail-in ballots. With respect to the Inuit Ancestry database, the RFP's being released for a second time. More funding has been committed to the project and we do hope that we can move forward on this important initiative. And, Madam Speaker, under "Transportation," on February 17th I was happy to participate in a meeting with the Inuit Community Governments with MHA Evans and others as we spoke around the Kamutik W service with Woodward's Group of Companies and Minister Loveless on the line as well. So I want to thank all the Members for voicing their concerns. The plan for the service this upcoming year is to operate at full capacity is what we've heard and the start time is mid-June. A number of concerns were expressed on that call including wait

times for reservations, the staff capacity on board the vessel. There were concerns on the Rigolet floating dock on the internet availability on that vessel and concerns around cold storage availability, and if I'm missed anything, maybe the AngajukKâks can raise it as well. We've recognized that, you know, the service has improved over the last few years with improvements to the way that they track freight, the way that they store freight and organize it, and it has dramatically improved the freight delivery times on board that vessel. We have expressed our concerns to transportation infrastructure on the delays around the terms of reference for the pre-feasibility studies for the connect to the north coast of Labrador. Madam Speaker, our position has been perfectly clear. We have been willing, able and ready to engage in any process with respect to this road connection. I've spoken with Minister Loveless on March 4th, as well, to seek details on the Provincial Government's plans to engage our government on the terms of reference, and the Minister has committed to find more information in the coming weeks. Finally, Madam Speaker, with respect to the Nain airstrip, the proposal submitted for the recent RFP's on the environmental assessment and impact study and geological and geotechnical assessment did not meet the terms that we were looking for. We are reworking the proposals and those will be re-released and in short order. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Edmunds. I now call upon Honourable Minister Tony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Very quickly, I have just a few more things to add to my statement from yesterday. Today, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to confirm that the Nunatsiavut Government will be extending the end date of the emergency COVID-19 programs. The Food Supplement Program and the Nunatsiavut Cleaning Supply Program had been extended to September the 30th, 2022. The Heat Subsidy Program is also extended ending on May the 31st, 2022. Madam Speaker, today the audit for the Nunatsiavut Government will be presenting the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March the 31st, 2021. These statements contain a lot of information on finances of the government and tell a story of a year through a financial lens. What the numbers will tell us is that the Nunatsiavut Government is in a very strong financial position, Madam Speaker. Indeed, we have a sustainable operation. We are in a position to act on strategic priorities such as housing, energy, and food security while continue to deliver the regular programs and services to Labrador Inuit. The Nunatsiavut Government is known to have a strong financial management loss, internal controls, policies and procedures. I know at times that due diligence undertaken by my department may seem cumbersome or seen as a roadblock. But as we will see from reviewing the financial statements, Madam Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government spends funds wisely and has the ability to act and into the future to sustain and improve the lives of Labrador Inuit. Madam Speaker, I want to personally thank all of our finance staff for their dedication and hard work to the government and for their support

to me, as Treasurer. That's my update, Madam Speaker. Thank you much.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Tony Andersen. Are there any more Minister Statements? No. Moving on to Item 4, "Member Statements." Are there any Member Statements this morning? I call upon Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our update is for March, 2022. With the Community Freezer, our numbers for elders coming to the Community Freezer has risen since 2020. In the year 2021, there were 1,776 monthly food hampers distributed by our Community Freezer co-ordinator to elders 60 and over in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Mud Lake; an average of a hundred and forty-eight elder families per month. We would also like to thank our board member, Barbara Crawford, and her family for donating smelts to the freezer. *Inuttitut*. The Master/Apprentice Program is going very well and will be finished the end of March. Master Sarah Townley and Apprentice Kimberly Voisey held virtual *Inuttitut* classes to the Labrador Inuit Society and Culture course at Mealy Mountain Collegiate in February and March. The students really enjoyed the classes and learning *Inuttitut*. The students were so inspired by the *Inuttitut* lessons that they are going to develop some pre-school children books with *Inuttitut*. I am still waiting to hear from people who may be interested in teaching *Inuttitut* to youth in our community. Madam Speaker, Computer Internet Course for Elders Navigating the Digital World. The second virtual class finished in February 17th. The students

really enjoyed the program and learned a lot from the session with Mary Jane Hudson Cabot on internet cyber crime and the session on elder abuse with Nicole Burton within Nunatsiavut Government. The third class started on February 23rd and we may look at doing some in-person sessions after March 14th. This program will finish March 31st, 2022. We are approved for another project through Senior Horizons with the Federal Government for more computer literacy courses including financial literacy, seniors gardening, online yoga classes and food delivery services. We are looking at offering a parka-making course in the near future. We went and put out a call to look for an instructor. And, lastly, we would like to send condolences to the family and loved ones of the following who passed away. Leah Ford, Bella Semigak, Lukey Karpik, Kenneth Hooker-Best, Marian Broomfield and Bridgett Saunders.

Nakummek, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, the Chair of NunaKâtiget. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge and thank Ms. Mary Jane Sillett for the contribution she has made to Nunatsiavut Government. Her knowledge of this awesome government and how proceedings work during Assembly sitting has not only helped myself, but also many members of this Assembly over the years. Mary Jane, as you leave your position as Clerk of this Assembly, I wish you all the best in your endeavours. May God bless you and keep you in his care always.

Nakummek. In our HICG news, I'm pleased to report, Madam Speaker,

that we finally have a town manager hired. Christine Vincent has joined our team as of Monday, March the 7th. Welcome, Christine. I know you will do well. Our town clerk has accepted a position with Vale so her job has been advertised but not filled to date. We also have three vacancies at Nanuk Centre, recreation facilities manager, CYN field worker and a maternity replacement for after school worker. Madam Speaker, a letter has been written to HICG and I want to read an excerpt now to show the spirit and commitment of five young women to keep the Nanuk Centre and Recreation Program running. "I am writing you today to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm from your current recreation workers and volunteers at the Nanuk Centre. It is fitting that your meeting [this was yesterday] of International Day of Women. As a society, we have come to see women, not only as nurturing partners and mothers, but also as dedicated working people and leaders in our communities. I would like to acknowledge Kendra Winters, Mackenzie Frieda, Danielle Pottle, Victoria Winters and Georgia Able in their efforts at the Nanuk Centre. They have not only dedicated their time and efforts to ensuring our community has this essential service, but are also balancing school and other jobs and full families. Kendra and Mackenzie spend their weeks attending school and are achieving success academically. Not only are they doing well in their courses, they are enthusiastic leaders in their extra-curricular activities. They leave school to support their families in what they need before dedicating all their evenings at the Nanuk Centre. For our young people, this is not an easy

balance or an easy task especially when facing their peers. At 18 they should be commended for ensuring we have a safe and sober place for our community. Danielle, Vicky and Georgia balance their very busy lives raising families and running households and even working other jobs or supporting partners in doing so. As a full-time working mother, this takes a lot of patience and dedication. These ladies saw a gap in our services for the community and stepped up for our children. They truly understand the value of taking a village to raise a child. The impact of these workers is beyond a place to someone's friends. The physical activity getting off of screens and the positive interactions for mental health are immeasurable. The support financially of having an open centre allows Hopedale to continue to having a working, stable facility now and for the future. I would like to thank these ladies, as well as other workers who stepped up for unfulfilled positions, for their time, energy and enthusiasm. You may never know the lives you've impacted in terms of numbers or days, but trust me, you have done so positively for so many. Sincerely, thanks and congratulations on jobs well done.

Ms. Dalley McLean." In our ACM news, two students, Hailey Flowers and Kansas Winters and their teacher, Ms. Doris Boase, are ready to attend the *Inuttitut* speak-off when this goes ahead. We wish the students well. Kindness Wood Project just started up in partnership with the Moravian Church. McKinley Winters and volunteers cut wood for a community wood box, and the students at ACMS cut and bring the wood to elders. What a wonderful venture and community sharing. Thank you. ACMS

has a successful Olympics and finding ways to come together while they have been apart. Congratulations to many of our graduates who have received their acceptance letters for post-secondary schools. Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to wish Members of this Assembly all the best in their endeavours as this is our last Assembly sitting. To those running for re-election, I wish you all the best. I have witnessed all Assembly Members around this table. All Assembly Members rise to the challenge of supporting their constituents and fellow Assembly Members. Their reports have been nothing but phenomenal. You have all done an awesome job and are to be commended for your hard work and dedication to our communities and this wonderful government of Nunatsiavut. God bless you all. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I'll apologize now to the interpreters. I didn't prepare a statement today. I just wanted to rise and thank everybody around the table. It has been a amazing opportunity and learning experience for me, who was an employee of the Nunatsiavut Government and the Labrador Inuit Association for 15 years before I moved into this role. When I started, we had Mr. Jim Lyall as our Executive Director. So he hired me and started me on my professional career with this organization and I thank him for that. Also, at the table at the time was Mr. Anthony Andersen. He was there in an elected official role. I don't really remember what it was, but you were there as

well. So I've been working Tony for a while, and I thank him for his wisdom, his ability to bring light to a situation and make us laugh when we need to when times and tensions rise. He has a way to kind of bring everybody back and I thank him for that. And I've learned a lot and it's been, as an employee who had a dad who also served in the Assembly and was always very interested in what our government did, I thought I was well versed in what our government did, and I learned very quickly at the Assembly table that I did not. There are projects that the government is working on that a lot of our beneficiaries don't know about, and maybe that's something we can kind of improve upon. But we definitely are working on a lot of different things for the betterment of our beneficiaries and I'd like to thank everybody around this table. I've learned something from everybody around this table. Thank you very much. We have some very wonderful people at this table. I think of AngajukKâk Andersen who's been awarded for his bravery, not only for serving his community, but in his ground search and rescue efforts. Thank you very much for that. To Mary Sillett, who, although you weren't at the table next to me when I was there for a short time as speaker, you were always there by email and I thank you for that. And you're very knowledgeable. I truly wish you all the best, and I hope to see you around again in Northwest River. I did sit, have the privilege to sit next to our Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette, and I know he loved every minute of it, sitting next to me and working with me. He got to kind of see how my brain works, and sometimes he found that

challenging, I'll say. Hopefully enjoyable. Minister Edmunds, Acting President, I truly wish you all the best. You are....

MS. ONALIK: Sorry for interrupting.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Slow down?

MS. ONALIK: No, we're going over the time limited, but there's also going to be an opportunity at the end for Ordinary Members right before adjournment also. So if there's anything that you wanted or forget to say now then you can also sneak it right before adjournment again, but if you conclude it up a little bit and then I'll let you continue.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Perfect.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. *Nakummek* very much. You have been a star of this Assembly for a few years and I see why. I wish you all the best. Thank you, everybody. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess, since I came into Hopedale, I had a couple people question me about the trail and, you know, what condition our trail's in from Postville and Separation Lake. I think it would be only fair this morning before, you know, we depart and go our different ways that I'll just give a brief update on our trail, Madam Speaker. I think for those who look at social media, our groomer left Postville last Tuesday and returned to Postville on Thursday. Two nights out on the trail which

meant that the trail is done from Postville into Separation. That's our limits to do groomer work for our Separation Lake. So for those that's not involved in social media from our communities, you are more than welcome to share that. Madam Speaker, it's a different type of a sitting, you know, this morning. You know, I was sitting here listening to all the good comments, good remarks, and my colleague, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, had some great words for Members around the table. Madam Speaker, before I forget it, I have to say, you know, in the last two general elections for the Ordinary Member, Tyler Edmunds and myself have ran a race in both elections. And, by running that race, we came very close to, I'll say it, playoffs, you know. It was that close in both races, but, you know, the saying goes, "Best man wins," and, you know, in both situations Tyler came on my door and knocked on the door and we had a chat after the results came out. And, you know, since that day we have worked very close, and I have to say I was privileged over the last three and a half years as AngajukKâk to have my First Minister work directly across the road from me and at the click of a couple of buttons I could have access to his office. So I want to thank him for that. And, thank you, Tyler, for all you've done for our community throughout the years, you know. We hear of, you know, opposition out there. We hear of critical people, you know. Many times, I've defended you and your work so I want you to know that, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours, you and your family, whatever road you take. And that goes for those who are not putting their name forward in the next general

election as well. There may be those who is going to try it again. I wish you all the best and all the luck. And, you know, who knows? Come May, when we come back to another sitting, if it's May, you know, we'll see some of the same faces re-elected. So, Madam Speaker, you know, before I sit, I just want to send a message to our President who's out having treatment right now. I just want to send him a message of well wishes from myself and my community, and we hope and pray that everything go as planned. That's for he and his family. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have to say that, you know, I want to wish Mary Sillett well in her new life. In 1990, my first term as LIA Vice President, I was sworn in on a Friday afternoon, and Monday I was on my way to Ottawa to represent LIA at the, ITC at the time, table. And Mary Sillett was there as a board member for our national womens organization, Pattouti. And Mary, right away, asked me tough questions on membership issues of the LIA. It was baptism by fire, Madam Speaker. And I think that baptism by fire is helpful for people in our job, Madam Speaker. It gives us the encouragement to go on. And certainly I enjoyed working with Mary many times at that ITC table. And Mary went on, of course, to serve as Acting President of ITC for a time. So I wanted to point that out to Members who may have thought that Mary's only contribution through the years is the wonderful work she has

