



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

FIFTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION

2nd Session

4th SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet Honourable Melva Williams

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 Terry Vincent

Minister of Language, Culture, and Tourism and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honourable Roxanne Barbour

Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology and Ordinary Member for Makkovik Honourable Thomas Evans

Minister of Education and Economic Development and Ordinary Member for Nain, Honourable Anthony Andersen

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen

Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms .Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

Chair Person of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague

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

Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
January 24, 2023
Assembly commenced at 9:00AM January 24, 2023**

MR. WINTERS: Ullâkut. I would like to call to order the First sitting of the Spring Session of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly and as President Johannes Lampe of Nain to say the opening prayer.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* [Speaks in Inuttitut]

[Recites prayer.]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* I will now call upon President Lampe to make his opening remarks for this Assembly.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* [Speaks in Inuttitut]

MR. WINTERS: There's an issue right now with the translation audio, so just give us a second. Sorry, President Lampe. Do you mind starting again, just about a sentence back?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Mr. Speaker, we should have all the equipment checked before we begin.

MR. WINTERS: Yeah, I agree. We'll take a moment now and check all of the equipment. I know that Minister Andersen's headset isn't working. Is anyone else's not working? Okay. Could the pages-, and AngajukKâk Sheppard needs one as well, Chesley. *Nakummek.* Thank you all for your patience. When you're ready Johannes. Okay. We're gonna take a brief recess and sort out the IT issues. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, for your patience, everyone. It seems as though everyone's headsets are working now, so we'll go ahead and continue with the agenda. President Lampe, do you mind continuing where you left off?

Nakummek.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. [Speaks in Inuttitut]

Mr. Speaker, this year's campaign theme is, "Let's Create Positive Change," which aims to highlight the mental health crisis that Canadian's are facing, and ways that we can all create meaningful change and take action to help raise awareness of this important issue, Mr. Speaker. The Bell, "Let's Talk," flag will be flown at Nunatsiavut Government offices in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area tomorrow. I ask all Members to do whatever you can to help raise awareness, to focus on practical actions that can be taken to create positive change within the mental health space. Mr. Speaker, advancing reconciliation requires support and culturally appropriate Indigenous-led and community-based justice services and building policies informed by the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples. These are key to achieving systemic change in our justice system. Last week I joined the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and Gary Anandasangaree, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in a virtual news conference announcing funding of \$1.16 million to help address the over-representation of Inuit in the justice system within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. With this investment, Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government will implement new measures and continue delivering key

culturally appropriate, community-based justice services to Labrador Inuit. These include \$193,378 over four years for the creation of a new Inuit Cultural Awareness Educator to increase knowledge and understanding of criminal justice professionals regarding the root causes of Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system, and of community-led options for addressing crime-, \$28,500 for a Nunatsiavut Government Family Violence Prevention Program to build capacity to ensure the availability of trained resources to deal with prevention and intervention of family violence in Inuit Communities in Labrador-, \$400,000 over three years to support Inuit-led engagement to inform the development of an Indigenous Justice Strategy, and \$547,609 over six years to support the continued work of the Nunatsiavut Government to increase access to community-based justice services. Inuit-led justice services are integral in addressing the over-representation of Inuit in Newfoundland and Labrador's Justice System. Mr. Speaker, the culturally relevant services and programs being implemented by the Nunatsiavut Government are crucial in transforming Labrador Inuit navigation of the Justice System. Mr. Speaker, the Northern Lights 2023 Business and Cultural Showcase will be held in Ottawa from February 7 to 11, 2023. A joint venture of the Labrador North and Baffin Regional Chambers of Commerce-, the biannual event profiles businesses as well as the unique cultures of Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Labrador, Canada's Eastern Arctic and Northern Regions. Since its inception in 2008, the event has seen tremendous growth with more than 1,600 delegates and 200 exhibitors participating in

2020 from across the Northern Regions of the country, as well as other parts of the world. The event is the largest of its kind, promoting Canada's Eastern Arctic and North Region. As a Government, Mr. Speaker, we have participated in Northern Lights since its inception in 2008 at various levels, depending on the event theme, focus and agenda. And we will be there again this year, Mr. Speaker. Not only is Northern Lights great for networking, it also provides an opportunity for Members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council to follow up on some key issues with Federal Ministers and officials. The Nunatsiavut Government is also proud to provide sponsorship for the upcoming Cain's Quest, set to start on March 4. Touted as Canada's longest and most enduring snowmobile race, Cain's Quest takes participants on 3,100-kilometre extreme journey through Labrador's remote wilderness. It's considered one of the toughest races in the world. As in previous years, Mr. Speaker, the event will see participants visiting all Labrador Inuit Communities. I'm sure many will be tracking the event online and cheering on our favorite teams. I should also note, Mr. Speaker, that we have committed sponsorship funds for this year's Labrador Winter Games, often called the Olympics of the North, or the Friendship Games. The Labrador Winter games brings participants from all over Labrador to Happy Valley-Goose Bay to compete in a series of traditional and modern events. In total, some 500 athletes, 600 volunteers, and many more spectators, make the Labrador Winter Games one of the biggest events in the region. The Games was launched in 1983 as a way to celebrate Labrador's rich cultures, and talents. This year's

Games will run from March 12 to 18, 2023. Mr. Speaker, before concluding, I want to, once again, thank you and all Assembly Members for the work you do for our people and our communities. While our progress may be slow at times, rest assured that we are making positive change.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Happy New Year, everyone. I trust you all had a wonderful and relaxing break with your families. It is great to see everyone around the table and welcome you to our first Sitting of 2023. In an effort to make our Assemblies more efficient, and due to the light agenda this month, this will be a one-day sitting. As an Assembly, we have an obligation to our beneficiaries to meet and discuss issues that directly affect us. I would like to acknowledge those listening in on our audio feed and thank them for tuning in to the Nunatsiavut Assembly. I would also like to welcome those in the gallery. I see Legal Director, Mark Gillette, as well as Colin Gilbride, from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning. I would like to welcome the Pages, Madison Dicker, and Jamie Pijogge. Our Interpreter / Translator is Katie Winters. Ches Evans is the IT staff person for this Assembly. We would also like to recognize Sarah Abel as the OKâlaKatiget staff person. If there are any questions around travel and logistics, please see Tabea Onalik, Assistant to the Clerk of the Assembly. We will now move on to Item Four. Item Four is, "Minister Statements." So I will now open the floor for Ministers Statements. Can I see hands? Thank you. We're gonna start with the Honourable Roxanne Barbour of Nain, Minister of Language and Culture and Heritage.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. Since the last Assembly, we've hired a number of positions. The Tourism Development Officer has been filled by Chelsea Shiwak and the Arts Program Coordinator has been filled by Inez Shiwak. And both staff are located in Rigolet. We have also filled the Illusuak positions. Illusuak Manager Position has been filled by Crystal Allen, and the Illusuak Assistant Position has been filled by Peggy Andersen, who are both in Nain. And we also now have an Interpreter Translator trainee, Simeonie Merkeratsuk, who's a youth. Some areas we're working on in Tourism: We are offering a grass workshop in Rigolet with instructor Jane Shiwak. This workshop will run for about six weeks. We're in the process of planning a Square Dance Workshop in Rigolet, in partnership with the DHSD. These projects were identified within our Experience and Product Development Plan for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. We are continuing to work on numerous projects within the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy, such as the Community Guidebooks and offering support and guidance for Tourism Development. In January, we organized a session to bring together staff from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, to discuss and plan next steps for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station. This session went extremely well, and staff are working on the next steps from the discussions. We currently have an expression of interest out for two Tourism Community Members to attend the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference happening February 28 to March 2 in Gander.

Parka-making workshops for Postville, Hopedale and Nain are now complete. Both Nain and Hopedale community members have created their own parka-making workshop which we see as a great accomplishment. I lost my spot. Sorry. The Parka-making workshop is scheduled for January 27 to 29 in Makkovik. And I know that the Parka-making Workshop was supposed to happen sometime last week in Rigolet, but it's been postponed to sometime in early February. Ten artists have been selected to attend the Northern Lights event in Ottawa, five of which will be attending an educational pre-event before the conference. Staff are continuing to work on virtual classes, portrait photography classes, take-home sewing kits and an artist's event for the Labrador Winter Games. Under the Division of Culture and Language-, so our staff is super busy working to fulfill the goals of the Language Strategy. And I always say we're small in number but we're mighty. So the IlinniaKatigennik Radio Program still runs every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., and I encourage everybody to listen and participate. The program aims to promote Inuttitut, whether you're a beginner, intermediate or expert level. So the Tusaalanga website, the program development is now complete and the books has finally made it to Goose Bay and on the way to Nain. So we'll be launching the program, the project within the foreseeable future, hopefully soon. We still provide the Cultural Play Resources for the Daycares, Languages Nests and Kindergarten classes within Nunatsiavut. Under the Illusuak Cultural Centre, the Director of Culture and Illusuak Staff are beginning work as a full team this month. As just previously

mentioned our staff is finally hired. Canadian Eco Tourism Services has been working with Director of Culture, Brenda Jararuse, on the development of the Marketing and Promotion Strategy. And the final draft of the Strategy has been presented to the NG. The Inuttitut Blitz: As previously mentioned, we're starting a large Inuttitut campaign. Hopefully we'll have it launched within the coming weeks. We're brainstorming and working alongside with the Communications Staff to infuse Language and Culture into all Nunatsiavut Communities, to revitalize and promote the daily use of Inuttitut. The Terminology Workshop is planned for the week of February 20th. This workshop gathers fluent Inuttitut speakers from Nunatsiavut as well as staff at ITK to discuss and document Inuttitut terminology. And we have a new Aullâsimavet program. So this program is to support Inuit in getting back to their traditional camps. So my Deputy Minister, Belinda Webb is beginning community consultations on the Aullâsimavet Project this week with the communities of Makkovik on the 23rd, Hopedale on the 24th and Nain on the 25th. So the Community Consultations is essentially, I guess, what we want to hear from Nunatsiavimiut what they would like to see out of this project, what they would need if they were to go to their traditional camps, or to go on the land for a week or two at a time, how that would look, the logistics of that. So in the area of Archaeology, the Heritage Forum has been postponed again due to a death in the community of Makkovik. And at this moment, I would like to send out my sympathies to the community of Makkovik, for the passing of the late Gerald Mitchell. It was scheduled for the 19th to

the 22nd but new dates have not yet been selected. Under Climate Change, we have a climate change station that was set up on the outskirts of town in Nain as a temporary location. That was deployed in November. It's still currently tracking data. Archaeology is working with the Province to obtain relevant data imagery to help plan and prioritize future climate change mitigations affecting archaeology sites. Our team purchased hard drives for aerial imagery and coastal areas and islands within Nunatsiavut, to use for monitoring of coastal erosion due to climate change. They continue-, the archaeology team continues to work on the consent forms for the Adaptive Archaeology Project, and the App that will enable community members to document the impacts of climate change they may see or experience on the land. Nunatsiavut Repository: We are continuing discussions with NG Infrastructure and have drafted a request for proposals for a feasibility study for the Nunatsiavut Repository, which will safely hold archaeological materials, Inuit cultural materials, and archives. This is in the very early stages still and rounds of approvals and the consultations are to come. The meeting with Lori and Elaine went well. And Corey going back to start scanning. I think we are now on the same page as them. (Inaudible) the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* was enough of a reason to convince them. It will still require a couple of MOU's but that can be worked out in the coming months and it will take time. So the-, mentioned in the previous Assembly, we purchased some slides of Labrador Inuit from the early 1900's conservation-, to conserve them. The slides are still at The Rooms in St. John's and undergoing conservation.

