



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

**SPRING SESSION
3RD Session
2nd 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 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, Mrs. Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard

Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeffrey Montague

Chairperson 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

Excused:

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honourable Terry Vincent

AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glen Sheppard

**The Nunatsiavut Assembly proceedings were recorded in Inuktitut and English.
March 13, 2023
Assembly commenced at 9:00AM March 13, 2023**

Due to technical difficulties with the audio recording Item 1 and Item 2 of the Orders of the Day are missing.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

[Speaks in Inuktitut]

Mr. Speaker, the event featured conference sessions, a trade show, workshops, an arts and crafts pavilion, and provided an opportunity for meetings with Federal politicians and officials as well as other governments, businesses, groups and agencies. It was a very busy and productive week, Mr. Speaker for our delegation. We held meetings, including with Crown Indigenous Relations Minister, Marc Miller, Transport Minister Omar Alghabra and Rural and Economic Development Minister, Gudie Hutchings. Officials with ACOVA and the Government of Greenland, among others. While we only provided \$5,000 in sponsorship for Northern Lights, Mr. Speaker, we were a Diamond Sponsor because of our participation, particularly, our artists, craft persons and businesses. I should note that our many talented artists did quite well during the Artist Pavilion over the two days, Mr. Speaker. All participating artists sold more than \$400,000 worth of goods.

[Speaks in Inuktitut]

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I just want to note that ITK's Executive Training Program is scheduled to visit all five Labrador Inuit communities the week of March 20. This tour usually takes place in Nunatsiavut every

four years. This week-long learning experience now held twice a year in the spring and fall, in different Inuit regions of Inuit Nunangat. The goal of the program is to inform participants with a firsthand account of on the ground realities within Inuit Nunangat. I encourage all members to take part in the tour by meeting with the participants and providing an overview of some of the issues and challenges within your respective communities.

Nakummek, UKatti.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Item three, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." It is good to be back in Hopedale after a week of delays, and I would like to welcome those in the gallery today and thank them for their interest in the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Please note that Minister Terry Vincent and AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard are excused from this Assembly. I would like to recognize Mark Gillette, our Director of Legal Services. The pages for this sitting are Isaac Abel and Martyne Basto. The Interpreter Translator is Katie Winters and we would like to send our thoughts and prayers to Gus Semigak and his family today as he lays to rest his beloved wife Lena. We also have interpreters Simeonie Merkeratsuk and Silpa Saurak who are here from the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism. We are very pleased you are here and happy to support the further training of our interpreter translators. Damien Pottle is the IT staff assisting this Assembly. As well, we would like to recognize the OKâlaKatiget Society staff, Sarah Abel. If there are any questions around travel and logistics, please see the Assistant to the Clerk, Tabea Onalik. We will now move on to Item Four. Item Four is, "Ministers Statements." Are

there any Ministers Statements today? The first hand that I saw was the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Nakummek. Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for Membership enrollment, Justice, Transportation, Housing, Public Property and Infrastructure, Legal Services and Implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. Working with Nunatsiavut Government Human Resources, Nunatsiavut Affairs is conducting an organizational overview to ensure the Department is supported with the appropriate staff to match the demands of our divisions. We need to provide staff with the tools to tackle membership issues, increasing infrastructure investments, maintenance and housing in the coming years, and also the needs of those we serve. Membership and Enrollment: The Membership Workshop was held February 7th to 9th, 2023. Myself, and Deputy Minister Shiwak, Department of Membership workshops held in Goose Bay from February 6th to the 9th. To support the committees and the Appeal Board as they continue with the important work they do. Also, to hear directly from the Committees and Appeal Board on recommendations and concerns moving forward. The need for one database of Inuit Ancestry is one area of the utmost importance to the committees and the Appeal Board. The Ancestry Database: Nunatsiavut Affairs has re-released the Ancestry database request for proposals on January 30th, 2023 and it closed on February 27th, 2023. One proposal was received in this tender call. NG has 90 days to review the proposal and make a decision. Membership Office: The Membership Office consists of the Registrar of beneficiaries, the