done as clerk of the Assembly. That's not true. Mary has served and passionately and been a voice for Labrador Inuit since the early 80's, 70's even, if I remember correctly. So I wanted to wish Mary well and I say, Madam Speaker, that I don't believe for a minute that this is the last we're going to hear of Mary Sillett. Her name is going to come up again. She may have left this job, but, again, with her passion and, you know, the dedication to Labrador Inuit and to our issues, I am quite certain that in some shape, way or form we'll hear from Mary Sillett again. But on behalf of Jim Lyle and the Constituency of Nain, Mary, thank you very much for your hard work and I wish you well. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen. I now call upon the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Finance Minister Andersen, for the wonderful news this morning with the extension of the program, The Canadian Constituency and all Nunatsiavut Members will benefit for the extension, especially the low income end seniors. I really thank the NG for that. And I'd like to thank everybody here at the Assembly. When I first came here, it was the same as I just came out of the dark woods into the bright light of the Assembly. I had no idea of what I was getting into. I knew of a few people, but I didn't realize how much work you have actually done and how dedicated you all are. AngajukKâks, I didn't know anything about, but I sure got to know a lot of them, especially Barry Andersen and Joe Dicker and Glen. They're very outspoken, very

wonderful people, as well as our Member here, Patricia Kemuksigak. We're missing a couple, especially Charlotte Wolfrey, who is also very dedicated. And, Mary Sillett, there's no words to describe what you've done or how you've acted towards us, and congratulations, Susan, on your new appointment. Now I'd like to speak to the cards that I gave out yesterday, the kindness cards, if you don't mind. This is from a great niece. She was here in the Assembly in January of 2020 and she loved it. She wanted to come work for Nunatsiavut. She even had plans in the future of maybe running as the Ordinary Member for Canada. Leukemia changed that and she passed away June of 2021. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders. Now call upon the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

I'll just give everybody maybe a heads up, if you would wear your head sets for maybe the first portion of my statement today. *Nakummek, Ilonnasi*. Thank you, Madam Speaker. (Speaks in *Inuttitut*). And I do trust that the translation was able to work there as well. Madam Speaker, I do understand that I may be under a little bit of a time crunch there, but I do hope that you maybe give me a little bit of liberty as I don't intend to speak later today. I know, Madam Speaker, that each one of us who sit around this table are aware of the weight of creating this shared future and realizing the vision that we have for our people. I know our civil servants are aware of this weight as each day they give their time and their hearts to helping our elders, our youth and all in our

communities. The voices of all who have guided us to this point can be heard in these chambers. It's heard through each AngajukKâk, Chairperson and Ordinary Member. A continuation of the concern, care and wisdom that has been gifted to us from previous leaders and elders seeking to push Inuit forward so that we can achieve a quality of life that is second to none. With my final statement as an elected official, I remain optimistic. I am optimistic for more stories of triumph as we heal from the dark chapter of displacement and relocation that our healing and self-determination will send a strong message back to the institutions who thought they knew what was best for Labrador Inuit. I can see the future where our language is alive. Our culture remains vibrant where our families are strong and that Nunatsiavut, our beautiful lands, can be our beautiful land in so many different ways.

MS. ONALIK:

I just want to pause you there for a quick second. You are over time, but you are allowed two Member Statements per day. Is there anybody else who wished to make a Member Statement and then Tyler may proceed? All right. So, Mr. Edmunds, I'm sorry for interrupting. We'll continue with AngajukKâk Andersen and then we'll come back to you. All right. And now I'd like to recognize AngajukKâk Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Along with everybody else here, I'd like to congratulate and wish Mary Sillett as well, the best of luck on your new career and your new path. And since I've been hearing since 2018, I think we've exchanged a few emails, got myself on the right track with your guidance. Over the last three, four weeks, I think you might have heard

AngajukKâk Sheppard on CBC Radio News talking about the air ambulance issues again that have arisen as of late. I just would like to stand here and make the legislature, the Nunatsiavut Government, aware that I have written the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, Ms. Lisa Dempster, a letter to which I patiently await a response regarding their Air Ambulance Issues. I just wanted to make the Assembly aware that the types of aircraft that's being used around the world, the beach, 1900 and the King Air aircraft are capable of landing on our air strips, and I don't think there's any reason why we can't have such a service within our community to transport critically ill patients on a pressurized aircraft from the north coast back to Goose Bay or beyond for medical attention. So I just wanted to bring that to the Assembly's attention, Madam Speaker, and the Acting President, as he spoke on the issues of travel with the Kamutik W, there's a lot of things raised at that meeting for sure. And I think one of them that came up was the docking issues at Hopedale and Makkovik. And maybe if we had a better infrastructure for that ship to dock, it would enable a better schedule. She wouldn't be so delayed and had to rush around Cape Paterson or rush back around Cape Paterson from south, that kind of thing. So I just wanted to bring that to light as well, Acting President. And best of luck, I guess, to all the members who are seeking re-election. And to those who are not, the best of luck in whatever you plan to do. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. I just need to take a quick second and converse with the assistant to the clerk here. Just give me one second.

Thank you for your patience. All right, thank you for your patience. I just want to let the Assembly aware that even though Mary is very grateful for all the accolades and thanks that she's been given, she's getting to the point where, I guess, her humility is making her feel very uncomfortable. So if there are any Members who wish to thank Mary, maybe thank her outside of the Assembly just so that she feels a bit more comfortable. And, with that, we will conclude Member Statements. Are there any other Members who wish to make a statement? I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I'd only like to close today by saying that I'm thankful for the gift that I've been given over these last few years to be able to speak for my community and to speak for my region. And, you know, with that thanks, I also put forward a plea, and I implore those who are out there today who have led their communities in different ways to consider running in this upcoming election. There are strong voices, we all know, in our communities who have cared deeply for our people, strong leaders in many different families, and I implore members of our community to consider running for office so that you can achieve this gift that I have been very gracious for as well. So *Nakummek*, *Ilonnasi*. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Edmunds. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement? I'd to recognize the AngajukKâk from Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to update on the winter trails, as well, and to congratulate their new staff and they're doing a wonderful job. They have the trails marked between Hopedale and Drunken Harbour and Hopedale and Natuashish, and I'm really proud of them for the work that they do. I also want to acknowledge our water and sewer staff. They go above and beyond. It's been a very cold year and we've had a lot of freeze-ups. They're out working in the cold, we're in the warm. And our offices, they go every day on a call and about people's water and sewer. And I want to acknowledge them today and to thank them very much for their hard work and dedication and to our office staff, as well, who were kind of running on one cylinder because very short staff and they've helped me so much in my work so thank you to them. And I want to thank Minister Flowers, again, for the wonderful caribou that we will all look forward to receiving. I think it's a wonderful gesture and very hard work to get that negotiated and brought to our community. So, on behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Are there any other Members wishing to make a Member Statement? I am seeing none. I think this might be a good time to just have a quick recess and we should be back here in 10, 15 minutes. *Nakummek*.

(Recess)

MS. ONALIK:

We are now onto Item 5 in our agenda, "Return to Oral Questions."
There are no return to oral questions today. So we'll now move onto Item

6, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions? I call upon the Chair of NunaKâtiget, Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tony Andersen. Is there anything in place to help civil servants who experience workplace bullying and/or harassment?

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ms. Kemuksigak. Honourable Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, certainly, there is such programs in place. And I announced yesterday in my statement of such a program and I already dumped my statement. But the short answer to her question, Madam Speaker, is yes. The long answer is that immediately following this session I'll provide to her all the information that she will need to assist people who come to her if that is the case, and I will provide everything that she will need. And I hope that answer is acceptable too. And I don't know if my friends and colleague from DHSD will have anything to add to my answer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Honourable Asivak, is there anything you'd like to add?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Minister Andersen, for that. I will gladly add to that any reports of bullying or harassment should be dealt with your immediate supervisor in collaboration with the Human Resources manager and they will work together closely. *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Asivak. Do you have a supplementary question, Ms. Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: What happens in the case if the immediate supervisor is the person accused of bullying and harassment?

MS. ONALIK: Can you direct the question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Sorry, to the Minister of Health.

MS. ONALIK: Honourable Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you. It would still go above higher. So, for example, there's always one above. If it's immediate supervisor, there would be a Director, a Deputy Minister. So the Deputy Minister would be the top line as within HR. So there would be someone answerable who can lead this. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. Is there anything you'd like to add, Honourable Andersen?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to say to the Member, Madam Speaker, she's entering into a very sensitive area now and I would ask if I would be allowed if she would accept that I would speak to her immediately following this Assembly so that we can, you know, make sure that there was people's rights and confidentiality is maintained, rather than having these kind of questions answered in the House. And I hope that this would be acceptable to the Member, Madam Speaker, and that I give her assurance that her questions will be answered and any incident would be dealt with. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* It's still my understanding that Ms. Kemuksigak is allowed a final supplementary question if she would like.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: Thank you. I call upon the Chair of Sivunivut, Ms. Maxene Winters.

MS. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. My question is for the Acting President, Mr. Edmunds. Can you see if all departments within Nunatsiavut ensure that department-wide contests are open to beneficiaries in Upper Lake Melville, as well as in the Nunatsiavut area? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek,* Ms. Maxine Winters. Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker, and *Nakummek* to the Chairperson of Sivunivut for the question. I'm not aware of any recent contests that may have been advertised department-wide that may have been limited to Nunatsiavut, for example. And, you know, I guess I can say that if there are opportunities to include as many beneficiaries as possible in some contest, I would hope that that would be encouraged. But I do also understand that there are some programs and services that are limited to Nunatsiavut as well. I don't know the specific circumstance of some of these questions. But it is a valid point and a valid consideration to try to ensure that our beneficiaries are being reached out to as well. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek,* Honourable Edmunds. Ms. Maxine Winters, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WINTERS: No, I don't, but thank you for your answer.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Probably, this is the last time I'll get to ask my First Minister the question. My question is directed to the Honourable Tyler Edmunds from Nunatsiavut Affairs. Some time ago there was some work done by Duncan Avery related to infrastructure housing; a review or an assessment. Can you tell the Assembly if there has been a final report related to this assessment done by Duncan Avery? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Sheppard. Honourable Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker. I believe that the final report and the final assessment was conducted, but I will have to confirm with my department on that specific piece. So I can take that portion under notice. I did want to say that on a go-forward basis, we are, as I updated yesterday, looking to bring on a housing inspector to ensure that we can minimize some issues with inspections going forward with the home repair program, but I will give more information on that specific circumstance and provide that to the Assembly and the AngajukKâk for Postville. *Nakummek,* Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek,* Honourable Edmunds. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any other Members wishing to ask? I call upon the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to Honourable Gerald Asivak, Minister for the Department of Health. With the withdrawal of services for dental while the COVID was going on and ramped up, I'm sure now there must be a lot of backlog. Can you tell me if there's a lot of backlog for dental services here? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers. Honourable Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers and Madam Speaker. I don't have the exact number for Hopedale or any other Nunatsiavut community. However, we will work closely with the dental therapist, dentist, hygienist, denturist, any other healthcare provider to ensure that services are provided in an adequate timely manner to pick back up where we left off. We took COVID 19 very seriously throughout this pandemic and especially this past December onward. And, as far as I know, with regular contact with my directors and directors of Health Services, we are planning, if not already in the community, with more restrictions lifted within the Province. As per the 14th, next week, more restrictions are lifted, and we also consider dental therapy important. So, you know, we did try to, in the beginning, see that we'll continue services, then COVID hit. So, in short, to summarize, we will resume as fast as we can with the availability of the dentist to get back into our communities and even extend hopefully back-to-back, if possible. However, as you may appreciate, with logistics, you know, we have five communities to serve,

and but we will get back in as soon as possible to ensure that there won't be any backlog and that we fix the backlog. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Asivak. AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't. Thank you, Honourable Member for your answer.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. I now call upon the AngajukKâk for Kaipokok, Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Greg Flowers. With the state of our moose in our Nunatsiavut population, you know, has there been a plan or any plan talked about to, I guess, protect the moose talks that we have in surrounding our Nunatsiavut communities? Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Honourable Minister Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard, for your question. As you know, in my statement yesterday we had allotted 25 moose for our five Inuit communities, and my update yesterday, we only harvested 12 of those 25 moose which is very concerning to me as the Minister, Madam Speaker. I guess, the Torngat Wildlife Board, last year I met with them and they were also concerned and we, you know, we said we'll keep it at 25 and see if we can harvest that, but, as we know, in our communities that there was a survey done around the Rigolet area and the Hopedale area this winter. I don't have those results yet, Madam Speaker, but they don't look that great from what I'm

hearing from my Deputy Minister. So I certainly, I guess, not for me, but I hope that the next Minister and the Deputy Minister, whoever that may be, the Minister will certainly look at conservation which is very important and hopefully, you know — today I was supposed to go to Goose Bay for a board meeting on the fishery piece and I certainly will bring up the issues and hopefully — I believe that we need to look at more conservation and reduce the number for communities. Or we probably won't have an animal population left to harvest. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope that answers the question.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister Flowers. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD: No, I don't, Madam Speaker. Thank you, and thank you, Minister, for the response.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. Are there any other Members wishing to ask an oral question? I call upon the Chair of NunaKâtiget, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Madam Speaker. My next question is also to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. We're all very happy to hear the COVID relief will go on till September 30th. I was asked by a few people this question: Would you consider expanding the COVID Food Voucher Program to include people with disabilities?