There's a link to the websites to view them. If anybody would like to have the links you can reach out to me, send me an email and I can get them forwarded to you. Diedre and Corey went to St. John's in December where they safely transported the slides to The Rooms. Corey also did some 3D scanning of artifacts from Nunatsiavut which are currently housed at The Rooms. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Minister to speak will be the Honourable Melva Williams, First Minister.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Ullakut, sorry, Illonasi. I'm not speaking very much this morning. Mr. Speaker, in relation to membership, there's a total of 6,964 beneficiaries, as of January 17th, 2023. The Rigolet and Lake Melville Membership has appointed Carol Matthews, from North West River, as one of the new Members to sit on their Membership Committee and would like to welcome her aboard. All seats are now filled for each of the Membership Committees and Inuit Membership Appeal Board. The Membership Department will be holding their annual Membership Workshop in February in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The last couple of years, due to COVID, the committees couldn't travel or meet in person, so they are looking forward to meeting new and present Membership Committee and Inuit Membership Appeal Board Members. This workshop will focus on eligibility and enrollment processes and other related topics for the Membership Department, their committees and boards. The Registrar's Office would like to advise all beneficiary members that there are only two staff at the Nain Admin office, as Peggy Andersen, our filing clerk, has been

hired as their Illusuak Assistant, and we wish her luck in her new position, as Roxanne mentioned in her report-, or sorry, Minister Barbour. If anyone who requires an address change, beneficiary cards or questions or concerns, to contact Sheila Angnatok, Registrar of Beneficiaries, or Pauline Angnatok, Membership Clerk, at 1-866-922-2942, extension 271 or 251.

Public Property: Infrastructure planning: Mr. Speaker, the Infrastructure team has been working to further refine and develop the Infrastructure Action Plan, which includes a project we are calling "Tingutitsanik Nunatsiavut", create Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Strategy. This will be a comprehensive project that will provide a cohesive path towards a 20-year vision, through an infrastructure masterplan, land use policy, shared information library and evidence-based decision-making framework. This project includes identifying lands for future housing, industrial and commercial land development. Identifying Inuit priorities is key for transparency and accountability to our beneficiaries, while identifying and preparing shovel-ready projects. Public property is creating an economic development strategy for the construction sector that will provide recommendations on how to build construction capacity and support economic development to the communities in Nunatsiavut. This is about leveraging entrepreneurship opportunities, training and capacity development, the collective impact of the investments and reducing economic leakages from Nunatsiavut. Supporting infrastructure development: The Nunatsiavut Affairs Infrastructure team is working to enhance services within our communities by working with the ICG's. In

order to support future growth, maintaining and extending roads, solid waste facilities, water, and wastewater services, to support developing lots is critical, particularly to support closing of the housing gap.

Implementation of the Infrastructure projects: The Implementation Team, is working eagerly to get tender packages completed and posted to the public by February, to allow contractors the spring season to prepare for construction and start on the site work as soon as the conditions allow.

Projects: Number one, Seniors Units. Nain, a four-plex, two-plex, and Hopedale, a four-plex and two-plex. Single units have been all awarded construction and are on track to be completed by December 2023. Nain staff's six-plex: The tender package has been developed and is under review, aiming to have the tender package to the public by February 2023, construction completion December 2023. Four-plex units: Tender package is in development and is under review, aiming to have the tender package to the public by February 2023, with the construction completion December 2023. So that would be Nain Social Housing, Hopedale Social Housing, Makkovik Social Housing, and Social Housing projects this year.

Makkovik Duplex Social Housing: Design is 60 percent complete and working to have this tendered by March, construction during the 2023 season. In relation to safe freight storage facilities, Rigolet, Postville and Nain, Nain is wired. Postville wiring has started and Rigolet is to be wired next week. Commissioning is scheduled by the end of March. Makkovik and Hopedale, securing additional funding through Transport Canada to complete those projects.

The Regional Education Office: The construction

package, one, CP-1, package for civil work is underway and scheduled to be completed June 2023. The CP-2 package for the construction of the building is under review and will be issued February 2023 to the public. Postville Office Addition: Engineering is 99 percent complete, tender package under review for construction 2023. Nain Admin Office Addition: The concept design has been completed. Rigolet DHSD: The contract has been awarded. Some site preparation started for the construction. Will be construction during the 2023 construction season. Postville Daycare: RFP to be issued in the near future. Busy season coming up for our department. Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program: Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program is currently concluding construction from the 2021 year. Once completed, a total of 25 homes will have been repaired for the 2021 program. The NG Home Inspector is currently traveling to all locations and assessing the contracted work. Any incomplete or substandard work will be addressed with the contractor to ensure compliance with the contract. Inspections for the Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program 2022 has been completed. Scopes of work are being prepared to tender in the near future. The Emergency Repair Program is ongoing and work gets completed upon the successful engagement of a contractor. Planning for the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment is underway and field work is expected to go ahead in the fall. The previous Housing Needs Assessments have been a valuable source of information used to guide the development of Housing Programs and priorities. The current plan is to hire two primary interviewers for a three-

month period, with assistance from the CLO's as required. Nain Airport: Mr. Speaker, the feasibility studies for a new Nain Airport are on schedule. We are starting the EIA processes including a Harmonization Agreement between all three Governments involved with the project. We will be issuing an RFP for the Concept Engineering Package in March. As well, we just kicked off R5, R6 and R7 projects in early January. Implementation: Mr. Speaker, the Implementation Committee continues to work on amending Chapter 21 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* dispute resolution. The Implementation Committee has received a proposal from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the migratory bird issue in 12E. Parties are now providing comments on the proposal in an effort to get timely resolution to this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. The next Ministers Statement will be coming from the Honourable Tony Anderson of Economic Development and Education. When you're ready, sir.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, from our Economic Development Division, concerning the Rigolet Gas Station. We continue to work with the Rigolet Inuit Community Government on this file. We're awaiting documentation to reveal the current status, next steps and required support moving forward. An update will be provided to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, once available. Business Support: Since September, the Division has one new business added to the Inuit Business Registry. We have received four underground and one regular sites operations packages from Vale, with our Division submitting 12 Inuit Business nominations and

zero qualified Business Entity nominations. We're developing a Benefits Package for the registration of an Inuit Business for spring 2023. With respect to procurement, we are deliberately expanding our involvement in the Federal Contracting process with a goal to 1) Identify contract opportunities and 2) to assist Inuit businesses in navigating the online registration process. Our Business Development Manager will attend the training event on February the 5th to the 6th in Ottawa with other Inuit regional representatives. This will be hosted by the Nunavut Economic Development Association with Federal Representatives from PSAC, PSIB, Treasury Board and ISC: There are a total of 14 clients, seven in business start-up and seven in business-growth. Our Northern Lights 2023 Financial Support Packages selection process is complete. Seven Inuit businesses will receive support to attend the February 7th to 11th event. Derek Pottle. Derrick Pottle services Rigolet. Eldred Allen, Birdseye Incorporated, Rigolet; Jenna Gilbride, Silak Solutions Makkovik; Greg Baikie, Long Point Logistics Limited, Goose Bay; Hilda Broomfield Letemplier, Rideout Labrador Limited, Goose Bay; Leander Baikie, CRB Rebuild and Recreation, North West River; Elsie Jenkins, iVIK Holdings Incorporated, Prince Edward Island and Matthew Pike, Northern Logistics and Communication Services, St. John's. Three of our Division staff will be attending the Northern Lights 2023 as well. It's an opportunity for training, networking, identification of business supports and opportunities, promotions and access to key funding agencies and Inuit partners. Oh, my. Funding Distribution: Both our Community Economic Development Fund

and CEDP and FFA Programs remain open until the end of this fiscal year. With funding available, we encourage communities to apply for Community Economic Development positions, enhancement projects and community building initiatives. Self-Employment Benefit Program: We're supporting two clients, both in the Arts and Crafts sector under this program. The program operates on a continuous intake and evaluation process and start-ups are encouraged to contact the Department to learn about and apply for the program. Community Development: We're working with Service Canada to have a full-time position located in Nain. The interview process has begun. Once the candidate is selected, and the office is set up, we'll provide details to the public immediately. Training: Our staff are confirming details for a bookkeeping training program to be delivered in March 2023. The program will be offered in Nain, with an option for travel from other Nunatsiavut communities to participate in the training. Once details are confirmed, they'll be shared with our Inuit Business Registry Start-up clients and on social media as well. Staff: We welcome back our Business Development Officer, Heather Sheppard, who will resume her duties in the Postville office as of February the 17th. That'll focus on Communications, Marketing, Labour and Research. She's already hit the ground running. We're happy to report that our Economic Development Division is now at full capacity with four full-time staff positions. That said, we are preparing for a Director of Economic Development to take a six-month leave of absence as a result of our deferred leave program with HR. Kristy Sheppard will be away from the

office from early March to early September 2023. This position will not be back-filled and the Division will be overseen by Deputy Minister Tim McNeil with other external support as needed. From our Department of Education Division, Mr. Speaker, student update-, we currently have 232 funded students for the winter 2023 semester-, 176 of them are full-time, 56 part-time. We had six new graduates after the fall 2022 semester. Since the fall of 2022, and the start of winter 2023, 14 students have discontinued their studies. There are a number of different reasons students discontinue, but the most common are being removed from the institution due to poor academic performance. Students having mental health issues and other students gets to take a break from studies. There are many enhancements to our support 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. New applications: As of this week we have 40 new applications for the upcoming spring and fall semesters, 37 for fall 2023 and three for spring intercession. This is a fairly high number as funding deadline is not till March the 1st, which is when the majority of applications come in. Education Advisor high school visits: Amalia McNeil has been hired as our new Education Advisor and she started on December the 13th. She has jumped right into her new role and has already completed a school visit with high school students in Makkovik and has traveled to Rigolet to do the same. She'll be traveling to Postville on Friday of this week and plans to travel to Nain before March the 1st deadline. The Hopedale school visit

will be completed by Jodie Lane in October. Career Trips: In addition to planning regular high school visits, our Education Advisor is preparing to take eight Grade 12 students to St. John's for a career trip. This will be the first career trip that the Education Division has offered in over 10 years. Notices were posted for interested participants and we had applicants from Hopedale, Makkovik and Rigolet. Despite multiple attempts and direct contact with potential participants, there seems to be no interest at this time from Nain or Postville. This year, as it is the first year reinstating the career trips, we will take both Grade 12 students and later this spring, we will do a second trip for current Grade 11 students. Next year, and all subsequent years, the trip will be targeted towards Grade 11 students. Finally, the Labrador Inuit Society and Culture Course. The Labrador Inuit Society and Culture '22, '21 course continues to be offered in all Nunatsiavut schools, either on a yearly or rotational basis. The delivery of this course has expanded to other schools in Labrador with Mealy Mountain Collegiate offering the course regularly for the past number of academic years. This year, the course will be extended to schools in Newfoundland and is being offered at Cloud River Academy in Roddickton, since September. And starting at O'Donel High School in Mount Pearl on February the 1st 2023. This is my report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. As we are nearing the 35-minute mark, I want to ask for the approval of the Assembly under Standing Order 29(3) to extend the 35-minute timeframe? All in favour? And none opposed.

When you're ready, Honourable Tom Evans of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, go ahead.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Canada Revenue Agency has a program called Community Volunteer Income Tax Program where they support organizations in Canada to run free tax preparation clinics. The Nunatsiavut Government has registered with Canada Revenue Agency under this program to offer these clinics, Mr. Speaker. We are in the early stages of planning. Departments have been reaching out to their employees to determine who is interested in preparing Income Tax Returns. There is a lot of support for these individuals, including training, dedicated volunteer lines, when preparing tax returns and a volunteer website. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important initiative for our beneficiaries. Many of the Nunatsiavut programs that we offer to our beneficiaries rely on the most recent tax information. As well, many beneficiaries are missing out on Government of Canada benefits and credits, such as the Canada Disability, the Dental benefit, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Child Tax Benefit, and so on. If an employee is interested in tax preparations, they should contact their Deputy Minister or the Controller, Rexanne Crawford. Mr. Speaker, there is more contact with the Community Outreach and Benefit staff at the Canada Revenue Agency. The Nunatsiavut Government has been receiving information on tax credit benefits and other tax-related webinars. Mr. Speaker, my department has worked with the Communication Division to ensure this information is released on social media and throughout the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in December, Finance engaged a public accounting firm KPMG, to provide a professional development session on understanding the financial reporting process to elected officials. The goal of this session was to provide a somewhat basic understanding of the role of the governing body with respect to Audited Financial Statements. An overview of the financial statements, financial policies and the reconciliation process. Finance has also engaged with-, I'll just say MNP, who are another Public Accounting Firm to gain understanding of services for Indigenous communities. All the relevant information has been shared with the ICG's and the Inuit Community Corporations. Mr. Speaker, we continue to work closely with Bell Canada and Innovation Science and Economic Development, ISED, on statement of work on the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project. Once finalized, we will be able to communicate the timelines for this very exciting project, Mr. Speaker. And hopefully that will be sooner than later. Mr. Speaker, MC Advisory completed a review of the organizational structure of the Human Resource Division. This review was to ensure that correct staff complement in terms of duties and numbers of employees in Human Resources were in place to best serve the needs of the Government. Mr. Speaker, a new organizational structure of the Human Resource Division was approved late November. There will be four core HR positions. The Director of Human Resource, an HR Manager, an HR generalist and an HR specialist for recruitment and training with support from two HR assistants. There are currently two vacancies. Melissa Webb, the current HR Manager has tendered her resignation

effective February 3rd. And Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this time to thank Melissa for her dedication and commitment to the Government. We wish her well and all the best in her next chapter of her career. Mr. Speaker, these vacancies and in particular, the difficulties in the recruitment of a Director of Human Resources, have an impact on our ability for timely responses on HR matters, and it's impacting the workload of our current staff. Day to day, the Department continues its ongoing support for the operations of the Nunatsiavut Government to, like, review of contracts, agreements, analysis of projects, finances, budget management and of the over 450 employees within the Government and also ensuring all the technology needs are met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Evans. The next Minister to speak will be the Honourable Gerald Asivak of the Department of Health and Social Development. When you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my statement is long, I won't read it all. I'll email out the summary very shortly. Under Non-insured Health Benefits, Vision, Rigolet is the next community that will be visited by the mobile eye team in the new year. No date confirmed yet with a service provider Cowan's Optical. Medical Transportation: First Light was the only bidder for the Ground Transportation contract in St. John's. Therefore, the contract has been awarded to them for the next 18 months, covering from the period of January 1st, 2023 to March 31st 2024. The contract is currently under financial and legal review, pending official signatures. Hygienist visits and dental visits, please check with your local community

office for the dates upcoming from January for this winter season. They're also posted on Facebook and on OKâlaKatiget Radio. Health Promotion: The Health Promotion Coordinator is working with the IT Division to create a Health Promotion page with resources for staff, professional education and development, along with best practice resources that staff can use when delivering health promotion and educational activities in communities. The first meeting of the Health Promotion Regional Committee was on January 18, 2023 with representatives across DHSD divisions. The goal of the committee is to standardize and coordinate health promotion activities across DHSD. Inuit Health Survey: The new QNIHS Manager is Ms. Tina Ponniuk, started on Monday January 23rd, 2023. The previous manager resigned her position in October '22 but has been providing casual support since this time. Plans are ongoing to resume survey data collection in the coming weeks. Plan is to resume in Rigolet and potentially in Makkovik simultaneously if we can secure field worker staff. Community programs: Team Leader quarterly team meetings are reinstated with the goal to discuss common issues and share program ideas. Community Health Workers will begin regular team meetings facilitated by TJ Lightfoot. All communities are scheduling their Community Health Planning sessions for the upcoming fiscal year. There is great work, Mr. Speaker in every community. I'll only highlight on one, as there are so many. Nain: Regular programming continue, mixture of in-person and virtual programming. Hopedale: Community Programs and the Mental Health Divisions are partnering on a Community Wooding

Program. Postville: The Community Program staff in Postville consists of just the team leader, with both Community Health Worker positions vacant. Despite that, with the assistance of staff from other divisions, they were able to deliver Christmas events and celebrations. Makkovik: The Roots of Empathy Program is taking place this year. This is a highly successful program with the school, and a family and their baby. Rigolet: One highlight is the Greenhouse Committee Project. It has been a hugely successful project for the community of Rigolet. North West River: All regular programs are running with high attendance in all groups. Happy Valley-Goose Bay: Outreach activities and programs, an average of 1,100 to 1,200 brown bag lunches are distributed monthly. Mud Lake provided a caribou soup supper to the community followed by Bingo, distributed cookie trays to 21 households. Mr. Speaker, under Childcare, work is continuing with the Inuit Early Childhood Education working group with the new funding of the Indigenous Early Learning Childcare Initiative. Items of importance with this group include new funding for programs, services and governance. This new funding will allow us to provide year-round daycare services. We cannot commit to operating year-round until we receive formalized information from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Daycare numbers remain high in all communities, Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Rigolet. Postville Daycare is closed due to no staff. Food Security: The Covid Emergency Food Program has been a huge piece of work and will end March 31st, 2023. Nourish Project: Continuing work with partners on a pilot project to offer more country food to long-term care. Nutrition

North Canada Guidelines Project: One of the five Inuit members is an NG staff. The goal of the committee is to help inform current and future Government of Canada interventions to reduce food insecurity among Indigenous people in isolated and northern communities. This includes but is not limited to the enhancement of the Nutrition North Program as part of a continuum of guidelines to achieve its goal. Program delivery in Nain and Hopedale has been negatively impacted due to staff illness.

Mental Health: We have hired a Mental Health Manager who has started in early January and fills a big gap for the Department. We completed Manage Alcohol Program Training and held first community planning session for Manage Alcohol Program rollout with community partners. In January the Harm Reduction Initiative launched across all communities.

Elders Seniors Gathering is finally complete with Nain being the last consulting community. Seniors Advocacy NL was to travel to Nain and Hopedale but due to a family emergency had to postpone. We are hoping sometime early this year, they will join us. Regional Advisory Committee in the works of setting up. Just have to call out now for Nain seniors and elders to represent. We're in the works of planning the 2023 Bi-annual Elders Conference. Host community will be Makkovik in the summer or fall of 2023. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, on January 9th, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Executive staff traveled to Nain as part of their consultation for the Social and Economic Well-being plan. DHSD assisted with taking them around the community agencies, the grocery stores to observe the high cost of food

in addition to homes in the community including Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission, NG Housing and Seniors Residence. We thank the community for their participation raising the concerns and inviting us into your homes. Your voices and perspectives are valued.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The final Ministers Statement will be coming from the Honourable Terry Vincent of Lands and Natural Resources.