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, Honourable Minister.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, my announcement this morning is that we do have funds for this final round, and we don't know at this time

that there will be other rounds. This has been federal money provided to the Inuit Regions to assist, I guess, the duration of the COVID pandemic. But it's not for me to consider. Again, I say it's not my department that administers to COVID relief food program. What I will do to address the Member's question is I'll bring that question to Nunatsiavut Executive Council and ask for that her question be considered for the remainder of the program. And that is the best I can do at this time, Madam Speaker, is to bring her question forward, as I've said too, in answering questions yesterday. It is not my department that administers the COVID relief programs. But, certainly, I will bring her question or question concern forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Minister Asivak, I believe this is your department. Is there anything you'd like to add?

MR. ASIVAK:

Nunatsiavut Executive Council are given criteria for how the funds can be used. So we intentionally did not try to exclude any parameters or groups or such. So I don't have the exact, you know, categories that would be applicable to this, and but as Minister Andersen, yes, the HSD is overseeing the programming of this, however, it would be Executive Council who would decide if this can be moved forward with a few months left to it pending allotment of funds as well. We, as Finance, receives invoices. We have an estimate of funds remaining and that could quickly change month to month. As Minister Andersen noted, it's on average of 475,000 per month. So but we can, as Minister Andersen noted, we can discuss it within our next Executive Council with leadership

from Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology on that. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Madam Speaker, but I want to thank the two Ministers for answering the question. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*. Are there any other oral questions? No more oral questions? All right. So that concludes oral questions for today. We'll move onto Item 7, "Written Questions." There are no written questions today. We'll move onto Item 8, "Return to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions. So we move onto Item 9, "Petitions." There are no petitions. So we move onto Item 10, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses today. We'll move onto Item 11, "Reports of Standing and Special Committees." I would like to recognize Ordinary Member of Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders, to present the "Final Report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency." He is the Chair of this special committee.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess I'll go through the report page by page, but I'd like first to thank Member Marlene Wheeler, Member Barry Andersen, Legal Counsel. Where's he gone? Okay. Mark Gillette. Anyway, thank you for keeping us all on course. We did quite a lot of work and we've had, specially, Marlene and Mark. They did a

tremendous amount and they kept it ongoing. This is the final report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency and it's further to be reported at the Community Table at the November 2021 sitting of the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Am I going too fast for the? Okay. For ease reference, the following excerpts from the November report is included for context. A resolution passed on March 9th, 2021; the Nunatsiavut Assembly struck the Special Committee for Voting Alternative for the Canadian Constituency. The terms of reference of the committee are to meet with the Nunatsiavut Electoral Office to discuss the existing voting procedures used for elections involving the Canadian Constituency and to identify any shortcomings or issues affecting voter participation and transmission of votes. To consider, in particular, if any system's electronic voting exists that would better serve constituents in the Canadian Constituency as an effective method of exercising the democratic right to participate in elections. To retain, if the committee feels necessary, the professional services of persons eligible in voting systems to conduct technical research and to provide recommendations to the committee and to provide a report to the Assembly on the work of the committee together with any recommendations the committee may make during the fall session of 2021. The committee went with NEO, Ms. Nanette Blake, in May of 2021. The purpose of the meeting was for the committees to have input from the NEO about issues regarding the elections in the Canadian Constituency on which the committee could focus and potentially seek

professional consultation. During this meeting, the following notable items were discussed. The committee reviewed, as an example, a summary that Ms. Blake provided of ballots returns from the most recent Canadian Constituency bi-election, February, 2021. Consideration of Standing Order 26 of the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* and where the dates could be adjusted to allow for a longer election period for elections in the Canadian Constituency to facilitate the mailing of ballots. The potential for enhanced advertising to promote both awareness of elections and also generally to advise beneficiaries to keep their addresses updated. Currently, the only means of advertising the NEO uses for information for the Canadian Constituency is the Nunatsiavut Government website. A major issue with mail-in balloting is the dependability of time and delivery of mail by Canada Post which is compounded by the issue of having current address information for voters. However, it is noted that it is the individual beneficiary's obligation and responsibility to keep their addresses updated. After the discussion with the NEO, the committee determined it was in need of research expertise in the area of alternative voting. As a result, the committee released a request for proposals, or research assistance seeking the following. An overview of benefits and weakness of electronic voted systems generally an overview of the types of electronic voting systems that may be suitable for youth for elections involving voters in the Canadian Constituency and a recommendation of a short list of providers of appropriate voting systems. The committee was pleased that as a result of the RFP, it retained the services of a team

of academics experienced in the field. Dr. Brian Budd of the University of Guelph, Dr. Nicole Goodman of Brock University and Dr. Michael McGregor, Waterloo University, Ryerson University. The report ultimately prepared for the committee, Electronic Voting Alternatives to Support the Canadian Constituency Research Report is appended to the November report. In general, the research report provides an overview on analysis of remote voting systems with a specific focus on electronic types of voting, notably, online and telephone voting. The research report provides a historical context on the growth of electronic and online voting. Describes issues voters in the Canadian Constituency encounter with the current voting system. Outlines the methods of research methods of the group used in preparing the report. Considers the benefits and drawbacks, mail, on-line and phone voting, outlines the experience of other regions where electronic voting had been used. Outlines the results of a survey of beneficiaries conducted by the group with a focus on respondents from the Canadian Constituency. We've used the electronic voting system and deployment approaches that are suited for voters in the Canadian Constituency and provides a list of recommendations. In the November report the committee stated it was of the opinion that the right consultation with the voters of the Canadian Constituency was important and should be undertaken to both gather views on the alternatives out and the expert report, and also to allow voters to express views of the fundamental question of moving to an alternative method of voting. While a survey had been conducted for

purposes of the research report, it was noted that there was a very low level of response to that survey. After tabling the November report, the Assembly adopted the following motion. That the Nunatsiavut Assembly accept the report of a Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency and authorize that the committee to proceed to conduct consultations with Labrador Inuit residents in the Canadian Constituency on the recommendation and alternatives outlined in the research report. The committee's work after the November report, given that the motion authorized in the consultation process was made at the end of November, 2021 and that this final report would have to be prepared for submission to the Assembly by late February 2022. The committee was faced a limited amount of time to plan and carry out consultations. Planning began shortly after November, 2021 Assembly sitting. Due to time and schedule constraints, the committee developed a plan to conduct a two-prong series of consultations, a series of in-person sessions in several major centres in Canada supplemented by online submission process. The committee planned to conduct in-person consultation sessions in areas where there are known to be significant concentrations of beneficiaries. In committee, in particular, the committee considered sessions in Labrador City, St. John's, Halifax and Ottawa which were tentatively planned for early February, 2022. Consideration was given to include additional centres, particularly in Western Canada. However, due to the limited amount of time available that the amount of time travelled that would require, it was not feasible

to hold in-person sessions for the Western, Ontario. In effort to broaden access for voters to submit input regardless of location, the committee also developed assisting allowing beneficiaries to send comments to a dedicated email, votingalternatives@nunatsiavut.com. This was available to beneficiaries anywhere in the Canadian Constituency and was advertised widely through social media accounts of the NG, current Canadian Constituency members, committee members and the NG website, and as well as development of direct mail-out advertisement promoting the online submission opportunity. Over 2,000 mail alerts were sent. The email submissions opportunity was from mid-December, 2021 through February 18, 2022. Unfortunately, the emergence of Omicron variant of COVID 19 and the fast onset of a new series of pandemic-related restrictions and closures throughout Canada circumvented the committee's plan of travel and holding in-person meetings. The committee's very disappointed that it was not able to connect with voters in person as it intended. While virtual meetings were contemplated, they were not pursued as would have been difficult to facilitate and keep orderly. As a result, the committee was left to rely on the results of the email submission process. Despite the considerable number of mail-out advertisements for the email submissions opportunity and a considerable effort of the committee to promote the same through social media channels, only a small fraction of responses were received. Of over the direct 2,000 mail-outs to voters inviting submission, less than 25 responses were received. This is a returning of

just over 1 per cent. While the committee appreciates the comments of those who took time to make submissions, this, the committee believes that this level of return does not allow for any substantive conclusions to be taken from the responses. While this process was not organized or intended to be an official survey, the extremely low uptake in submissions cannot be taken as providing a representative sample of the view of voters. As a result, the committee is of the opinion that it cannot base any recommendations on the very small number of comments received. Of the comments the committee did receive, it is fair to state that the responses are not unanimous on any point. It could be said that a majority of responses expressed an opinion to or support for the implementation of some sort of electronic voting system. A number of responses indicated a strong preference to maintain the mail-in system or a preference of at least mail-in voting as an option. Some responses indicated no problem with paper balloting other than the slow speed of mail. A simplistic and not scientific categorization of the responses received is as follows: Prefer electronic voting, no preference between online or telephone, five. Prefer an online voting system, seven. Prefer a telephone voting system, one. Prefer a current mail-in ballot as support for a hybrid of current mail-in, electronic vote assist, six. Other responses, no preference, one. As mentioned above, a more former survey was conducted by the research team retained by the committee during the development of the research report to attempt to gauge the opinions of voters in the Canadian Constituency. The committee notes

that while the research report does analyze the response received to that survey to draw some general conclusion on openness to all primitive voting methods, the number of responses to that first survey was also very small. Fifty-six total responses with only 44 being natural voters in the Canadian Constituency. With an estimated voting population of over twenty-one hundred people, this is again an extremely small rate of engagement, 2 per cent. A system of voting is only as good as voters trust in it. The committee's mindful of the seemingly every increased threat of cyber security breaches based upon both governments and private sector entities. This is particularly pronounced in light of the recent Ransomware attack on Newfoundland and Labrador Public Health System in the fall of 2021. While not all issues concerning cyber security that appear in news media are election related, the committee does acknowledge that several responses received in the engagement process have noted seemingly increased public perception of electronic systems can be subject to attempts of manipulation or fraud. The committee knows that at a time of tabling of the report, sentiments were expressed in the Assembly that a more fulsome review and assessment of security aspects of electronic voting system should be undertaken. Further, while not related to Nunatsiavut elections, the committee is also aware of concerns around the security of electronic voting systems recently expressed by the officer of the Information and Privacy Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador. In the context of a review of provincial electronic law, as a result, the committee believes that if further

consideration is given to move to an electronic method of voting, a significant amount of attention should be placed on the secureness and of any such system as a priority. As a result of the committee's work, it makes the following conclusion. The committee was struck on March 9, 2021, and its mandate will end with the dissolution of the Assembly in early April, 2022. In the span of one year the committee has gathered information and undertaken the work outlined in this report. It said it is clear to the committee that a much longer period of time before functions would have been beneficial. While external circumstances outside the control of the committee certainly contributed to tight timeframes, the committee believes that if any further committee level work is to be considered by the Assembly going forward on balloting reform, that a much longer timeline may develop to complete any mandated functions. The committee believes that the low-level responses to both the survey completed for the research report and the committee's own consultation process can be interrupted and interpreted in three ways. Either there is a significant amount of voter apathy in the Canadian Constituency, the majority of voters have no strong opinions of the method of voting, and the lack of engagement indicates that concerns about the effectiveness of current mail-in balloting system are not significantly widespread. As a result of the above, the committee's of the view that it cannot be determined at this time that there is general voter dissatisfaction with the current balloting systems. As a result, the committee is not recommending NG to take

immediate action on this issue at this time. The committee acknowledges that from an election administration standpoint, there remains a concern on the issue of the time required to transmit and receive mail ballots in the current system. Mail-in balloting is mandated by the Canadian Constituency under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. As a result, without constitutional change, voters in the constituency will continue to vote by mail. If the issue is not so much about whether votes are cast by mail, then it is about the ability for mail-in voting to be effectively carried out, or it may be best to focus attention and effort on whether any changes can be made to Nunatsiavut's electoral laws to provide for a longer period to transmit or receive mail-in ballots, or to implement other measures to promise faster transmission of mail-in ballots. To elaborate on this point, there were some comments received by the committee during the consultation process suggested alternatives to the mail-in ballot such as using Regional Returning Offices to send and transmit ballots or the development of download and print system of delivering ballots. Such concepts may have potential benefits but would need detail and critical review before any recommendation or implementation can be made to implement them. With regard to the issue of security and electronic voting systems, the committee wishes to note the following. At the time of tabling of the November report, discussion in the Assembly highlighted the issue of security of electing voting systems. Some comments relayed a concern that their research report did not place enough emphasis on security as a primary concern

when considering electronic voting systems. The committee is mindful of the present perception of cyber security breaches in many facets of government computer systems, particularly in light of the recent Ransomware attack on Newfoundland and Labrador open health system. To this end, the committee believes that if an electronic voting system were to be implemented in the future, a significant amount of attention and scrutiny would need to be placed on the secureness of such a system. The committee's also mindful of views respecting the security of online voting systems recently expressed by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Newfoundland and Labrador in the context of an ongoing review of the most recent Provincial election and Provincial electoral law. The committee, therefore, respectfully recommend that the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, in consultation with the NEO, consider any possible amendments to electoral laws concerning the Canadian Constituency that would permit or, for great efficiency, in return of mail-in ballots, including, for example, the extension of election periods. That in the event that the Nunatsiavut Assembly appoints future committees to examine the issues relating to the balloting reform that such committees be struck such that their time to work is of a sufficient length to facilitate and undertake fulsome consultations, study and development of recommended legislative options respectfully submitted this 25th day of February, 2022 by the Member of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency, Rolland Saunders, Marlene Winters-Wheelers, Barry Andersen. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the notice I provided yesterday, I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, the Honourable Mr. Barry Andersen, that tabled document 04-4(10), the Final Report of a Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency be now referred to the Committee of the Whole with witness, Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member for Canada. I'd like to invite Mark to come in. Yes. Okay. *Nakummek*, Mr. Saunders. The motion is in order. Mr. Saunders, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, Madam Speaker, not at this point.

MS. ONALIK: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? If no other Members wish to speak to the motion, does the member wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MS. ONALIK: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried. The Special Committee Report will now be considered in Committee of the Whole with the witness, Mr. Mark Gillette. Now we are in the Committee of the Whole and I invite Mr. Saunders to make any remarks that he may have.

MR. SAUNDERS: I have no comments at this time, but maybe Marlene, Honourable Member Winter-Wheeler, might have or Honourable Member Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, or Madam Chair, and the Committee of the Whole. Thank you to the committee members, legal counsel, for the report that was just presented to the Assembly. Right now, I would just support Mr. Saunders in his report and ask that the Assembly, I guess, recommend to accept this report as presented. For that, Madam Chair, any questions, I think, would be greatly appreciated.

MS. WINTERS WHEELER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. This report was a very big learning experience for me. A person who's generally interested in elections and things like that. I know there's always a lot of discussions around where we're in a time where we can why don't we do electronic voting? It sounds quite simple, but I think, as a government, we have a responsibility to put the security of our beneficiaries first. And it was quite evident in the report that that should be a very big concern for our government, especially in the Canadian Constituency, well, not just in the Canadian Constituency, for all of our beneficiaries. I'd like to thank the committee for their work, our Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette, for his expertise and knowledge as well. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any questions?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek (Speaks in *Inuttitut*). Thank you, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Andersen, Ms. Winters-Wheeler and Mr. Gillette for putting this report together. I think, as you've said, you know, a year may seem like a long time to undertake this sort of work, but once you get into it and you start pulling it apart, clearly, you know, there needs to be more time allotted to that and I understand that as I read through the report. I'm sure all of you

were disappointed with the lack of engagement and lack of return as you were putting your information out there to get people engaged on their opinions on whether they support electronic voting or other means. It is concerning to see that, that there was a very clear attempt here to engage the constituency and having return rates of 1 per cent. Again, it is concerning. I think that the recommendations are good as they stand. It is being brought to the Assembly, and I do think that a more intense look is needed to our *Elections Act* to see if timelines can be adjusted to accommodate a greater return rate for mail-in ballots. Clearly, there's a lot of variables with the mail and we want to ensure that I think all beneficiaries have the opportunity to have their voice heard in an election. So I think those are good recommendations and, you know, I think that first report we received this November from the consultants was very pro-electronic voting and, and that's okay, but I think you guys have, you know, done your due diligence in reaching out to the constituency and speaking to from cyber security issues as well. So, thank you, for doing this work.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a further comment to the Acting President that in any event of the consultations and report, there would still have to be a change to the *Constitution* or the voting procedures. I do believe legal counsel, Mr. Gillette, that you can confirm that as well, correct?

MR. GILLETTE:

Hi, yes, good morning. Well, currently, the *Constitution* pretty blatantly states that the Members of the Canadian Constituency must vote by mail. Full stop. So if there were to be a concerted effort to change the manner

of balloting for that constituency then it would necessitate a very strong look at whether or not *Constitutional* amendment would be required off the top off, you know, my head, I would think that it would probably be required. So that's an additional, I'm not going to call it a roadblock, but as an additional thing that would have to be considered, certainly if, if any firm plan were to move forward with regards to balloting reform in that constituency.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Gillette.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. My question is were there any problems identified with the email voting matters at nunatsiavut.com?

MR. GILLETTE:

I can take that question, I guess. We're aware during the submissions that we did receive and perhaps some of the other Members can say more clear 'cause I didn't personally receive any complaints per se, but we did hear that there were some individuals who had submitted emails to the email address and it bounced back. To my knowledge, and I invite any of the committee members to speak to that. That the instances of that were pretty small. I may have heard of two. But I'll invite any of the other committee members to speak, but I think, generally, overall, I didn't receive any personal indications that there are issues. The overall take that the report shows is that despite those maybe small number of individuals who had an issue with regards to an email bouncing back, the overall intake of emails was extremely small. But I'll invite any of the other committee members to make comment then.

MS. WINTERS WHEELER:

I can comment as well. There were, I think, that we know of, maybe three that were brought to our attention. Whether or not there were more, there certainly could have been. I know once I had a report that somebody tried to email the email address and it bounced back to them. I tested the email address from my personal email account and my work email account just to kind to see if there was because with our wonderful information technology team they have a high security level with our email system, and I thought, well, maybe it might go to spam or something like that, but both, because the email address that was set up went directly to the chair of the committee, Mr. Roland Saunders, and to our Director, Mark Gillette. So I didn't see the emails. Barry didn't see the emails that came in from the committee or, sorry, from beneficiaries that may have emailed. So I know I tried from two different email addresses. They went fine. That doesn't mean that other people had issues. It could have been something where, and it happens all the time, I've done it before, that you may have accidentally typed in the wrong email address because we had planned, as stated in the report, to go to a few larger towns and cities to try to actually talk to beneficiaries 'cause we all know how it's more engagement with our beneficiaries which is very important. It's been very hard to do, especially over the past two years. When we had planned to do that, that's when Omicron hit and it kind of completely shut us down. So we very quickly had to try to think of another way to try to reach our beneficiaries, and the quickest thing we kind of came up with was a mail-out, I'll call it a post card-size mail-

out to our beneficiaries because that was, basically, the quickest thing we could do given the situation we were in. So with that, it could have easily been somebody may have mistyped the email address. There could have possibly been, you know, it's technology. Technology is wonderful when it works, and but I did hear from two beneficiaries that called our office and they were directed to me. I, basically, had a little chat with them and kind of asked them some, I'll say, some very kind of basic questions of do they enjoy the mail-in ballots system? Would they prefer to see something else? Are you concerned about security? Very kind of basic information. I typed it up, read it back to the beneficiary and then sent it to the committee on their behalf. You know, I had two phone calls like that. I took them gladly, and sent it in. So that was included in, encapsulated in, what was presented in a report. But, other than that, I've heard very little about an issue with the email address. That being said, though, that's not to say that there more people that had issues as well. So, thank you. I hope that answers.

MR. SAUNDERS:

I might add also that we sent over 2,000 cards, and I'm not sure of what the number is right now, but I know that there was quite a few returned. And I'll find that out Thursday and Friday when I go back to the office, but I think the biggest concern is that we have so many Members have moved and they don't update their addresses. I think that's a huge problem. We have to address that. We also have a problem with the registry. Quite often you go through, I know I go through the list at least once a month and the addresses are not up to date. There's problems

within the registry itself. And I update it and, to get a really good view of how many problems there are, the NEO has an exact number of good mailing addresses. The ones that registry send are about at least 200 wrong, with wrong addresses. But it's through our own system where we send out letters, we get letters back that the address is no good. That's how we determined those numbers. I've done the same thing over the years, and it's not a good system right now. Too many Members aren't updating. So we'll find out the numbers then I'll send it onto somebody. Probably be Mark before I leave. Thank you.

MR. GILLETT:

Just one further comment more to what Ms. Winters-Wheeler was saying earlier just for clarification. So there was an email address that was set off in those voting alternatives at nunatsiavut.ca. And the responses were funneled directly to myself and Mr. Saunders as the Chair. So there was a redundancy there for receiving the addresses and, from the best of my understanding, we've received the same number of responses. So we don't expect that there was any issue going on there with respect to one person receiving them or things not being received on our end. Whether or not they were being sent correctly, I don't know, but it seems like whatever I was receiving, he was receiving as well.

MR. SAUNDERS:

And, also, I would like to add to that that the 27 that we did receive, I responded to some of them because of the comments that they had, and when I get back to the office, I'm going to continue responding to the ones that did send in a reply. So we'll keep working at it anyway until the end of this month or whatever the date is that we're finished. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Are there any more questions or comments? I have a question here and identifying the registry is the updates are the biggest thing on memberships, addresses and names, deaths. There seemed to be quite a few people that have passed away in our constituency. The Members' families don't know that they have to notify the registry. So there's still lots of people that are on there that passed away. Another problem is that there's quite a few people that live out of country. I don't know if we have to service the people living in United States, Mexico, Europe, but they're on there. That's another problem that we run into. And they have been identified, but I don't know what the situation is with regards to that, with regards to the registry.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. Are there any other questions or comments?

MR. GILLETT:

Sorry, Madam Chair, if I could, just to follow up on that. And I don't want to deviate from the purpose of the committee here 'cause we're talking specifically about the committee's report. So but the voters' list for the Canadian Constituency is directly related to the list of registered beneficiaries who are of age to vote for a Canadian Constituency. And, you know, if there's issues with the addresses of individuals in the Canadian Constituency, I mean, that's broader than just voting, right? Generally, I'm just making some general comments here. Generally, if you're a beneficiary of the *Land Claims Agreement*, every beneficiary of the *Land Claims Agreement* has an obligation and it is their obligation to advise the NG where they are at all times. So, if they move, it's their obligation to tell somebody that they've moved. It's not the obligation of

the government to go out and find everybody. So if there are individuals out there who are concerned that they're not receiving, ballots, they should be contacting the NG saying how do I get my ballot? And the first point of contact should be going to the Registrar's Office saying, well, are you registered? Is your address current with the Registrar's Office, right? It's just as big an issue for membership on the whole and the Registrar's Office on the whole as it is with regards to elections, right? So if there are beneficiaries who are listening to this broadcast, I would encourage them that to double check and see whether or not they have their current address 'cause that impacts whether or not they can enjoy the other benefits that they get from being a member, right? It's not just voting. So but that's their obligation. So some of them don't know it's their obligation and, you know, that's an issue that will need to be worked through, the government will need to work through. But, generally, that's one of the only obligations that beneficiaries have to have. Once you're a Member, you need to let the NG know where you live so you can receive benefits so you can vote. All those different types of things so.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any other questions, comments before we move back to Mr. Saunders for the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, Madam Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MS. ONALIK: So that concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried. The Special Committee

Report will now be considered in Committee of the Whole. And now I will ask Mr. Saunders to make the following motion.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I move, seconded by the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen, that tabled document 04-4(10), the Final Report of the Special Committee on Voting Alternatives for the Canadian Constituency be received and adopted.

MS. ONALIK:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS:

No, Madam Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MS. ONALIK:

That concludes debate. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Saunders. There are no more Reports of Standing and Special Committees today so we'll move onto Item 12. Thank you, Mr. Mark Gillette, for coming into the Committee of the Whole and we're now back into the Assembly. Item 12, "Tabling of Documents." There are no documents to be tabled today. We'll move onto Item 13. Item 13, "Notices of Motion." There are no notices of motion today. We'll then move onto Item 14. There are no Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills today. So move onto Item 15, "Motions." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Anthony Andersen. Mr. Andersen, please proceed.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members. Whereas the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government for the year ended March 31st, 2021, and the Report on the Audited Annual

Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2021, have been tabled in the Assembly. And whereas the Assembly should consider these documents in Committee of the Whole with witnesses from the auditor. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, to table documents 02-4(10) and 03-4(10) be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration with witnesses. Paul Janes and the controller of Nunatsiavut Government, Ms. Rexanne Crawford. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Mr. Andersen, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MS. ONALIK: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried. These documents will now be considered in the Committee of the Whole with a witness, but before we move into Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch. And then when we come back, we will then be in Committee of the Whole. *Nakummek.*

(Recess)

MS. ONALIK: Welcome back, everybody. It's now 1:00 p.m. We are now in Committee of the Whole and I invite the auditors, Paul Janes and Ms. Crawford, the comptroller of the Nunatsiavut Government, to address the Committee of the Whole.