Nakummek.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to Table my Quarterly Report to the Assembly as Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. I'll provide a short update on several files in the Department since my last report. Renewable Resources: Since the last Assembly meeting, the Renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files and endeavours: Fisheries: Mr. Speaker, In-Shore Shrimp Fishery in both SFA-4 and 5 are now closed and majority of NG shrimp has been landed in-shore. We do have some residual quota left in the water, and this is sold offshore for a royalty payment as per normal process. The science assessments of the various fish stocks will soon begin and our Department will be involved in the process. Wildlife: Mr. Speaker, moose hunting season in LISA opened on September 15th and we have 14 licenses available to Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. The season will close on March 7th 2023. To date, two licenses are filled, one in Nain and one in North West River. The 2023 polar bear hunt season is set to open on February 2nd. We have 12 licenses to offer in the communities-, three for

Nain, three for Hopedale and two each for the communities of Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet. Applications are now available for a one-time draw on February 1st. The Province has released their last assessment of the George River Caribou Herd, and the numbers of caribou is still concerning. I encourage beneficiaries to remain compliant with the Provincial Hunting Ban and to report any hunting to our Department staff or to Provincial Justice Officials. Lands Division: Since the last Assembly meeting, the Lands Division has been engaged in the following files. Mr. Speaker, 32 land-use applications were submitted in 2022, 18 for cabins, six for mineral exploration, two for archaeological research, two related to work at the new Nain Airport, three for cruise ship visits to St. John's Harbour and Hebron and one for Military training. Mr. Speaker, since my last update, the GIS Specialist has been working on Lands Division draft maps releases, certificates of tenure and applications. The GIS specialist is currently seeking information to complete the final two maps. Mr. Speaker, the Lands Division will consult with Nunatsiavut Affairs on how to approach the Labrador Inuit Lands Misalignment issue with the other parties of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. *Impact Benefit Agreement*: Mr. Speaker, the Voisey's Bay Mine mill and the mine expansion is going well. There are a number of job ads being posted in preparation for the next round of construction. There have also been a number of underground mine operator job ads as well, and quite a few of our beneficiaries have been hired in those roles. Trent Pottle started as IBA Coordinator on January 16th and he will be working with the current IBA Coordinator until

her retirement in a couple of years. Trent has a lot of experience with the employment aspects of the Voisey's Bay Mine operation. In regards to our parks IBA's Mr. Speaker, the Torngat Mountains National Park Co-Management Board, is planning a face-to-face meeting in Kangiqsualujjuaq from February 28 to March 2nd. The Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board met in St. John's. There were discussions on the CMV budget, staffing, board logo and use and interim management guides. The next meeting will very likely be a virtual meeting in March.

Non-Renewable Resources: Since the last Assembly meeting, Non-Renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files pertaining to mineral exploration and geo-science. Mr. Speaker, Vale plans on continuing exploration this year on mineral licenses adjacent to the mine. This year's work include prospecting and airborne geophysics. Vale also submitted a work plan for underground drilling. The work plan is still currently under review. Mr. Speaker, Labrador Uranium plans to continue exploration in the Central Mineral Belt this year. They recently submitted a work plan to fly a large regional airborne geophysical survey. The work plan is still currently under review. Mr. Speaker, Northern Graphite plans to continue exploration under Okak South Property area inside of Tasiujak, northwest of Nain. They recently submitted a work plan that included prospecting, a flight camp and drilling. They are exploring for copper, nickel and base metals. Claims are located on LISA. The work plan is still currently under review. Mr. Speaker, Viridian Metals plans to continue exploration on their Wolverine Property in the

Flowers River Rare Earth Complex. They recently submitted a work plan that included prospecting, airborne geophysics, a flight camp and drilling. Their claims are located on LISA. The work plan is still currently under review. Environment Division: The Environment Division, other NG staff and our community partners attended Arctic Net Annual Scientific meeting in early December. Staff and partners were able to present on our Arctic Net funded research projects showing the important and results of the Arctic Research Network and to answer questions about the work. There were also many meetings with funding agencies and the Federal Government resulting in significant more funding in the coming years for our research work, including towards the Imappivut Marine Planning Initiative. Environment Division Staff have been busy distributing food through the Community Freezer, including arctic char, and moose from Gros Morne. The Environment Division in collaboration with other departments is working with Environment Assessment Staff at the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and with the Federal Impact Assessment Agency to work towards a harmonized agreement for all three environmental assessment jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Vincent. We will now be taking a 15-minute break resuming at 10:45, quarter to 11. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

We're now moving on to Item Five, "Members Statements." Are there any member's statements? Okay, we're going to start with AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Ordinary Member Thomas Evans and myself, we'd like to pass along our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the late Gerald Mitchell. Gerald was a Labrador man, born and raised. His work on the visual and music art scene has impacted us all that live here, in one way or another, be it just sitting in a tent at a cabin or on a fishing boat listening to his music or staring at a piece of his artwork, we can all relate to that artwork in one way or another. So Gerald has left a great legacy for us at Makkovik and for Labrador as a whole. So to his family and to the Members here, may you find peace and comfort in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next person that I saw was AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek [Speaks Inuttitut] On behalf of HICG I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with everyone and the challenges we may face this year. Let us work through each one with clear vision, integrity, positivity and the determination to make our Government work for the betterment of all our people. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, since our last sitting, we have lost three more elders in our community. The late Matilda Nochasak, the late Irene Frieda. Both worked as staff with LIC and DHSD in their capacity as janitor, home support worker, cook and Language Nest Inuttitut speaker. Ms. Nochasak also spent many years working as Inuttitut teacher at ACMS and was dearly loved by all the students. Ms. Frieda, after leaving DHSD went to work as a cook with the Amaguk Inn. I'm sure some of you Members here today must have tasted her awesome meals while

staying at the Amaguk Inn. Both ladies are avid artisans and their work is valued today. They are also re-locatees of Hebron. Both ladies contributed so much to our organization and I rise this morning to acknowledge their contribution, hard work and dedication to our organization and community. The third elder was the late Lewis Kelly, was not a beneficiary. However, he was married to a beneficiary and made Hopedale his home for the past 18 years. He worked as a plaster and painter with Torngat Regional Housing for many years, and often traveled to Nain, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet and was well-known in each community. To the families of Matilda Nochasak, Irene Freda, which includes our Minister Terry Vincent-, that's his mother, and Lewis Kelly, on behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, I extend my deepest condolences. They will be deeply missed in our community. May the Creator uphold you in your grief and longing for your loved one. Mr. Speaker, I also extend my deepest condolences to the Mitchell family in Makkovik on the passing of the late Gerald Mitchell, Labrador's Balladeer. Mr. Mitchell was a great musician and artist and I'm sure many can boast of having a piece of his wonderful artwork in their home. His beautiful songs of our Labrador way of life will be cherished for many years to come. Gerald was a true Labrador pioneer in music and art, and he paved a way for many artists and musicians over the years. I will miss his quiet, humble, gentle ways. To the Mitchell families, I extend my heart-felt condolences, thoughts and prayers. One more clear strong voice just got added to the angel choir. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. The next person to speak is going to be the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to report on our Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer. We've been very busy in December and January thus far. A total of 1,825 families visited the Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer in 2022. Highest number was December 2022 at 210 families, and the lowest was in June for 130. The average number of elders and people with disabilities, families who visit our freezer is 152. So it's quite a lot of people that come through. Our freezer is well-used by our elders in the two communities, Happy Valley and Mud Lake and it doesn't take long to run out of items. We received 30 cases of the char in October, which is approximately 1200 pounds. As of early January, it has been all gone. We are now purchasing char from Torngat Fisheries. Over the last year we received 811 partridges. We purchased 3000 pounds of corned cod in September and October which is now all gone. We received one freezer full of moose from the moose NG harvested for us. They harvested one for us. And we got-, we received 2.3 percent of the NG harvest. We are very thankful to NG for giving us char, harvesting our moose and giving us some of the NG portion. However, it will not last long as the demand is very high. We believe we will run out of moose by mid-February. With the rising costs of foods, the demand is increasing as people can't really afford to eat like they did, especially elders and people on fixed incomes. We received the licence from the Province to catch another moose and we

have one from the Nunatsiavut Government to hunt in LISA, or LIL, however, because they're very scarce there, it costs more because of the fuel costs, so we end up paying more. We have been asked by NG why we need more moose because we get some from NG, but it doesn't last long. So we can give somebody moose for a month, or if we got other moose, we can give it for three months. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again reach out to NG Lands and Natural Resources to revisit the formula for distribution of moose, even to make it a little tiny bit higher. We only give the elders and people with disabilities. The number of elders 60 and over in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Mud Lake is 443. That is more than the entire population of a few of our communities. In addition, many elders had to leave Nunatsiavut to come to Goose Bay to be near the hospital for medical reasons. Some of them don't understand why they're treated differently now that they moved to Goose Bay. The Nunatsiavut Group of Companies gave us \$3,100 in December 2022 that helped us with the purchase of turkeys for the Community Freezer regular customers. Mr. Speaker, in November we held another parka-making course over two weekends instructed by Cassie Chaulk. We also had four seal-skin Christmas ornament-making classes at the Mealy Mountain Collegiate in December. Cindy Pottle-Allen instructed the course and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. We held a computer internet course for elders again in October, November and December. Many people are very pleased with the course and they are learning a lot. Another one started January 12th. We would like to thank the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Moravian

Church for renting us the space to hold our courses. We will be holding another parka-making course in March. Much of my time is taken up applying for grants and reporting on funding to help keep traditional food in our freezer and to hold traditional courses for people. I am a part of a committee that Gerald referenced earlier-, sorry, Minister Asivak mentioned earlier about providing traditional food to the Long-Term Care facility. We had planned two such occasions, however COVID happened and we weren't able to go in, but we're still working on it. On behalf of the NunaKatiget board and staff, we would like to send our sincere condolences to family and friends of the late Gerald Mitchell as people mentioned earlier, who was Labrador's balladeer. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ms. Kemuksigak. As a reminder to the Members, you can each make two statements per day but no longer than five minutes each. Just a reminder. The next person that I saw was Chairperson Jeff Montague of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, when you're ready, sir.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In December, Sivunivut held its Annual General Meeting where a new Board of Directors was elected. The new Board of Directors is as follows: Heather Campbell is now Vice-Chairperson, Tammy Michelin acclaimed as Secretary, Carol Matthews as Treasurer, and Dean McLean, Janice Allen-Parsons, Brenda Saunders, each as Directors. I was pleased with the turnout of people in attendance which was about 20 but a higher number than in previous years. With the new fiscal year and the new year, Mr. Speaker, Sivunivut will continue its Community Freezer

Program, and will provide beneficiaries an opportunity to be updated with the goings-on with the Nunatsiavut Government and Sivunivut via a crafting afternoon where beneficiaries can come to our office and craft and chat. There is not much else to report at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next person that I saw was the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Members statement today will probably cover a variety of issues, but first of all, I wanted to pass along condolences to the Mitchell family. The balladeer of Labrador, as he was called. I remember the American radio-, or television show in Happy Valley-Goose Bay where Gerald Mitchell sang to the Prime Minister. I think it was Trudeau who came at that time and he was well-known for his songs and as many people say, no one could sing Labrador songs like Gerald Mitchell. Mr. Speaker, I wanna bring greetings from the beautiful riding of the Upper Lake Melville area and some of the events that took place since last time was myself and Minister Asivak and Patricia Kemuksigak, we hosted a little supper for our seniors at Headlands Apartment. And we played bingo. Minister Asivak called bingo and the food, they really enjoyed it. And to see our seniors basically from the North Coast to come there and to see Members of Nunatsiavut Government come in and to recognize them certainly made Christmas for all of us. I had the opportunity to say a few words at the Senior's Supper in North West River and that too, in itself, was a wonderful event. Congratulations to Mr. Montague. I did attend

the Sivunivut AGM and yes it was a great crowd. Mr. Speaker, I wanna speak today on some issues of health care where I've been notified by people from different communities. And a lot of people from the North Coast have to be moved to Goose Bay for health reasons, through no fault of their own. Now, on the North Coast, most of the benefits is 100 percent. Up in the Upper Lake Melville area, it's 80 percent. In 1973, I left the community of Davis Inlet to take a job in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. That was my choice. I made that choice on my own and I know that the 80 percent coverage of benefits, you know, that's the way it is. But you got these people who are moved from the North Coast, relocated, and Mr. Speaker, some of them for the second time. Some of these were relocated from Hebron and Okak and now they had to leave their home again. And when they go for health care benefits, it's 80 percent. A prime example was a gentleman who needed his teeth done. His family had to come up with over \$600 out of their own pockets because you gotta remember, a lot of these people, through no fault of their own, they have no private insurance. They are forced to leave their communities. And Mr. Speaker, there's not a whole lot of them, and rather than ask questions to the Minister of Health, I thought it would be better to speak to it in here, so the rest of the Executive Members of Council, can, you know, be aware of exactly what's happening here. And Mr. Speaker, I think that's wrong. I think that's wrong. I have no problem giving my 80 percent, my choice to move. But when these people are asked to move and leave their home, I think that the benefits should go with them. I think that would be only fair.