MS. CRAWFORD: Paul, you can go ahead with your presentation.

MR. JANES:

Okay. Thank you. Sorry, I can only pick up part of what was said there so my apologies for the delay. Hi, everybody. Thank you very much for welcoming me via video here. Unfortunately, I guess for everybody that I couldn't be there in person, but I welcome the opportunity to be here to present to you nonetheless. So thank you very much. I'm going to go through two documents as per normal when I do the audit results presentation to you. I'm going to start by going over our audit results document which should be titled, sorry, I'm just — oh, I've lost it here somewhere. My apologies. Just give me one moment. Okay, sorry, I found it. I just had too many documents open on my computer. My apologies, folks. So it should be entitled, "Nunatsiavut Government Report to the Nunatsiavut Assembly on the 2021 Audit." I'm going to start on the fourth page, page number 1, actually, but it's the fourth page of the document and it's titled, "Executive Summary." Okay. Looks like everybody's found it so I'll continue. So from an audit scope, in terms of engagement perspective, as in the past, we were asked to perform an audit of the government's Consolidated Financial Statements which are done in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards for the year ended March 31st, 2021. And our audit was conducted in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. Our audit terms and conditions were signed on behalf of management in our Confirmation of Changes letter dated May 18th, 2021. And we have developed appropriate safeguards procedures to eliminate threats to our independence and to reduce them to an acceptable level. In the current

year we had two significant risks. Both of these significant risks haven't changed from the prior year so they're the same two that we have had for the last number of years, to be honest. So the first one is "Management Override of Controls" and the second is "Personal Expense Claims." And I'll get into more details on both of those in a few further pages. From an uncorrected misstatements perspective, obviously, one of the communications we need to do to both the Management Executive Council and yourselves, the Assembly, is to talk about any uncorrected misstatements we had during the audit. So our materiality number for the year was \$1.3 million which is the same as last year. Our threshold for carrying any errors is \$65,000 which is purely 5 per cent of the materiality number. So this would represent if we find an error in our audit procedures greater than 65,000, we'd bring it to your attention. If it's less than 65,000, we don't bring it to your attention 'cause we believe those amounts to be trivial and not of interest. We don't actually record anything. If we found a whole bunch of errors that were, you know, \$64,000, let's say, and there was a lot of them, obviously, we would bring that to the attention but nothing of that has come to light in the current year. From a status perspective, we have completed the audit. The financial statements were approved by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council on January 25th, 2022. And you'll note that that's the date on our audit report when we get to the financial statements so those have been issued. From a highlight's perspective in the current year, as I mentioned, there was no changes in the significant risks identified.

However, we got our restatement of last year's numbers and prior periods before that, and I'll get to that and describe that when we get to the financial statements so everybody understands what we did and the cause of that. Our audit fees are listed at the bottom of the page. They're fairly consistent year over year. We do have an agreement that our fees increase by CPI or inflation on an annual basis, and so they have been adjusted slightly to reflect that. Turning to the next page, from a going concern perspective, management's completed its assessment of going concern and the government's ability to continue as a going concern and we did not identify any issues with this and there's no material on certainties with regards to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. As I mentioned, we rendered our audit opinion dated January 25th, 2022 on the financial statements of the governments, following approval of those statements by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. The consolidated audit of the government is a group audit and, essentially, from a simplification perspective, what that means is there's a lot of different companies and entities that roll up into the Consolidated Financial Statements for Nunatsiavut. There's two of those entities which we consider to be material to the group that we don't audit, and those are Torngat Services Limited Partnership and Pikalujak Fisheries Limited Partnership which are both owned under the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies. The auditor for those are PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Grant Thornton, respectively. For the Torngat Services Limited Partnership, we asked PriceWaterhouseCoopers to send us a report on

various audit procedures that we instruct them to do to get comfort over those numbers. For Pikalujak Fisheries, we don't deem it to be significant to the audit and, therefore, we don't perform any procedures on them just due to the overall numbers in size and that makes up Pikalujak.

Turning to the next page, "Significant Audit Risks and Events." As I mentioned, we have two significant audit risks that are the same from last year. The first one, management override with controls, is a significant risk in all the audits that we do. It has to do with management's ability to override controls if they should wish to do so and, obviously, it's very hard to determine without it being an area of focus throughout our audit and, therefore, we do make it a focus of our audit procedures in all of our audits. You can see on the right-hand side there it talks about the audit response and results. So the procedures that we would have followed would have been we discussed fraud with management. We also discussed fraud with the Members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council prior to issuing the financial statements, their views of the risk of fraud. Whether they know of any actual or suspected fraud affecting the government and their role in the oversight of management's anti-fraud programs and controls. We test a sample of journal entries made throughout the period and adjustments made at the end of the reporting period. One of the ways that management could override controls is through the use of journal entries and, therefore, it's an area of focus for our audit. We evaluated the business rational for any significant or unusual transactions just during the year and make sure we

had an understanding of those, and we determined whether any judgments, decisions related to management estimates indicate a possible bias which include performing a retrospective review and analysis of any of those significant accounting estimates. We did obtain sufficient audit evidence to conclude that there were no material misstatements, and we weren't aware of any instances of management override during the year. The next page highlights the personal expense claims. Again, this has been a significant audit risk for our audit for a number of years and I'll highlight again on the right-hand side, right column, the audit response and results. So we reviewed a sample of expense reports for proper authorization of expenditures and reviewed supportive documentation to ensure the expenditures were conducted for business purposes. We did obtain sufficient audit evidence to conclude that there were no material misstatements within the personal expense claims during the year. And to the next page, "Significant Accounting Policies, Judgments and Estimates." The reason we focus on this is that, as I mentioned, significant accounting policies are obviously very important 'cause it outlines for the government how it should account for various different items. And the most significant ones that we see within your financial statements are revenue recognition, investments, tangible capital assets and financial instruments. And, in our judgment, the significant accounting practices and policies selected and applied by management are, in all material respects, acceptable under PSAS, which is Public Sector Accounting Standards and are

appropriate to the particular circumstances of the government. I'll also note that there were no changes to those major policies during the year. Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statement prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. These judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events, assumptions about future events and interpretation of financial reporting standards. During the year, management advises there were no significant changes in accounting estimates or judgments relating to the application of those accounting policies. And, in our judgment, the significant accounting estimates made by management are, in all material respects, free of possible management bias and material misstatement. The disclosure in the financial statements around estimation uncertainty is in accordance with PSAS, again, Public Sector Accounting Standards, and is appropriate to the particular circumstances of the government. Appendix 1 is the next page, sorry. This is the "Communication Requirements and Other Reportable Matters." So I won't go through these in significant detail. The purpose of this appendix is to highlight all of the different requirements under our auditing standards that we have to communicate to both management and those charged with governance. In your case, it would be the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, but, obviously, we also report out to the Assembly as we're doing today as well. So on the left-hand side shows all the required communications, and on the right-hand side of the pages it shows all the different ways that we carry out those

communications. I'll just highlight a few. We did discuss fraud with the NEC and, as I mentioned, there were no fraudulent events that we're aware of during the year. On the next page there were no consults. So number 11 talks about consultation of other accountants. We're not aware of any consultations for the period under audit with other accountants. We did not encounter any difficulties while performing the audit and there were no significant delays in receiving information from management required for the audit, nor was there an unnecessarily brief timetable in which we had to complete the audit. Our limited procedures did not identify any areas of material non-compliance with laws or regulations by the government that were otherwise prohibited to be disclosed. And there were no subsequent events during the year as well and none disclosed in the financial statements. Appendix 2 which is — now, sorry, I'm on page 9 in the bottom, left-hand corner — is our independence letter which states that we are independent of the government as we had carried out some other services during the year for the government affirmed it, but none of those are ones that we feel changes our independence or impures our independence in any way and we make sure that if there are any risks of that that we put safeguards in place. So we were independent for the period under audit and continue to be today. Appendix 3 is our "Summary of Uncorrected Financial Misstatements" and "Summary of Disclosure Items Passed." So, as I mentioned at the beginning, there were a couple of items that we felt were incorrect, but not material to your financial statement, and the

overall impact on the annual surplus was a hundred and twenty-two thousand six hundred and fifty-five dollars. So well below our 1.3 million materiality. So the first one you can see there is a pre-paid expense that was classified as an expense in the previous fiscal year. And the impact of that, should it be corrected, would be \$99,000 to increase assets; \$50,000, approximately, to the income statement to increase your expenses and then an increase of a hundred and forty-nine thousand, five hundred and thirty-five dollars to the opening accumulated surplus. The second one was tangible capital assets. So you can see during the year there was an adjustment made to accumulated amortization to reconcile past unreconciled accounts between the tangible capital assets schedule in the general ledger, and it was only a \$72,000 impact. So we would discuss these with management during the course of the audit and it as determined that there was no need to adjust these at the time just because of the immaterial nature of those balances. There's also three items here listed as disclosure misstatements and these are the same as last year and multiple years in the past. So they're not, they're not deemed to be material, and this is why we don't necessarily need to correct them. And so, as in the past, we've left them omitted from the disclosures within the financial statements. Appendix 4 is just some other material that you may want to read on in your spare time, should you have any. Any questions on the actual audit results documents prior to me going through the actual financial statements?

MS. ONALIK:

Thank you, Mr. Janes. I'm seeing no questions.

MS. CRAWFORD: Paul, there's no questions.

MR. JANES: Okay. Thank you. Okay, so I will go through the financial statements now. I'll start. I'll just give everybody a second to turn pages there first before I dive in.

MS. CRAWFORD: So this is the document that's labelled, "Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut Government March 31st, 2021". This is the cover page, if anyone is still looking for their materials.

MS. ONALIK: Is everybody good? Yeah? You may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: Paul, we're ready now. I think you're on mute. Okay.

MR. JANES: I was. My apologies. I'm going to start on the Independent Auditor's Report, folks, which should be two or three pages into the documents. So our Independent Auditor's Report, very similar or the same as last year, to be honest, except for the dates. It would be a unmodified audit report, so a clean audit report on your financial statements. There is an emphasis in another paragraph, which would be the third paragraph down which just highlights that there was a restatement of the prior year figures which I will get to in a few moments, but that's a natural course that we would highlight that in our auditor's report on the financial statements. Okay. Just flipping a couple pages to the "Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus." Okay. So this Consolidated Statement of Operations highlights the revenues and expenditures of the government for the fiscal year. I will just highlight a couple of the major differences year over year and give some further

details on that. So the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* revenue, obviously, the largest revenue source that you would have is \$91.8 million for the year ended 2021. And compared to 75.1 million last year. The reason for the increase is your increase in your *FFA* revenue year over year, as well as some additional housing funds that came in during the year through deferred revenue so you received in the last year, but actually spent and recognized as revenue in the current year. Indigenous Services Canada, down two lines, was \$10.2 million in the current year compared to 1.4 million last year. The majority of this increase is 6.6 million of COVID funding that was received for various different initiatives related to COVID during the 2021 fiscal year and recognized as such. Just down two more lines being the share of earnings from affiliated business entities, as you can see, this amount is almost 6.2 million in the current year compared to just 400,000 or just under \$400,000 in 2020. This is the share of your earnings or all of the earnings from the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies and *Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* business entities that you own and control and/or this is in your financial statements. So I think the results of their December 31st, 2020 year end have already been presented to the Assembly so you would be familiar with the fact that they did have a good year in 2020 and therefore reflected in the \$6.1 million number here. Again, down another couple of lines, the realized gains on portfolio investments of \$4.1 million compared to \$1.1 million in the prior year. This is just reflective of you can see I'll just highlight above it as well. They've got interest in investment income of 13.8 number, so

it's the second line item there under revenue compared to 16.2 in the prior year. So that, obviously, reflects the income that you would have on the large investment balances that you have both within Nunatsiavut Government, as well as the *Implementation Settlement Trusts*. The realized gains on portfolio investments, so there's two types of gains. When the market's going to return profit to you from ownership in various investments, there's unrealized gains and there's realized gains. Unrealized is just that. Is that the entity or the investment that you're holding has gone up in value, but you haven't sold it yet. So you actually haven't realized on that cash. And the realized gains means that you actually sold some of the investments and actually got the cash so you realized that gain compared to, obviously, not actually realizing the investment. And, I know, I'll further talk about those gains on the next statement, as well as when we get into the balance sheet which actually reflects your investments, the value of your investments there. Just down a little bit further, obviously, the Chapter 19 funding was discontinued in this year just based off the timeline, the regular timeline, compared to \$4.5 million received as the last payment in that in 2020. So the total revenues for the year were a hundred and fifty-two million compared to a hundred and twenty-six million last year. So you can see significant increase in revenue year over year. From an expenditure's perspective, just to highlight a couple of variances, again, or changes year over year, salaries and employee benefits was at 28 million in the current year compared to 25.2 in the prior year. This has to do with just program

changes year over year and increases, as well as just general wage increases that people would have been due from 2021 compared to 2020. Down another couple of lines, the program funding line is at 7.8 million in the current year compared to just over 3 million last year. The majority of this is COVID expenditures or COVID planned programs that were run in the current year and, as you can remember, I mentioned above that there was \$6.6 million of COVID funding recognized in the revenues, and this is the expenditure of that revenue highlighted here on this line. Professional fees went down by a million dollars. The majority of this was the increased legal fees that you would have saw in 2020 compared to 2019. You can go back another year. So starting to get back to a little bit of a more normal level in 2021. Highlighting another big change year over year will be travel kind of three-quarters of the way down the expenditure items. There's only just under 400,000 in the current year compared to 3.1 million in 2020. And, obviously, this has to do with the impacts of COVID and the restrictions during the 2021 fiscal year where we all were either housebound and/or staying close to home and not travelling at the time. If I could ask you to flip the page, you'll see that we're at total expenses of 91 million, just under 91 million in 2021 compared to 88 million last year. So just a slight increase in your expenses year over year. And annual surplus. So annual surpluses in the given year, how much your revenues were more than your expenses. And so in this particular year you're at 61.4 million in annual surplus compared to 38.3 million last year. So a very significant increase in your

annual surplus which then falls into your accumulated surplus which is just another line down. So your accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year, so at the end of last year was 634 million. You had some capital transfers come in through the *Land Claim Agreements* of just under 13 million. That, combined with your \$61 million annual surplus leaves you at an accumulates surplus end of the year of just under 709 million. This is one of the many financial indicators that you would look at for financial health within a government. And, in your case, being an accumulated surplus number of 709 million and an annual surplus number of 61 million shows a very significant financial health for the government, both accumulated year over year as well as very strong performance in the 2021 year. If I could ask you turn one more page, please.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Paul, before you move on, if you could just pause and ask for questions on that statement.

MR. JANES:

Sure.

MS. ONALIK:

Are there any questions for Mr. Janes? Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Yeah, under, is it advertising or amortization? Eight hundred and six dollars as opposed to thirty-three.

MS. CRAWFORD:

In the past years, the advertising also covered sponsorships. So if we look at the 2019-2020 year, we would have made a commitment to the event that happens in January in Ottawa. Northern Lights, sorry. I was thinking Expo Labrador. I'm like that's not the one. So in the 2020-2021 year there was no sponsorships. There were no conferences. So this

advertising would have been small fees. We would have paid to put on job advertisements on Indeed, for example. Would have been captured in that \$826. Whereas, the previous year I think we sponsored Northern Lights in the amount 15 to 20,000.

MS. ONALIK: Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was wondering what was covered on page 4, the second last item, "Bad Debts" 'cause there was none the year before.

MS. CRAWFORD: I can't speak to the exact specific details of each individual bad debt. I don't have that schedule in, but those would be covered on any uncollectable accounts receivable or old. Typically, what happens if we have something for a number of years and we've been unable to collect on, we would end up writing it off or putting it into an allowance. And there is an executive order, it's online, that you can find for us and it's called "Extinguishment of Debts Executive Order Relating to Write-off and Extinguishment of Debts" that would outline all the policies and procedures related to that account.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any more questions? Mr. Glen Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Rexanne, I guess, I'm looking at election costs for 2020 and 2021. There's a significant difference there in from 40,000 to 99 on page 4. Can you explain that, please?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, that was the year of the presidential election so there are significant costs leading up to the call for the presidential election. So we would

have had Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer typically starts in the month of January. They would have done all their prep up to March 31st, including getting all your materials that would be sent out to the Canadian Constituency. Any print materials that wouldn't have names on it would also be included there.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any more questions? Ms. Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: Thanks. Under the foreign exchange loss, what is that?

MS. CRAWFORD: Some of the investments in the *Implementation and Settlement Trust* are invested in US currency. And so any time there's a fluctuation between the US dollar and Canadian dollar, because we report in Canadian dollars, it would be captured under that line item.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any more questions? Please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: We're ready to go to the next statement, Paul?

MR. JANES: Okay. Thank you. And, sorry, folks. It's a little hard to hear when others are speaking there. But from Rexanne's responses, I agree with everything she said. So I'll ask you to turn to page 6 which is the "Consolidated Statement of Financial Position." This highlights the financial assets, liabilities, non-financial assets and accumulated surpluses of the government. And so I'll begin, as in the past, I'll highlight some of the major changes year over year and go over the financial indicators that are part of this statement. So from a cash and cash of bills' perspective, cash has gone up from 91 million in 2020 to just over a hundred and forty-two million at the end of 2021. The most significant part of this is

the surplus number, annual surplus number, that we discussed earlier so you had a lot more revenue come in than expenses. But those are actually highlighted. All the ins and outs of cash are actually highlighted on your statement of cash flows, which is page 9. Don't need to turn there right now, but I will get to that in a few moments. Accounts receivable. A decrease to 18 million in the current year from 22 million last year. There's not a whole lot of significant items that are driving the change. There was about a million dollars less in government funding that was receivable in 2021 than there was in 2020. There was a million dollars from the *Tasiujatsaok Trust* that was due at the end of 2020 that's not in the 2021 numbers 'cause it's been received. Other than that, it's just a lot of timing differences of when funds have come in year over year, essentially. So no one large factor that's driving that decrease year over year. A lot of it's just timing. Short term investments have increased from 72 million in 2020 to 86.7 million at the end of 2021. There's about 11 or \$12 million added to those short-term investments during the current year. So additional investments purchased, I guess, is the easiest way to say it. The rest of the difference is growth within those investments year over year. The restricted investments went up significantly, you can see, from 524 million in 2020 to 568 million in 2021. Two things driving this number. About \$14 million in transfers being received. So, again, additional purchases of investments which those numbers went up, but the largest part of it is just growth of the investments overall. So there's about \$27 million in growth that is

unrealized gains. As I had mentioned earlier, is two different types of gains you'll see on those investments; realized and unrealized. This 27 million is unrealized so the investments have gone up in value, but because you haven't sold them yet, you actually hadn't received the cash, but we'd carry the investments here at their market value as at the end of the year. The next two line items I'll talk to together. So they're due from the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* of 11.5 million compared to 8.3 in the prior year, as well as the investments that modify equity of 2.9 million versus a dollar in the prior year. First, I'll say, the change of those two balances together year over year is the \$6 million figure I referred to on the Statement of Operations being the total income of the *Trust* and its entities for the year ended December 31st, 2020. It's broken down on two different line items here. From an accounting perspective, the investment is the accounting for the actual investment that you have in the business that the due from or the accounts receivable from the *Labrador Inuit Capital Strategy Trust* has to do with how the accounting rules and tax rules treat the *Trust* and treat its income. So when the *Trust* has taxable income within it, it's allocated out to the beneficiaries of the *Trust*, and one of the beneficiaries is the Nunatsiavut Government and this is how we captured that income from an accounting perspective is that it's shown as a receivable to you and you'll probably remember the *Trusts'* financial statements, when we presented those, it's shown to a payable to the Nunatsiavut Government on their records. I apologize if someone can hear a dog crying in the background 'cause my dog is

outside my door whining. Total assets for a total financial assets of the organization are 830 million compared to 719 million last year. And the difference between financial assets and non-financial assets is how it sounds in that the financial assets are meant to be assets that are easily or more readily be able to be earned into cash versus your non-financial assets are mostly hard assets. I think that cannot as easily be turned into cash and, therefore, the accounting standards separate them out. From a liability's perspective, your accounts payable and accrued liabilities are fairly consistent year over year, really just timing is causing that difference, nothing significant. From a deferred revenue perspective, so deferred revenue would be funds that you have received from various different funders that you haven't recognized as revenue yet. So the cash has come in to your accounts, but it hasn't been recognized as revenue of the organization due to the terms and conditions of the agreements and the accounting standards that you follow. So there's been a \$14 million increase in that balance year over year. The reasons for that is \$6 million in additional housing funding that wasn't in deferred revenue last year. There's about \$4 million in additional COVID funding and I did mention some of that's already been recognized in revenue, but there's another 4 million funding received that hasn't been brought into the revenue yet, that sits in deferred revenue, as well as the balance of 40.2 million in deferred revenue last year is one of the balances that we restated. As I've mentioned, there was two items that we restated during the current year's audit. So there was three and a half million through

management's review of deferred revenue last year, they brought to our attention that there was a bit of an inconsistency in how we were treating some of their revenues and we realized that that 3.5 should have been recognized in revenue in previous periods that wasn't. But we adjusted the opening accumulated surplus numbers. So we increased that by three and a half million dollars and reduced the deferred revenue in the prior year. So, essentially, what that means is that we should have recognized that three and a half million dollars as revenue in prior years and therefore your surpluses would have increased in those years. So we just went back and made that adjustment in the current year, but it's reflected in your past year's numbers, not your current year numbers, just to be clear. Gets you to a total liabilities number of 63.6 million compared to 50.4 million. The next line is called net financial assets. This is again another key financial indicator that is used in Public Sector Accounting Standards. You can see it's 766 million compared to 669 million in the current year. So it's growing, and that would be a positive financial indicator that that amount is growing. And it's simple math, to be honest. It's the financial assets that you have of 829 million less the liabilities that you have of 63.6 million is how you get to the 766 figure. So, again, that number is a very healthy financial indicator and shows that you have significantly more assets available to you to pay your liabilities than what you actually have in liabilities. Okay. From a non-financial asset perspective, so tangible capital assets in the current year are 59.9 million compared to 57.9 million in the prior year. So in the current year

you had capital asset additions. So you bought additional assets of four and a half million dollars; 2.2 million; the biggest part of that \$4.5 million addition was it was 2.2 million that was put into the Hopedale DHSD building, Department of Health building. And then an offset to that would be \$2.6 million amortization charge which is back on your Statement of Operations which is the charge from an accounting perspective for the use of your assets over time. So all assets that you have would be amortized, go down in value over time, and we have a charge to the financial statement for that every year and this year it was \$2.6 million. That's a decrease coming off of that number. Also, intangible assets lines, that's a new line on your financial statements in the current year of 1.7 million and will reflect some fishing licenses that were purchased during the year. So get you down at the bottom of the page. So, sorry, I guess I should say non-financial assets totaling 62.2 million in 2021 and 58.4 million last year and the accumulated surplus number. So I did mention when we look at the statement of operations that your accumulated surplus was 708 million compared to 634 million in the prior year. This also, it gets included in your total accumulated surplus would be a line that we call accumulated remeasurement gains. And that's a hundred and nineteen million in the current year compared to 93 in the prior year. I'll explain that balance in one second. It gets you to a total accumulated surplus of 828 million compared to 727 million in the prior year. So you can see your total accumulated surplus for the organization grew by just over a hundred million in the current year so

very, very positive financial indicator for the government. Just before I see if there's any other questions, I'll explain that a hundred-and-19-million-dollar number a little bit further and then we'll see if there's any question on the statement of financial position. So if you just flip the page, you'll see that we have a statement called "The Consolidated Statement of Remeasurement Gains". And so, as I mentioned to you in the investment piece, you have unrealized and realized gains and this statement is capturing the unrealized gains in totality from the beginning of time when you first purchased the investments to the end of the fiscal year being March 31st, 2021. So we started out at the beginning of this year with \$93 million in unrealized gain value. We had an additional 27 million as I mentioned. You had some realized gains that went to your income statement so ones that were captured here from previous years, but now you're, you're actually realizing them to the tune of \$1 million to get you to a total of accumulated remeasurement gains at the end of the year of a hundred and nine teen million. So this balance is meant to reflect the total gain in value that your investments have had in unrealized gain for the investments that you do hold. So some of those have gone up and down in value. But, overall, from the time that you've held the investments to now, you have an unrealized gain on those of a hundred and nineteen million dollars. Okay. Before I go on, I'll pause for a second to see if anybody has any questions on what we've discussed.

MS. ONALIK:

Are there any questions? I'm seeing none. Please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

There are no questions, Paul.