Another example, we were informed of yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we have a person who's in Goose Bay with serious illness. And her family took her to North West River to take this person in, so they could look after her. And because she moved from Goose Bay to North West River, the family informs us that they can't get money for accommodations or for meals. But yes, Mr. Speaker, that person who's going through a very difficult time could be put in a hotel room in Goose Bay, paid for, her meals paid for, but yet she moved to North West River where her immediate family can be with her and help her. And Mr. Speaker, I think that that's wrong. That's not-, that's totally wrong. Imagine what that person's going through. And again, I'm not asking for benefits for the Upper Lake Melville area. I'm asking for benefits for people who got no choice but move there. And I think that's something I think that is difficult. I know the Minister, you know, he's dealing with these issues every day and I thank him for his time. And again, I just want to bring it out today so maybe the other Members of the Executive Council can listen sometimes and when Minister Asivak brings it before the Table, that they will give every due consideration. Again, not asking for the world, but to treat people fair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Again, you get two statements. Please try and keep it to five minutes. The next person to speak will be Ordinary Member Roland Saunders of the Canadian Constituency. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see everyone and I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, and we're all hoping for a happy, healthy 2023.

Nakummek, to the Executive Council for holding the NEC meeting in St. John's in the Canadian Constituency, December. There were a few problems with it but for the most part, thank you for the presentations and for answering the questions. The complaints were is that there was not enough time allocated for questions to be asked of the Executive Council and no time for answers. So the question, answer period, I guess, wasn't long at all. We need to do better on that. You only come once every four years, so you can expand it from two hours to four or five or six-, whatever. Two hours for everything wasn't long enough. And after the meeting, there was many discussions with the Executive Members as they were meeting Members in the Canadian Constituency. A lot of them were new, and they had a good chat and they were quite happy with catching up with friends from the past and also new members. And it was a big-, in my opinion it was a good success. Thank you, for coming out. See you again in four years. I won't be here, but somebody will. And Mr. Speaker, during the month of December, people from Labrador gathered for a night of Christmas music in St. John's singing carols in Inuttitut led by Deantha Edmunds, along with several special guests from that area, in particular, Mr. Tom Gordon who's well known by everybody, I think, and past Speaker, Patricia Ford played the music on piano and organ. And the guest performers were renowned artist Deantha Edmunds Ramsay and her daughter Annabelle Ramsay and Mason Dicker. Deantha Edmunds also won the NL Indigenous Artist of the Year Award for 2022. The choir members are all Nunatsiavut members that were singing in Inuttitut and it

was a great night of music, along with candles in the apples, a Moravian tradition that has been held along the coast for quite a long time. We thank you for that. Now, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would also like to recognize the work of another Canadian Constituency Member from Rigolet, Labrador, Ms. Frances Palliser-Nicholas working with the Atelihai in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has many programs for her members there, and not all are from Labrador. This group shares their passion for connection with the North, with Inuit from all across the North. They have an amazing elected board there, that's very involved with getting members interested in meetings, crafts, outings and meals. The majority of funding comes from the efforts of Frances and the Atelihai Board as they apply for grant from their province, Federal Government and private companies. Mr. Speaker, the same with the group in Edmonton, Inuit Edmontonmiut Working Group, chaired by Jenna Broomfield of North West River, and also board members from Labrador, including Janine Cooper of North West River, Maude Campbell and Juliet Blake of Happy Valley. This group made up mainly of Inuit from across Northern Canada, with connections to every Indigenous Region. They also must apply for funding from their Province, Federal Government and any business that will donate to their cause. This includes having country food sent down from the farthest regions of the North and they give it out freely. There's no charge for the food that they get and it's mainly, the food sent down, they have to purchase, but the shipping, which cost a fortune is normally free from Canadian North. And they held Winter Gathering and Feast on December 28th of 2022, which I

donated to by supplying the venue and some of the food. In total, there were 110 people, of which 39 were from Labrador. We only have 56 in the Edmonton area, but 39 people showed up. We had a wonderful day of food, refreshment, music and gifts for the children, and gift cards for all, and games for the children and elders-, Inuttitut games. It was interesting to see. I've seen some here that I haven't seen before. So it was quite interesting, the games that they played. With that, *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Saunders. I also saw Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak, when you're ready.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members from the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Judo Club, who were selected to represent Team Newfoundland and Labrador at the 2023 Canada Games in Prince Edward Island, February 18th to March 5th. Nunatsiavut beneficiary, Tye Dyson will be representing Team NL in the 73 kilogram category. Teammate's four out of six male athletes for the team are from the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Judo Club. We wish you all the best, Tye. Partnership: On Monday, December 5th, my colleague, Mr. Andersen and NunaKatiget hosted a Christmas supper for the residents of Headland Apartments. We had ham, turkey and all the trimmings and dessert. We played a few games of bingo and guest singer Simeon Asivak played some great music. A great time was had by all and we hope to return again this winter for tea, snacks and bingo. My colleague, Mr. Andersen and NunaKatiget will partner to hold an event in Mud Lake on Tuesday, January 31st. This event was delayed due to the ice

freezing in the river. We'll provide Government and Corporation updates, question and answer and a hearty lunch, and a fun game of bingo. We look forward to visiting Mud Lake. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, condolences to the family of the late Mr. Maxwell Andersen of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Frank Hope of Mud Lake, to the family of Abraham Broomfield of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Ida Jane Andersen of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Troy Loder, of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member to give their statement will be AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard of Postville. When you're ready, sir.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess before it slips my mind, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass along condolences to the community of Hopedale and Makkovik who recently lost loved ones and the Upper Lake Melville as the Minister just stated. Mr. Speaker, I was-, I came with a different intention this morning. I was gonna sit back and listen to statements of Ministers and Ordinary Members. I'll best describe myself this morning, Mr. Speaker, with today's technology and improved vehicles, and snowmobiles that we have. When you start to run low on fuel, gas, what happens? Your light comes on. I feel this morning, that the AngajukKâk for Postville, his light has come on now for some time. And I'm saying that with all sincerity. I was a Minister in this Government one time. I sat on that side of the table. Mr. Speaker, while sitting as a Minister, I had the opportunity to fly out of Postville, not once, but twice, sometimes during a week. What did that do for me? That pulled me away from my constituents. That gave me the

opportunity to refuel, to get recharged. As AngajukKât around this table, I know of one in particular who does Clerk, CAO, and AngajukKâk work all in one. How can an individual last? I'm gonna use an example of the Postville Inuit Community Government in 2021, when I personally requested help from the Nunatsiavut Government because we were short of staff, what did I get? I got directed to a firm called Deloitte, which our budget could not hold or withstand the strain that the charge was gonna come to the town. I think, Mr. Speaker, this morning, we've heard some great things. We've made some great strides. But in all honestly, the five communities on the back wall there, that's posted, and the Canadian Constituency, and the Upper Lake Melville, deserves our utmost. When I say utmost, they deserve the Duracell battery. They deserve the best gas that we can provide ourselves with to serve our people. We have a management plan for our wildlife. Mr. Speaker, there's no moose in the Postville area, while NG continues to issue licenses. I was born and raised in that area. I have a passion for the people. I have a passion for the wildlife and land. When you start to take food off your own table as a Government, we have to sit ourselves down and put ourselves in our own seat and say there's something not right here. I have a working colleague out of Postville, George Gear, the Member. We talk from time to time and we don't know-, we have huge question marks about what's happening with our resources. The Spring Migratory Bird Hunt, the same thing. Load after load, numbers that high that can't last. Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry but I have to share this, this morning. I have a great passion. I have a great

concern. I was taught by my grandfather George Sheppard how to treat and respect wildlife and I will treat my children and my children the same. And that message I'm presenting this morning, I hope it hits home to you guys who are the decision-makers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Other Members who would like to make a statement? I see Melva Williams, Ordinary Member of Rigolet.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the Community of Rigolet, I'd like to pass along condolences as well to the family of Gerald Mitchell in Makkovik-, a loss to your community, for sure. Also, for our community, we've recently had some losses of elders. Garland Baikie passed away within the last few days, as well as Bertha Blake. So the-, a loss for our community of two elders in such a short time is challenging for our community and our families who are suffering or grieving the loss. As well, there are many in our community that are ill now. Some people have cancer and stuff. So we'd like to pass along our heart-felt thoughts and prayers to the family of one in particular, Archie Flowers, he's not very well. So I'd like to pass along heart-felt consideration to his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all the staff of HICG who have worked tirelessly over the Christmas season from hosting numerous Christmas parties to thawing out frozen water lines, to keeping the roads

clear and safe, to the office staff just taking all calls into the office, positive and negative, and dealing with them in a positive and professional manner. I value each staff member and appreciate their hard work and dedication to this town. May this year be an awesome year. I wish God's richest blessing to all the staff and their families, as well as the town of Hopedale.