MR. JANES:

Okay. Thank you. So the next page, page 8, this is "Consolidated Statement of Change and Net Financial Assets." So, as you can probably remember just a moment ago, we were going through the "Statement of Financial Position," I told you that the net financial asset number is your financial assets less your liabilities. And this statement just covers, basically, all the ins and outs of what causes those numbers to go up and down throughout the year. I won't go through this in detail 'cause I think we captured a lot of the ins and outs and ups and downs, increases and decreases as we just went over the last couple of statements. But this statement has captured those increases in a little more detail. Turning to the next page, as I mentioned when I talk about the cash balance on the "Statement of Financial Position" that there is page 9 is a, is a "Statement of Cash Flows." So you can see here, again, the increases and decreases in cash for the year. So it starts with your annual surplus which was \$61 million in the current year. There's some different items that are deducted and/or added to that \$61 million number because they're not cash related so they don't actually have to do with an increase or decrease in cash. So that it basically is trying to get that \$61 million number back to a cash balance. The biggest number there is other. I would say that's highlighted as 16 million and the "other" is an accounting term, believe it or not, in Public Sector Accounting Standards. But if you turn to Note 11, or if you went — and I'll go through that note in more detail in a few minutes, but it would highlight what that \$17 million is and, essentially, what it is, is your increases and decreases in

accounts payable, in accounts receivable and other items of that nature during the year and including deferred revenue to get you to \$17 million. So, basically, you had, through those ups and downs you had \$17 million more cash come in the door than you had go out the door, essentially. Capital transactions, I already mentioned. You had about \$4.5 million in capital additions during the year and you bought some intangible assets for 1.7 million. Under the financing transactions, you had just under \$13 million in capital transfers come through the *Land Claims Agreement* transfers and, from an investing transaction perspective, I already mentioned I think when we were going through the "Statement of Financial Position" that your short-term investments increased by 14 million and your restricted investments increased by just under 16 million during the year. So the simple way to look at the "Statement of Cash Flow" is that number that has brackets around it is an outflow of cash for the most part. And anything that doesn't have brackets around it is an inflow of cash to the organization. So you can see your net change in cash during the year was 50.9 million, the third to last line on the statement. You started out 91 million and, therefore, when you add both of those balances together you are left with cash at the end of the year of a hundred and forty-two million dollars. So, again, very healthy position to be in. And, ultimately, a cash balance is ultimately part of your net financial asset number. Largely, the cash and your investment numbers is why that net financial number is so big. Turning to the notes of the statements, if I can. Your notes to the financial statements are meant to

add further description to all the numbers that we just went through, essentially. It starts with "The Nature of Operations" which is page 10, Note 1. This hasn't changed year over year and is meant just be a description of the government and its operations. The next page is page 11. Note 2 is the "Restatement of the Prior Period." So this would be a new note in the current year. As I mentioned, previously, we had corrected some deferred revenue items in 2021 that related to prior periods. You can see a balance kind of three or four lines down where it does say deferred revenue. It says the previously stated balance, so if you look at last year's financial statements, the balance was 438,661.50. We adjusted it be \$3.5 million. And so the current year or the balance currently stated in the 2020 column of the "Statement of Financial Position" is now 40 million, two eighty-four. There was also one other item which had to do with capital asset amortization. So it was brought to our attention that there were some assets being amortized, essentially, at a different rate than what the accounting policy said that they should be. So it wasn't a significant or material difference, but it was discussed between myself and management when we decided to make the adjustment. You can see that it made a difference in the "Statement of Operations" from an amortization perspective the very first line there in the table of \$254,000 to the 2020 numbers. And then there was also an impact on prior periods as well. So the total tangible capital asset impact was 590,824. So, again, not a material number, but because we were restating for the deferred revenue balance, it was

determined that we would restate for this small item, as well, and correct it all at once. Just because that's a little bit different and not something we always see, I'll pause again in case anybody needs further clarification.

MS. ONALIK:

Are there any questions? Seeing none, please continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

There are no questions, Paul.

MR. JANES:

Thank you. So the next couple of pages, again, I won't go through these in detail. It's Note 3. It's a "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies." I think it takes three and a little bit pages right up to page 15. As I mentioned when I was going through the Audit Results document, there were no changes to your accounting policies during the year. And they all fall in line with the acceptable practises under the Public Sector Accounting Standards. So I won't go through any of those in greater detail than that. Again, just to note that they're the same year over year. Note 4 on page 15, again, just highlights the investment of modified equity, and there is only one there so and which we already discussed, has increased in value. Again, I won't go through all these in detail. The deferred revenue item, I will point out, obviously, that it breaks it down into a little bit further detail as to the funder where the cash has been received from and totals, as I mentioned, 54 million at the end of 2021. Obviously, the large part of that coming from Government Canada funding and your FFA funding. Turning the page, Note 7 just has some further detail on the *Trust*. This note hasn't changed year over year. Your Note 8 highlights the different classes of tangible capital assets that you keep. As I mentioned, you had about 4.5 million in additions year

over year mostly in the buildings category as you'll see the third line down in the note detail there. The next page highlights the accumulated surplus balances. So of the \$828 million you have in total accumulated surplus at the end of the year, you carry on a couple of different headings that is shown here, all within the accounting policy. So you have an unrestricted and an internally restricted amount. You have the accumulated remeasurement gains which we talked about in detail earlier and then the actual surplus of the two *Trusts* being the *Implementation* and *Settlement Trust* as well which are broken out here. And the internally, in the middle of the page there's another table there that highlights the, or breaks out further, I should say, the internally restricted balance of a hundred and fifty-six million. And the internally restricted surplus would be surplus that the Assembly has basically set aside for future purposes as laid out here, that being the sources of that surplus. The next page, the top of the page, Note 11, as I said on the statement, going through the "Statement of Cashflows," as there an "other" line item, an other line item of 17 million, and this again highlights where that 17 million comes from and shows the increases and decreases year over year in those items. So, in this case, accounts receivable went down by \$4.2 million on your "Statement of Operations" which means you've collected cash of \$4.2 million more than you did in the current year. And the biggest item, obviously, there is the deferred revenue. The rest of the notes, commitments, financial instruments, onto the next page, about the contingencies. All those were the same

year over year. No major changes there. The last page highlights your "Defined Contribution Pension Plan" and the contributions to it during the year. Any related party transactions. Mainly, these are transactions you have with different business that are under the *Inuit Capital Strategy Trust*. And the totals are there for you to see year over year and the different classifications of those. And then the comparative figures now which just means that, from a presentation perspective, there's some slight changes in how we route some of the numbers year over year. None of those would be overly material. Just little tweaks here and there with regards to making sure that everything is classified in the right line items for the users to see. And that would be it for the financial statements. Happy, as always, to take any questions or provide any further clarification on anything should somebody wish.

MR. ONALIK:

Thank you, Mr. Janes. Are there any questions? Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The amount they're putting for pension plan, 639,000, is that a lot or is that a little bit? To me, that's not a lot.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So that represents the Nunatsiavut Government's contribution into our employees and the contribution into the elected official's pension plan. So, if you recall, as an elected official, the government will put 5 per cent of your salary into the pension plan and for employees, it's 3.5 per cent to match a contribution that they also make into their pension plan of 3.5 per cent. So the variation in that would be when you see increases, it reflects either increases in pay and also increases in our civil servants.

MR. DICKER: So that's just a contribution to the pension plan, not your pension plan itself?

MS. CRAWFORD: That's correct. It's that annual contribution into the plan. It's not the cumulative total.

MS. ONALIK: Are there any other questions? Mr. Edmunds?

MR. EDMUNDS: Yeah, I wasn't going to ask this, but I figured I will afterwards because, you know, Paul and Rexanne did mention that there had to be statements re-issued on the amortization of tangible capital assets and that was an adjustment of \$250,000. So it just got me thinking a little more and I looked at the table of the rates to which amortization was applied and I'm just sort of wondering, generally, like, is there a set, sort of a rate for houses, many homes, buildings, that's used across Canada and generally that's applied to our assets, or are there any sort of distinctions between how assets amortize in the north versus other regions, or is it just kind of general formula? Thank you.

MS. CRAWFORD: So the Nunatsiavut Government has a "Capital Asset Financial Reporting" policy which sets out the rates of depreciation for our capital assets, and a lot of the rates that we do use are standard and typical right across different asset categories. It's an estimate based on what you expect the residual value to be of your capital asset at its end of life. And so using that there are these rates that are developed and the Executive Council, a number of years ago approved the depreciation rates that would be used. The error was picked up in a couple of categories, an inaccurate

rate was used. It was an older rate that should have been adjusted and so we went through and made the adjustment so that everything is correct.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* Are there any more questions? Seeing none, any closing remarks, Rexanne?

MS. CRAWFORD: I don't have any closing remarks. I want to thank you and thank Paul for the presentation today on the Consolidated Financial Statements. I know it is a little later than normal and there were some delays in getting the audit completed and so we thank you for the opportunity to present it to you. Paul, if you have any comments.

MR. JANES: Yeah. I second those. Thank you very much, folks. Sorry, I couldn't be there in person today and I look forward to next opportunity to be there and see you all and present in front of you, but thank you very much for the opportunity to be here today by video and present the financial statements and the results of our audit.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Janes and Ms. Rexanne Crawford. I'd like to recognize now, Mr. Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Where are we now? Madam Chair or Madam Speaker, is it? Are we back in the Assembly now?

MS. ONALIK: I've been directed that we can make the motion in the Committee of the Whole.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly has considered the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Nunatsiavut

Government for the year ended March 31st, 2021 and the report on the "Audited Annual Consolidated Financial Statements" for the year ended March 31st, 2021. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Tyler Edmunds, that the Nunatsiavut Assembly accept the Consolidated Financial Statements and the report of the auditors, Deloitte LLP, for the fiscal year ending March the 31st, 2020. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. ONALIK: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Mr. Andersen, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: No, Madam Chair, I don't wish to speak to the motion.

MS. ONALIK: Does anybody else wish to speak to the motion? If no Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: I wish to close debate, Madam Chair.

MS. ONALIK: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried. *Nakummek* for the presentation. We are now back in Assembly and we'll just pause for a second and be back in about two and three minutes before we go back into Assembly. Thank you. Now onto Item 16, "First Reading of Bills." Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act*, 2022, I would like to recognize the First Minister and Acting President, Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Anthony Andersen, that Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to

amend the *Housing Act, 2022*, be now introduced and read for the first time. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Would you like to introduce the bill?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I think, as I said yesterday, this is a fairly straightforward amended to the *Act*. There is really just one change that we are seeking to a clause and that is to change a date from March 31st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022. As I said yesterday, this is really to allow us to transfer any funds to Torngat Regional Housing Association as they wind down their operations and as we acquire assets. In order to do that, we have to amend this legislation and give us the authority to do that. So, really, it does not mean that Torngat will be having an operational season. No construction. No building. Purely, this is so that we can pay for the assets while they wind down. Really, that's all that to be said, Madam Speaker, and I hope that the Assembly endorses the bill. Thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. The motion is in order. Does anyone else wish to speak to the principle of the bill? If no Members wish to speak, does the First Minister and Acting President wish to conclude debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I have no further comments and would like to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. That concludes debate on the first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2020-03, a bill for an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act, 2022* on first reading? All those in favour? Any opposed? The

motion is carried and, accordingly, Bill 2022-03 has had first reading. I would like to again recognition the First Minister and Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act* today.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act*, 2022 today. All those in favour? Any opposed? There are no nays. Minister, you have unanimous consent. So the bill can proceed to second reading at the appropriate time. Item 17, "Second Reading of Bills." I would like to again recognize the First Minister and Acting President, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I'd like to make a motion in accordance with Standing Order 42 to allow for consideration of Bill 2022-03, a Bill for an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act*, 2022 in Committee of the Whole. And I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, the Honourable Anthony Andersen, that Bill 2022-03, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services, as a witness. *Nakummek, Uhatti*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. The motion is in order. To the motion, all those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. So we'll now move into

Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act, 2022*, and I would invite Mr. Gillette to join us as a witness in Committee of the Whole. Thank you for joining us, Mr. Gillette. Do you have any comments to add?

MR. GILLETTE:

I think the First Minister made any comments that were appropriate for this particular matter. It's a fairly simple matter and, certainly, able to answer any questions that might arise.