Mr. Speaker, we're still without a Town Clerk, which is becoming increasingly difficult to run our office efficiently. We were fortunate enough to get funding for a CEEP project. Three workers were hired. To date, two workers have gotten enough hours for EI and the other worker will be laid off this week. HICG is grateful for the funding as I know other communities were not as successful in receiving funding. A CYN worker was hired and started orientation this week. We're busy preparing for another audit and preparing for upcoming Capital Works projects this summer. I was thankful for the meeting that we had yesterday with Colin Gilbride, and I look forward to planning for the infrastructure. In ACMS news, ACMS is celebrating Family Literacy Day by hosting a family event at ACMS this coming Friday, January 27th. If you're still here, you're all welcome. Students are gearing up for the Winter Sports Meet which will be held in Rigolet in February and the Inuttitut Speak-Off will be held in Nain with dates to be announced. And drama will be in March. ACMS staff thanks all organizations for the wonderful events held over Christmas and for the partnerships throughout the year. Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I must comment that I was once again a bit disappointed that we didn't receive material before this Assembly session. Even though there wasn't

much to give out, we could still have some Orders of the Day. It makes a difference to us as Members to be able to review any material coming in.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. And noted. The next Member to give a statement will be AngajukKâk Barry Andersen of Makkovik, when you're ready, sir.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. And I rise today to bring forward a major concern regarding the Skedivac Flight schedule for Makkovik. There's a constant delay in getting a flight to Makkovik at a decent hour, if at all, in recent months. This is causing much stress on individuals and families. We need to be much more vocal about this issue as a Government. Working together with the MHA, Lela Evans who is constantly talking about this, will bring more strength to the issue, I think, if we all work together as a team. We need more dedicated flights each day to take care of the patient needs. And I've spoken about this in the past, we all see that this is having a major impact on the employee sick leave as well. For a 15-minute appointment, whether it be for physio, or such, we, as beneficiaries in Nunatsiavut, are burning up four sick days as opposed to my colleagues and my cousins in Goose Bay who just use up a half an hour or so. I think we have to revisit and have a look at our sick leave policy maybe if we are to keep our much-valued employees from getting burnt out because this causes much stress and anxiety on the families for work at home, babysitters, and such. Also, on another matter, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Public Utilities Board, of Newfoundland and Labrador-, I think that's the proper term, in two short months, we're gonna see the cut off of the CERB-, or not the CERB

but the, um, COVID Food Subsidy here on the North Coast. We're paying \$492 for 205 litres of fuel. When you fill up your drum to the top like I did recently it's over \$518 and it's gonna be very, very expensive for people who-, seniors on fixed incomes to be able to heat their homes, to make choices whether they're gonna heat their homes buy fuel or by gas or get somebody to haul wood, it's gonna be stressful on everybody and it's gonna come back to us, I think in April to probably ask if we can do anything to help them out or alleviate the costs until warmer weather comes. And we'll see what happens with the oil prices back then. But with the PUB, the Public Utilities Board under review, I think we as the Nunatsiavut Government should stress that we need a seat at that table, on the PUB, so that we have somebody there to bring our issues forward. Here we are in Nunatsiavut. Why are we paying higher prices? Where is the fuel coming from? When was it bought? And that kind of thing. And how do you make the decisions? Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to support my AngajukKâk friend from Postville. Myself and Glenn we talk about and-, I'm sorry, Ordinary Member for Postville and Ordinary Member for Makkovik. We're in a little group, I guess, a little sorta thing there in Makkovik and Postville, but we do chat from one time to another. And this issue about conservation, about our wildlife species, we can have the-, we can set the moose quota at 100. It's not gonna make no difference, 'cause you're only gonna kill one or two if there's no moose around. There's no sense in having the quota set higher up. So, I just wanted to echo

AngajukKâk Sheppard from Postville concerns that he raised earlier, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. For the second time around, Ordinary Member Wally Andersen of the Upper Lake Melville.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanna carry on a bit and I wanted to pledge my support to the two Community Corporations of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River in their bid and their plea for more higher quotas of food that is being distributed. And again, Mr. Speaker, you know, we got people up there, seniors, that rely on a meal of wildlife that I think every person is entitled to. And the way-, with the large numbers we have, I think that you've gotta be 65 or 60 in order to get a meal of wild meat. But in our communities on the North Coast at any age, and I'm not saying that's wrong. So I fully support them there. I couldn't help but think back when I heard the AngajukKâk from Postville speak on wildlife. And Mr. Speaker, I remember going to school in North West River in the last '60's and there was an advertisement on by Smokey The Bear about forest fires and he said, "It won't be back in your lifetime." And the forest fire that they had in Postville, the trees hasn't grown back. And Mr. Speaker, many of the elders are talking of the wrong approach we have how we're going out there and we're taking almost everything we see. One-time people hunted around Makkovik, the community of Postville and so on. Now you can jump in your speed boat. From Makkovik you can hunt almost every island to Davis Inlet and back in the same day. And what's been left? I think we seriously, need to take a look at that. The words of Gus Dicker, to be a part

of this great land should be the pride of any man. And I think as hunters that's something that we really need to grasp and hold onto for what's left. Mr. Speaker, I support the Member, the AngajukKâk from Makkovik about flights. As a matter of fact, yesterday morning I saw a man and a woman from Makkovik. The lady had surgery and she asked if there was any room on our charter, but there wasn't at that time. And I was there when they were told by the airline that your flight is not gonna leave until five o'clock this evening with a stipulation-, pilot availability. And, you know, that's, again, to what the AngajukKâk addressed. He also addressed sick leave, and Mr. Speaker, I think that's something I mentioned a couple times. And I could say to the AngajukKâk from Makkovik, you're absolutely right. You and I got the same appointment. Mine is at two o'clock. I get funded for annual leave from 1:30 to three o'clock, and hour and a half. In your case, you gotta take three days. If the weather comes down it could be further. And I would be finding a way to bring forward as we move forward, that I think there should be at least an additional 10 days of special medical leave for beneficiaries on the North Coast. We get our sick leave, but this extra 10 days that they get, they-, not to take as, "Well, I'm not feeling well day. I'm not gonna be in." But an extra 10-, at least an extra 10 days where they can go and use as special medical leave. And if that ever comes to the Table, I will fully support it. So Mr. Speaker, again, just to finish off, yes, I support the two Corporations. Mr. Sheppard, I could tell you this, your grandfather would be very, very proud to see you stand in the House of Assembly, our own self Government and to speak with the pride and

passion and care for the land which is rightfully ours. So I hope that we can find ways so we don't destroy it before it's too late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. Are there any other Members Statements? I see Ordinary Member George Gear of Postville.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to attend the Arctic Net Conference for the first time in my life, which was held in Toronto. I traveled to Toronto on December the 5th and returned on December the 10th. Mr. Speaker, I attended the conference to represent my constituents of Postville for the research that is going on with eggs collection and bird samples in our area, which I was part of from the beginning as conservation officer. At the time, 2020 oil spill, not to represent the Nunatsiavut Government, to represent my constituents. There was over 1400 people registered, and of that amount, there were over 400 Aboriginals registered from all over Canada. And I met a lot of them. This was the largest amount of people to the conference since it started many years ago. Next year it is scheduled to be held in Iqaluit, Nunavut, but capped out at 300 for accommodation space. Mr. Speaker, it was very educational to attend this conference, to learn of the many different kinds of research that is going on for climate change in all of Canada. And a lot of it is going to affect us in our homelands, which we can be felt now, some of it. Mr. Speaker, on December 24th, the community of Postville had its annual Christmas Eve Supper that could not happen since 2019 because of the COVID pandemic. It was good to see so many residents attend. The table that was set was

all filled. An overload table had to be set. And it was filled. Many thanks to PICG for all the planning and the people of the community that took part in the food preparation. There was many prizes given out from many businesses-, Air Borealis, Sheppard's Variety, PICG, and so on, just to name a few. And I'd like to thank AngajukKâk of Postville for the great statement that hit my heart. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any further Members Statements? *Nakummek.* Seeing none, we'll move on to "Return to Oral Questions", which is Item Six. At the last Assembly sitting, NunaKatiget Inuit Community Chairperson Kemuksigak asked Minister Vincent, "If you could provide us with statistics on the number of Nunatsiavut beneficiaries that are working in Voisey's Bay and what communities they're from." I will now call upon Minister Vincent to provide his response.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For all of the Assembly's convenience, I have attached the latest employment for December 22 for Operations and VBME. I know that you have requested a more detailed employment breakdown for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries working at Voisey's Bay. And our Aboriginal Affairs advisor and her team are working on this request. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The second return to oral questions was from AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain who had asked about the NEC's commitment to Social Housing in Nain. I will now call upon First Minister Williams to provide a response.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that at the last sitting that the question was asked, and it was answered, and Minister Andersen provided some additional information. But I wanted to ensure for AngajukKâk Dicker that I did go back and confirm and I wanted to provide the information as the Minister for Housing, that you are correct, that the decision was made by NEC that the houses would go back to Social Housing and we have to abide by that decision. And this will be relayed to the NHC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now move on to, "Oral Questions, Item Seven. Do any Assembly Members have any oral questions? Okay. The first hand that I saw was Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my question is for the First Minister. Recently, there's been Government Business by the Provincial Government to the North Coast and there's quite a conversation that the Nunatsiavut Government or the new Housing Corporation are looking at taking over the units that's currently owned by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing. Can the Minister confirm if that's true?

MR. WINTERS:

First Minister, would you like to respond?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member Andersen. I became aware on the news report that the Government was in Nain and they were talking about the NLHC Housing Units. Neither my department nor the NHC was at the meeting, and we have yet to be briefed on the

discussions held at that meeting. So I, at this time, I cannot confirm whether or not-, what their discussions were. I know that we've started having preliminary conversations within our own Department but I don't have anything to update you from Nunatsiavut Affairs in relation to that topic today.

MR. WINTERS: Will the First Minister take it under advisement?

MR. WINTERS: I'll take the question under advisement.

MR. WINTERS: Given that it is taken under advisement, do you have a supplemental question, Mr. Andersen?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, just one supplementary question. Minister, we're well aware of some of the circumstances that we've seen where some of our residents were living in these units. And if Nunatsiavut Government or the Housing Corporation is looking at taking over these units, prior to that, would you, as First Minister, on behalf of your Government, call upon the Provincial Government to appoint an independent consultant along with our staff to do a full investigation and review on the current conditions of these houses and to make the Government responsible for bringing all necessary repairs that need to be done, up to par before we take them over, if we do take them over?

MR. WINTERS: First Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the supplementary question. I'm not prepared today to commit to hiring a consultant because we have to have further conversations on where we wanna go. If we were-, there's

a lot to be discussed in relation to the NLHC and the take down of a program from the Province. I think that we have to remember that the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is responsible for the NLHC Program for housing in our communities and we need to have those discussions to see what would be involved in such conversations. And we have to figure out if that's something that-, that's somewhere we wanna go and if, you know, where our discussions will lead us. So thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Okay. And the next hand that I saw for asking a question was the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Roland Saunders, when you're ready, sir.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the President, the very top of this organization. Will the Nunatsiavut Government make an effort to become a part of the Arctic Winter Games in the future, and send Nunatsiavut athletes from across Canada to the Games?