MS. ONALIK:

Thank you. I've just got to find my page here. One second. As the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the bills. We now go to page 2, clause 2. Any questions? All in agreement? Clause 3? All in agreement? We'll go back to Clause 1, "Short Title." Any questions? All in agreement? Finally, "Long Title." Any questions? All in agreement? So that concludes the page-by-page, clause-by-clause review. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Madam Speaker. I'd like to conclude debate.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Edmunds. That concludes debate. All those in favour of second reading of Bill 2022-03, a Bill to amend the *Housing Act, 2022*. All those in favour? Any opposed? The motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act, 2022*, has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister and the witness. We are now back into Assembly. Item 18 is "Assent to Bills." Honourable

Acting President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act, 2022* and wish to present it for assent.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Honourable Speaker and Members, as Acting President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2022-03, an *Act* to amend the *Housing Act, 2022* and hereby sign it into law.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Acting President. Before we move onto Item 19, "Adjournment," I would like to ask unanimous consent from the Assembly to allow Ordinary Members an opportunity to say some closing remarks. Do I have unanimous consent? Thank you. So now I'd like to take this time to offer Ordinary Members an opportunity to get up and say any closing remarks. Would anybody like to get up and speak? Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you. I guess I'll start. Hopefully my colleagues will join as well. I know I started this morning and I would truly like to thank everybody around this table again for the opportunity that has allowed me to serve our constituents for four years. Everybody brings something unique to the table and I'd like to thank everybody for bringing their viewpoint, their life experience, their passion to the table. It's been a wonderful learning experience. I hope that when we leave and we see each other that we consider each other friends. I knew some of you before. Some of you, I've gotten to know and have really enjoyed my time from our Acting President's sense of humour and enjoyment of his puns to, you know, getting to know my colleague, Mr. Asivak, whom I didn't know very well when we started, but I've learned quite a few things about him in

the past four years and we've had some wonderful times together. I truly hope that you feel that we've worked well together. I think as four elected officials for Upper Lake Melville, I think we had a great team. I think we truly had our best interests at heart for our beneficiaries. We tried to hold; it didn't always happen, of course, with COVID and scheduling. We tried to hold monthly meetings with the four of us to just try to talk about issues we may have, questions we may have, beneficiary issues and it kind of helped, I think, spur a better line of communication between the two Ordinary Members and the two Community Chairs that are in our constituency. We've worked well together, whether it was open houses, helping with delivering for the community freezers. We've made ourselves, as Ordinary Members, available as much as we could to our community and our community corporations. And I thank you so much for the opportunity to work with both of you. And who would have thought that my sister would have been a politician. I definitely wouldn't have thought that about five years ago. But I think she's done a wonderful job. She truly had the best interest of her beneficiaries in her community at heart. The same goes for Chair of NunaKâtiget. Her and the Community Freezer Co-ordinator, I don't think, maybe don't get enough credit for all the work that they do serving the beneficiaries and trying so hard to reach them and to ensure that they have traditional food and food on their table every month. So thank you so much. Thank you to the staff at the Hillcrest Office that I've come to work with over

the past four years. It's been a great pleasure and thank you very much.

Thank you. *Nakummek*.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member, for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler. I'd like to call upon the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to say thank you to Members of the Assembly. It was a different job for me this time as the finance minister, and I had the opportunity to work very closely with the representatives from the Innu Community Governments and AngajukKâk to the Joint Management Committee. And, again, I say, as I've said many times, there's never enough money to go around, but it's like magic how all the community governments co-operate and balance when they all need, and yet they are so willing to share amongst each other, and it is something that, you know, is reflective of our Nunatsiavut. That we work together, share together and build a future together. To my friends, always, yeah, it's some kind of relationship, I suppose. You know, we had some great times as the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, great times, hard times. But, again, we've managed to work through it. To the people who are no longer seeking an election, I wish them well. I myself will be seeking election in May the 3rd.

[Applause].

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

And I hope that some others will change their mind. They have done a great job. And, again, Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank you for the hard

work you've done, as well as yourself, Madam Minister, as for the job you did as Speaker as well. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. I'd like to call upon the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd just like to say to my Community of Hopedale, this was my third term. I enjoyed every minute of, most every minute of my term. But I've certainly, for the people of my town, I hope that I served the best that I could, and I certainly will always try to do for my community and for Nunatsiavut. I think it's very important that we all, no matter where we reside, we all have Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, you know, hold a high standard and do the best that we can. I know there's a lot of work left in my community with homelessness and things like that, and I certainly want to say that I think we're on the right track as a government to get some of this work done in the next little while. And with the AngajukKâk and whoever runs for the Ordinary Member, you know, I hope that they, if they want, they can certainly look to me if they'd like for some advice. If I can be helpful, I certainly will be there for the people in my community. And to the rest of the people around this table, I think that yeah, we did have a good working relationship with the AngajukKâks and with the Ordinary Members and, as Ministers, I know, not all the times we agreed. And I always found that healthy, you know. We say our points, we do our thing, but, you know, we help if — at the end of the day we all had the same things at heart for Nunatsiavut and for the people. Do the best job we can. So, with that, I'd just like to say

thank you, everybody, for putting up with some of the things that I said to you. Some of it was true. Most of it was true. Anyway, thank you, and I'll see you around.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Flowers, Ordinary Member for Hopedale. I'd like to call upon the Ordinary Member for Kaipokok, Mr. Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker. I know I said this morning I have no intention of speaking again today, and someone might accuse me of being worse than my son for grabbing the mic here over the last couple days. You know, there's maybe one person that I haven't really talked too much about at this table who has really supported and been there over the last eight years and, of course, that's my wife. And without her, you know, I would not have been able to even have the, you know, the confidence and the ability to put my name forward for consideration, initially, and then she has been there to support our family throughout this entire time. So I thank you for all that you've been doing to ensure that, you know, our children are taken care of so that, you know, I can run off and be told off by Gregory Flowers here. But, thank you, for all that you've done over these last number of years. I want to thank all of you around this table for being there to help guide me over the years, and I am very genuine when I say thank you for the confidence that you've instilled in me as your first minister two years ago. It has been a challenge, to say the least, but I am very proud of where we are today. I know that there's a lot of good things to come. To those who've

expressed their confidence in me in the past, you know, Ms. Sarah Leo, Katie, President Lampe, thank you. I owe a debt to gratitude to all those along the way who have helped me get here. I really can't leave today as well without recognizing Mr. Gus Semigak for helping me over these last number of years trying to reconnect with my language and when I first came here, I felt a strong desire to be able to speak and read *Inuttitut* in this house because of the connection I've had with my grandmother and her passion for the language, and Gus has helped made that possible. And I thank you, Gus, for all that you've done on that front over these last few years, and I will try to continue carrying this torch of sharing the language and I hope to inspire others to try to learn *Inuttitut* as well. So, again, thank you to everybody here today. It has been, you know, a roller coaster of a number of years, but I'm forever proud of the work that we've done here together. So thank you.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister and Ordinary Member for Kaipokok, Tyler Edmunds. Are there any other Ordinary Members that would like to speak? I recognize the Honourable Minister, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you. This has been one crazy [Hell of a] ride. It's, in all honesty, it went by so fast. Faster than I could have ever imagined or believed, especially during COVID. At the start of COVID, I was ready to quit. It was Hell. Like, nobody wanted my job. Nobody. Not even myself. Last January or January 2020 when the start of COVID, my hands broke out from stress and I've been there before in social work positions that, you

know, when it gets too much, you leave. You move onto another program area, another department, and you say, okay, I've sailed that ship and you move on. But I've had a lot of support. So with family, friends, co-workers, it was amazing. Some days I was like I don't know, during COVID. Like, you know, it wasn't just me. I know it was my department. It was my directors. It was the executive, it was the president. But some days during COVID it just, it felt like it was just me, and everyone else was, you know, in this black screen and I was here by myself. But I wasn't. But some days were like it. I've learned so much and I like learning. I learned a lot from each individual and our different personalities around the table. Sometimes my closer friends or elected officials would know, you know, certain things and including, like, a budget. How I find that really long, but, you know, I get through it. And we had a lot of good laughs too. Like, even in the hotel room playing cards or bingo. I won bingo last night. Taking pictures on skidoo rides. Doing things together. Just the memories and you know what? It's been fun too. A lot of fun, a lot of hard work for all of us being away from our families. Looking at my Blackberry at the time when I had one and my personal calendar, my iPhone. Said no, can't do that. Can't do that. I'll text other friends or whatever and we'd plan something else. It's like we'll get together, we'll get together. I promise, but when we finally did and same with family. Like, they know how often I was gone and, but they're very supportive. Very. Like, you know, my dad would say as long as you're happy. Simple words, right? And I kept on thinking that too

and other people who supported me, like, mom. So it's good, very good, and I still have a lot of pride in our government, so much pride. So it's good and you know what? I've still got drive and passion in me. I was ready for something temporary and this is what I consider temporary right now. A four-year term is temporary, but because every other job, I only applied if it was permanent, especially with government. Permanent full-time. I'd transfer department to department and then it's like no, I'm ready for a challenge. And this was a challenge. It was a fun challenge because I never stood down. Like, you know, I kept going, and, you know even during question period, I enjoyed more too. And the leadership team within NG, you know and we're all here working for our beneficiaries, and this is what I kept on thinking every day too. It was like it's not for me, it's for them. It's for us. And the quality of life and improvements is what we're trying to improve on, and the advocacy. And, you know, people stopping me in the grocery store saying you're doing great, you know. Especially when you need it the most. When you're having the [shittiest] day, then you hear it 'cause, like, tomorrow's going to be a new day. Or Marlene and I work great together. We became really good friends. Like we leaned on each other so much over the last four years. It's the same as Maxine and Patricia. Like, you know, it wasn't just us representing our district. It was the four of us. And, you know, the support staff are phenomenal too. It made my job so much easier. Like joking around with Edith or Fay, or even the morale in our office, I think our office in Hillcrest is phenomenal. Like, you know, we

used to have potlucks in the good old days when before COVID was there, you know, and stuff like that and celebrating birthdays and you walk into work smiling and, you know. Or they know something's going on. Some days it don't even feel like work and it goes by so fast. Like, I thought I was ready, like, you know, with this temporary. At the end of it I was planning. It's like, okay, temporary's good. And with that it's like you move on, especially with temporary. But I still have a lot of drive and passion in me and I've still got that fight, the good fight. Not to fight with other assembly members or, you know, provincial or federal. Just to continue to work hard. So I will be seeking re-election in May. Thank you very much.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Asivak. Are there any other Ordinary Members that'd like to make closing remarks? Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for Canada.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you. When I first came here four years ago, I was a total rookie with regards to government, politics, anything. I've learned a lot. I had lots of help. I always had lots of guidance. I was a phone call away from anybody. I did make some of those phone calls, lots of emails. I've gotten to know the people much better. It's like Gerald says, I thought it was a temporary position, but it turned into a complete job. And it wasn't just from 8:30 to 4:30. You get phone calls in the evening, weekends. You have to answer them because they're constituents. And that's been ongoing for four years. It's still ongoing. But it's been a learning experience, and I've really enjoyed it, and I've really gotten to

know the people. I've never seen Hopedale so many times in my life. We used to go through here on a boat and keep on going to Davis Inlet. But now we stopped a few times and it's a great place to be and it's full of a lot of good people. It's been enjoyable working with Susan in the last year. I've always enjoyed working with Marlene and everyone in here, and the guidance of Tyler, Tony and Gerald has been amazing. But we also can't forget the members that aren't here. President Lampe. God wish him well. Jim Lyall, he's been also a great advocate for the people. Carlene Palliser, while she was here, she did well, and then she just chose to move on. Charlotte Wolfrey, always an advocate for her people and her community. I wish her well in her health. And anyone else that's had anything happen to them, I wish you well in the future. And I thank you, each and everyone of you, for being here and help and support me.

Thank you very much.

MS. ONALIK:

Nakummek. And if it's okay with the Assembly, I'd also like to speak as Ordinary Member for Canada. I just want to say thank you, everybody. It's been a wonderful year. I've always considered myself a helper, and I hope to continue to be a helper and a learner for the rest of my life. My partner at home and my family has been very supportive of me. It's been a challenge when I first got elected on a bi-election. I was talking to Tony and he gave me a chuckle and said, you know, the Canadian Constituency is a very hard constituency and he would never want to be Ordinary Member for that region. And it took me awhile to kind of understand at the get-go how difficult it can be with the geographical limitations and

the time differences, but I definitely, you know, gave it a lot and all that I could. But when I came here, I think was really enjoyable, as well, learning from each and every one of you. Each and every one of you have taken some really meaningful, you know, learning experiences, and I'm so grateful for that, and I'm sad to see that some of you won't be around. Hopefully, I will be back. I think that, you know, I have a lot more to give, and I would like the opportunity to do that so hopefully I will be back. And, in closing, you know, I, again, thank you all. I'm very proud of our government too. I'm proud to be *Nunatsiavummiut*, and I thank you for your confidence in me as Speaker as well. Okay. With that, as Speaker, I will move onto Item 19 which is "Adjournment". And I would like to thank all Members and Ministers for their ongoing contribution and all the staff for their job well done. And if there's any questions about travel or logistics, please see the Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik. I'd really like to thank Katie and Gus and Nicholas and his mom, Sarah Abel, Ches in IT, our legal counsel and Rexanne Crawford for being here today. It was also great to see visitors in the gallery, as well, and Tyler's family. So, with that, the Assembly is adjourned until after the Ordinary Member elections in May of 2022. And, on behalf of the Assembly Members, I would like to thank you for your dedication, commitment, hard work over the past four years, and I wish all of you the best in the upcoming elections. Safe travels.

[Adjourned]