MR. WINTERS:

President Lampe, when you're ready.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. [Speaks in Inuttitut] Yes, earlier this month, we did get a visit from Dave Winters who is with the Recreation Department. And he did visit myself and other ministers to discuss the importance and-, of the possibility of Nunatsiavut Government sending athletes from the Nunatsiavut Labrador Inuit-, and so I did say to him that we would need a letter sent to us requesting such a request. And so, to date I still have not received such a letter. But I-, when that letter does come to my office or to the other Minister's office, we will respond and yes, it is true that

Labrador Inuit need to represent Nunatsiavut, and most certainly to promote the Nunatsiavut Government and Labrador Inuit, and most certainly to show the sportsmanship and the athletic strength that Labrador Inuit have. At this point in time, we are still waiting for a letter of request. And until then, I cannot give you a definite answer as to your question. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does Ordinary Member Saunders have a supplemental question?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The next question that I saw was going to be from NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Chairperson, Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a follow-up question. I would like to direct it to the President of Nunatsiavut, President Lampe. Were there any consideration given or discussion with the NEC to apply for funds from the two Trusts to provide food vouchers, oil, as he mentioned et cetera, even a half the cost, to continue until June 30th, 2023? It is gonna be a very difficult adjustment for people to go from having food vouchers and oil, and then nothing. I asked that question last time, so I was wondering if there was any discussions on that topic? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Mr. President?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* I didn't get the first part of the question, and I would ask the Chair of NunaKatiget to repeat the question. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last sitting, I asked if it was something that the Executive Council would consider, to look at funding to continue after March 31st. And one option was to apply to the two Trusts, so that you can still continue to provide food vouchers and oil, et cetera, even if it's half what they're getting now, until March 30th, as it is gonna be very difficult transition and adjustment for people? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Mr. President?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti.* [Speaks in Inuttitut] Yes, the question is very well taken. And certainly, as the Nunatsiavut Government, we certainly are concerned about Food Security for Labrador Inuit and most certainly, where the March 31 date is fast approaching. And I have asked this question to the Federal Minister Marc Miller who is responsible for Indigenous Services Canada. And so the Federal Minister feels or said that we will work on this issue and to date, we still have not been given confirmation on what other Food Program will happen. But again, as Northern Lights happens next month, I will again ask the Federal Minister what other form of programming will be provided for Food Security for Labrador Inuit in Labrador and Nunatsiavut. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Is there a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, President.

MR. WINTERS: The next question that I saw is from AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Honourable Melva Williams, First Minister. You mentioned that the EIS for airport could take four years. That's a long time. And you mentioned that there's a process that you're looking at called the harmonization process where all the interests of the groups is combined into one, to look at. How long will that process take? And what's entailed? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker. First Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you AngajukKâk Dicker for the question. When I-, and I may have not been clear in my statement. I said we are starting the EIA process including a Harmonization Agreement between all three Governments. That means the Federal, Provincial and Nunatsiavut Government in relation to funding the projects. Those conversations have started. I had the conversation when I met with the Minister in St. John's in December. And things are moving forward, and those talks are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Does AngajukKâk Dicker have a follow-up question?

MR. DICKER: I do. Minister, will you provide a detailed report at the next sitting explaining that further so that we can understand better?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk. First Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can do that.

MR. WINTERS: The next question is from AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, Gerald Asivak. We've all heard that our expectant mothers are traveling to Lab City now for labour and delivery. And also, all Medivacs are going to either Lab City or St. Anthony. My question is, what is our Government doing, if anything, to help lobby and see if they can speed up the process that our people can be seen in the Labrador Health Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and AngajukKâk Andersen. We have regular conversations with Labrador Grenfell Health on this very important topic of expectant mothers and Medivacs being traveled to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City, St. Anthony or beyond. With continued conversations, there are still some shortages with staffing. That is the reason behind it and we do hope that January 26th or at the earliest, or even as next week, for things to be maintained back to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The nursing shortage is right across the province and throughout Canada, as we all know. The work crisis within healthcare is at an all-time high for all health professionals involved. So we are in regular conversations with Labrador Grenfell Health, and as soon as we know more, we'll update our communities in collaboration with Labrador Grenfell Health, when things will resume as normal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Yes, thank you. Is it possible then, Minister, that we as a Government can become a little bit more vocal in getting this out to our people, because I've heard complaints that we are not doing anything as a Government? They don't hear anything from Nunatsiavut Government around these issues and can we have something to bring to the communities or you do something to bring it to the communities? Thank you. I'm meaning what Nunatsiavut Government is doing for the Members, thanks.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you both for the supplementary question. A few weeks back when this first transpired, the end of or middle of December, Director of Communications, Mr. Pomeroy, put out a press release. And even recently, we updated when we had more information available. Our Government will continue to advertise, and we are open to communication through OkâlaKatiget, through DHSD or the President or whoever is best suited for the interview. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would you like to ask another supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Did you try the CBC as well? 'Cause not everyone gets the news briefs that comes out from NG. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

DHSD or NG is open to any sources available who want an interview. It's up to the interviewer to reach out sometimes and availability. We're open to any airwave communication including CBC.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question that I saw was from AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard of Postville, when you're ready, sir.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unless I missed something earlier in the Minister's report, I'd like to ask the Honourable Minister Terry Vincent if he can share with this Assembly and the listening audience, if his Department of Lands and Natural Resources have any discussions with Nunavut or Nunavik, about the supply of caribou meat for the 2023 season? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Our Department did have conversations with Nunavik and unfortunately, they do not have any caribou licenses, I guess they do not sell as a corporation, but they do have individual harvesters that we could harvest from and unfortunately, this could take up a lot more funds than we would like to pay for this. We are continuing ongoing, trying to look for more, I guess, resources to get some caribou from. So hopefully, we will come up with a solution pretty soon. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Minister Vincent. Does AngajukKâk Sheppard have any follow-up questions?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, very briefly, I'd like to ask the Honourable Minister if the situation was that there's no caribou, you won't get no caribou-, does this mean that there won't be no muskox as well? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: That is also something we are looking into. Maybe we could purchase more muskox than we originally had in previous years. Once again, this is ongoing and something we hope to have more information for you in the coming weeks. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a final, supplemental question?

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, no, I don't.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there any other first questions from people? Yes, Mr. Jeff Montague of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation. When you're ready.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. As we certainly know the situation with the caribou herds, and the amount of time that the herds will take to replenish to a harvestable number, that would be able to feed our communities, would the Nunatsiavut Government-, or with that prospect, it may be a good idea to explore herding caribou, similar to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation or the people of Northern Scandinavia.. Would the Nunatsiavut Government be open to exploring caribou herding?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Montague. Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Member for your question. In the past, the Department of Economics did look into this issue. There were multiple factors that need to be considered. First, do we use local or already domesticated caribou reindeer? Number two, start-off cost and

running costs are very high. Also, our geography would be difficult, but not impossible to deal with. Also, employees would have to essentially live with the herd and would have unknown impacts on the George River Caribou herd. If the Government were serious, we could put more work into it but we would need a budget. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister Vincent. Does Chairperson Montague have a supplemental question?

MR. MONTAGUE: No, not at this time. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. I believe I saw AngajukKâk Barry Andersen's hand? No, I guess I was wrong. At this time, I will step away from the Speaker's Chair and let my Deputy take over while I ask a question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Winters. Please go ahead.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Deputy Speaker. This is a question for, sorry, for Tony Andersen of Education and Economic Development. I was disappointed to hear about the 14 withdrawals of students in post-secondary and having been someone who had to withdraw myself, it kinda hits home. And I can see that there are a lot of students, especially that are coming from the Land Claim, who struggle when they move to a new city, trying to get into the groove of university and living independently, dealing with substances, distractions-, I wanted to know if your Department has done any exploratory work in terms of establishing an equivalent to Nunavutsivunikivut or Nunavik Sivunikivut? This is a cultural program, a one-year or two-year program that will allow students the opportunity to

strengthen their cultural bonds, while also getting used to living in a new city. Would Nunatsiavut Sivuniksivut potentially exist in the next number of years? *Nakummek.*

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Member for his question. My Department has not given consideration to, I guess a program to the one that Nunavut offers. I'm-, I have good knowledge of the program and in fact we have had beneficiaries from Nunatsiavut participate in one year and two years in that program. In recent sittings, Mr. Speaker, I have made announcement that we have increased the number of resource and support for students. I think what the Member-, the question is a very good one. And as I announced this morning, for the first time in 10 years, we're bringing back a support program for students to allow students to see first-hand what it's like to live in the city, particularly, students from isolated communities in Nunatsiavut. It's not out of the question, Mr. Speaker, that we'll expand that program. We may consider expanding it to Upper Lake Melville. But we were to have a Departmental meeting in Makkovik a few weeks ago that was canceled by weather and lack of travel availability. I wanna say to the Member and I wanna say to the Assembly that myself, I know that the program offered by Nunavut is a good one. And I think that is something that our Government should consider. And when I attend my first Departmental meeting with my staff in Makkovik which will come before the end of spring. I certainly will raise it and I wanna assure the Member and assure the Assembly that we will give it consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SAUNDESRS: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Mr. President, would you like to add to that?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek*, [Speaks Inuttitut]. Yes, a little bit to add to that. The Nunavut Sivuniksivut certainly is an excellent program for students who want to further advance their education. And at the ITK level, and as a Board Member for the ITK, we have been discussing the importance of establishing an Inuit university. And so certainly that is something that Inuit across the Inuit Homeland are working on. And I know that such an educational establishment would be very important for Inuit across the Inuit Homeland, including Nunatsiavut beneficiaries. And so I know that Nunatsiavut Sivuniksivut is an establishment providing education for young people, but we are discussing, you know, the importance of establishing an Inuit university which I believe would be a larger establishment to provide education for Inuit across the Inuit Homeland. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Winters?

MR. WINTERS: I do. *Nakummek.* I appreciate the response from both the Minister and the President on this matter. It is very important. I understand that we've had our beneficiaries attend Nunavut Sivuniksivut. I've visited the building and I did point out to them that they don't have a lot of materials on Nunatsiavut in the building and I was corrected that it is Nunavut Sivuniksivut. So once again, as with any time there's a large gathering of Inuit in this country, Nunatsiavut is kind of, I think, one of the last

considered. So I think the importance of putting our stamp and our educational materials into an institution would be very valuable. Beyond that, we already have non-profits all over the country. Atelihai Inuit in Halifax, First Light in St. John's, Inuit Edmonton.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: (Speaking in background.)

MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Point of Order. Am I gonna get a question here or am I getting a lecture?

MR. SAUNDERS: Point taken, Mr-...

MR. WINTERS: There's a question coming. It's important to mention the background of these non-profits because they're doing the...

MR. SAUNDERS: Excuse me, Ordinary Member, do you have a question for the Minister?
Okay, could you state it, please?

MR. WINTERS: The question is, when these non-profits are supporting our people, are we supporting these non-profits with education materials from Nunatsiavut?

MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Andersen, will you answer?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you...

MR. SAUNDESRS: Thank you.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Mr. Speaker. Again, as the Member mentioned, we have not provided materials. It is their program. I did mention this morning in my statement that we've expanded now to schools outside of Nunatsiavut, our very own home-created course for high schools. And again, we will continue to work on materials as relevant to the Nunatsiavut culture, language and

education. I assure all Members of the Assembly that. The points you raise are very good. And again, I will say that, you know, consideration for creating such a program that Nunavut has, our friends in Nunavik have not done-, they also send their beneficiaries to this program created by Nunavut, same as the Western Arctic. But the idea is so good. And again, I thank the Member, Mr. Speaker for raising this and I wanna assure again-, let me say again to the Member and the House that my Department will give full attention to this and consideration, is the right word, I think that I should use, to creating one. And no doubt, I think that eventually, this will happen. And as Minister, I will try my best to make it happen sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Andersen. Do you have a second supplementary, Ordinary Member Winters? Okay. At this time, I (inaudible) the chair? Okay. He's gonna use the john, so continue on. Are there any other questions? Ordinary Member Andersen, do you have another question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Just thank you and my question is for my good friend the Ordinary Member for Nain, the Minister of Education. And I know you touched on it but sending students out to get a view of universities is a good thing. And we also, myself and my colleague from-, the Honourable Mr. Asivak, through a little email, we asked, would consideration be given to the Upper Lake Melville? And this morning in your statement, you mentioned that there was two communities on the North Coast where you advertised and you had no response. I'll just ask you again, like, some of our students up there too are-, a lot of them just moved there recently from the Coast and they

have very little background on the big university. So again, we're asking, maybe it's not yet, but would you consider at least one Member from the Upper Lake Melville area to attend that tour as well?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Minister Andersen, would you like to answer that question?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Member for this question. I mentioned in my statement, Mr. Speaker, that it's the first time in 10 years that we've brought the program back. We have a brand-new-, I don't know what they called her, a Minister of that program. And so, my department where I have decided with the support of my staff that, at this time, this year, the program will only be available to students from Nunatsiavut communities. I did-, I'm aware of the requests made to my department by the two Members from the Upper Lake Melville constituency. I mentioned earlier in another-, in answering another question, that my departmental gathering of all my staff in Makkovik has been postponed until later in the year. And I want to assure both Members, Mr. Speaker, from the Upper Lake Melville, that I make a commitment right here, that for future trips for this program, consideration will be given to students from Lake Melville. I will say that before that is done, I want to hear from all my staff who are involved with this, so that consideration is, is fair and that, uh, we don't take away from where this program is most needed. So at this time, for this year, for this trip, it will be only made available to students from the Nunatsiavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Andersen. Ordinary Member Andersen, do you have a supplemental question? Okay, thank you. At this time, I'd like to turn the Chair back to the Speaker of the Assembly.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Deputy Speaker. The next second question is going to come from AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard of Postville. When you're ready, sir.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable President, Johannes Lampe. In the President's Address this morning, he mentioned a number of things, Mr. Speaker. One of those things was a good chunk of funding for the Justice Department from Canada. I'd like to ask the Honourable President, is that for new initiatives, or, like, do you know if that's for some new initiatives within the Justice System or is it related to services that we're already getting, just to be improved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti. Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Kippukamik. Yes, that is funding that the Nunatsiavut Government will be receiving as a geared toward the implementation of how this will support culturally appropriate and Indigenous-led and community-based services for justice and to build policies which are important. And so we will be hiring a Cultural Awareness Educator who will, as I understand it, will consult with Labrador Inuit and to make sure that we have an all-inclusive Justice service, whether it be for policing, for the courts where the Legal Aid, you know, the record of Legal Aid is not very good for Labrador Inuit where the lawyers, you know, do

consult their clients in a hotel bathroom, which is not nice. And so we hope those things will change. And this funding, as Minister Lametti, the Federal Minister of Justice pointed out to me at a virtual Teams meeting. And so this funding will also be geared toward Nunatsiavut Government's Family Violence Prevention, as an example. And so-, and as I said earlier, that \$400,000 will also be provided for over three years, to support Inuit-Led engagement, which to me means that we'll be able to inform the development of an Indigenous Justice Strategy. We will be able to do what fits Labrador Inuit. As history has pointed out to us over the years, we have been given policies by the Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Newfoundland which did not, and still do not fit Labrador Inuit. And so this funding will provide-, and another number is \$547,000 over six years to support continued work of the Nunatsiavut Government to increase access to community-based justice services. And this announcement is very important to us and it will require the help of Labrador Inuit to come out and to provide information that is important. And so, I thank the AngajukKâk for Postville for the question. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard from Postville, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, no, I don't.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next person that I saw was, yes, Chairperson Patricia Kemuksigak from the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Minister Vincent. Will you recommend or commit your staff to reviewing the formula for moose distribution, as many people have moved to Happy Valley-Goose Bay for medical purposes since it was put in place many years ago, probably in the mid-2000's? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: I'm sorry, I missed part of your question. Was it recommended or commit?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I wanted to ask if you could recommend or commit to your staff, your Department to review the moose formula-, distribution formula as we get 4.3 percent of what Nunatsiavut gets, but there's more and more people moving to Goose Bay for medical reasons than when it was probably put in place in 2008 or 2009. So the demand is growing and growing. And also, we're interested in being able to provide to Long-term care and hospitals and stuff like that. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Vincent?

MR. VINCENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Member for your question. Yes, this is something we can take under advisement with our staff. Right now, I can't give you a definite question but I will take it under advisement. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The Minister has taken it under advisement. I saw that Ordinary Member Roland Saunders of the Canadian Constituency has a question. When you're ready, sir.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the First Minister. Can you give me a complete breakdown of the number of Members in each and every community including Upper Lake Melville and Canadian Constituency? You had a number of 6924 this morning. I would like that broken down into each community, please. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. First Minister Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, both for the question. I do not have this information available. I would take it under advisement.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there any other second questions? Seeing none, at this time, I will step away from the Speaker's Chair and hand it over to my Deputy.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Do you have a question?

MR. WINTERS: I do. This is a question for the Honourable Minister Thomas Evans. It's a secondhand question from our event in St. John's. When one of our constituents asked about pay rates in the Land Claim Area and within the Government, and they asked if it was being reviewed to have an increase, you said, yes. I would like to know what kind of timetable we're looking at for seeing a review of pay rates for the NG in the Land Claim Area?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Minister Evans, do you have a reply?

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question, Bryan. I think the question was-, you can correct me if I'm wrong or whatever-, the question was, "Are the Nunatsiavut Civil Service receiving a living wage?"

And I think the rationale behind the question was that some members of the Civil Services were accessing the Food Supplement Benefits under DHSD. So I can tell you, quite frankly, that all the Civil Service, the wage that they receive is a living wage, like I think when you look at the question of Members of the Civil Servicing being able to access some of the programs, it goes to like the criteria that was established for the programs. And I don't want to speak to the program that Minister Asivak's program, but I think we might be comparing apples to oranges. Like for example, an individual working for the Civil Service might have another spouse, and they might have two children in the household, right? So when you compare the criteria that they could avail of the Food Supplement, like because of their children, two adults, they may go into a category that might be above the monthly income, you know? So having had said that, I can assure you that Nunatsiavut Civil Service with the salary scale that we have, they're all receiving a living wage. But having said that, our HR Division-, you might've heard in my report, we have hired a consultant to review all recruitment retention benefits or whatever. I have to thank our Ministers as well for like just bringing it forward that-, I think the review was supposed to happen some time ago but because of COVID it didn't. Unfortunately, it didn't go ahead. But there's plans at the executive level that we are hoping with our team, our Department will do a full analysis of all the recruitment retention help-, we can make Nunatsiavut the employer of choice, you know? Like we-, I know there's other issues that we have to-, we're working on in terms of staff housing, office space, but

that's coming together, 'cause we're working together with Nunatsiavut Affairs. And I think going forward, we're hoping to-, like we hope to have it like available for one of the NEC meetings in January, sometime in January. And, you know, January is fast approaching and we are still struggling to get a HR Director. And we just lost our HR Manager. But we're still working to hope to get this completed, right? But like for as your question, and I'm glad you asked it because it was brought up at the Open House, right? And I didn't think I provided, like, you know, answer, at the time. But I can tell you, the Nunatsiavut Civil Service pays a living wage.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Evans. Do you have a supplementary question, Ordinary Member Winters?

MR. WINTERS:

I do not. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

At this time, I'd like to turn the chair back to the Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Seeing that there are no other second questions, are there any second questions, anymore? No? Okay. We'll be moving on to Item Eight, "Written Questions." Please follow me here. We're just gonna go through what there isn't, essentially. There are no written questions. Item Nine, "Return to Written Questions," there are no return to written questions today. Item 10, "Petitions," there are no petitions today. Item 11, "Responses to petitions." There will be no responses today. Item 12, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees," there are no standing on special committee reports today. Item 13, "Tabling of documents," there are no tabling of documents today. We'll move on to Item 14, "Notices of

Motions." There are no notices of motions today. We'll move on to Item 15, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of motion for first readings. Item 16, "Motions." There are no motions today. Item 17, "First Reading of Bills." There are no first reading of bills today. Item 18, "Second Reading of Bills." There are no second readings of bills today. We will move on to Item 19, "Assent to Bills." There are no assent to bills today. Item 20 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until our next scheduled sitting of this session. I wish you all safe travels home and we will see you again in March. Thank you, to those who are listening online and to our support staff who make the Assembly Sittings happen. Ches Evans from IT, Sarah Abel from the OKâlaKatiget Society, our amazing interpreter, Katie Winters, Assistant to the Clerk of the Assembly, Tabea Onalik, our Secretary Receptionist Nancy Rose, and Pages, Madison Dicker and Jamie Pijogge. *Nakummek. Nakummesuak.*