Membership Clerk and the Filing Clerk, although the Filing Clerk position is vacant right now. Public Property: Mr. Speaker, this construction season we plan to have 13 new buildings being constructed and one major addition to an existing NG building to help accommodate the need for additional office space. The new construction buildings are a mix of staff housing, seniors housing and social housing, office space and shelters and a few other miscellaneous buildings. Ocean Protections Plan: Nunatsiavut Affairs has put in our application for safe freight storage facilities in Hopedale and Makkovik. Infrastructure Planning: The Infrastructure Strategy continues to be developed to ensure a plan is in place to spend the \$61 million in Infrastructure Funds from the Federal Government over the next four to five years. The infrastructure has started the Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut, Create Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Strategy. After spending a significant amount of time scoping this project, we have started some of the comprehensive projects that will provide a cohesive path towards a 20-year vision through an Infrastructure Masterplan Land-use policy, Shared Information Library, Evidenced-based Decision-making Framework. The Division, in partnership with Economic Development, is developing an Economic Development Strategy for the construction sector that will evaluate and provide recommendations on how to build construction capacity and support economic development to the communities in Nunatsiavut. Consulting with the Inuit Community Governments, the Nunatsiavut Government Infrastructure Team is also working to enhance capacity to manage and support Infrastructure

development in our communities with additional staff and resources.

Housing: Nunatsiavut Housing Commission: Mr. Speaker, current programming for the Commission includes the 2023 Home Repair Program. Applications closed on February 10th, 2023-, 165 applications were received. The Nunatsiavut Housing Commission will be developing programs over the next few months which will become clearer if the Budget is approved by the Nunatsiavut Government.

Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program: The 2022 Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program will be administered by the Nunatsiavut Government. Inspections are complete for the program. Scopes of work are being finalized and successful applicants to the program will be informed in the near future.

Housing Strategy: To ensure that the Nunatsiavut Government Housing funds are spent for the betterment of Inuit Housing, a Housing Strategy will be developed for the next 5 to 10 years. This strategy will be tabled at the Nunatsiavut Assembly in Fall 2023 with a Capital Plan that allows for construction in 2024, 2025. As per the *Housing Act 2019*, the strategy will be a Nunatsiavut Government Housing Strategy and will require input from the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission.

Nain Airport: Mr. Speaker, the current status of the feasibility studies for Nain Airport are as follows: R5, R6, R7 and R12 are currently underway. R8, and R9 are going to RFP, and R10 and R11 are to be completed at the end of 2024. The three levels of Government are meeting to discuss harmonization, developing a harmonization approach and agreement to the EA, IA processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. The next minister to speak will be Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. [Speaks in Inuttitut]

Some key areas that we're working on in Tourism: Our Tourism staff have updated an implementation plan for the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy now that we have both the Tourism Development Officer positions filled. Staff are working hard on a wide variety of projects. The Arts Pavilion at Northern Lights Conference was a great success with over \$400,000 in sales in just 14 hours. We are still waiting on the total amount of sales for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries and will update when we have those numbers. Through our Experience and Product Development Plan for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, we have completed a grass workshop in Rigolet with instructor Jane Shiwak. We were planning on offering a square dance workshop but may have to push it to a later date in the fall due to interest. We will also be offering a one-day Best Service Training in Rigolet through Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador the last week of March. An expression of interest is put out for this training. Our Director of Tourism continues to work on the Torngat Mountain Basecamp and Research Station file. We have a vacancy for the Torngat Mountains Activities Planner position that we hope to have filled in the near future.

[Speaks in Inuttitut]

In the areas under Language and Culture, Noah Nochasak and Andrea Procter are being contracted to create a Kayak book. This book will have a collection of stories and interviews gathered by Noah through various interviews and archival records-, the How-to's of building a Labrador Kayak with photos, et cetera. This book is meant for Nunatsiavimiut to have accessible information on Labrador Kayak history and will be available to all schools as well as for sale for anyone who might be interested. The Language Staff successfully held the 2023 Terminology Workshop from February 21 to 24. Thirty-two participants attended from all Nunatsiavut communities, Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency.

[Speaks in Inuttitut]

(Inaudible) 25:51 Program Community Consultations in Makkovik and Hopedale. Due to weather, the other communities have been postponed. Dates to be determined but will happen before March 31st. Staff are working on an On-the-Land workplan for the 2023 year. This workplan will help staff in planning On-the-Land/Language Camp programming for different age groups throughout the year. And the first camp will start this spring. Staff are continuing to take lead from the Language Strategy, and Year-Two activities are now occurring.

[Speaks in Inuttitut]

We continue to review land use and mineral exploration applications. We continue to write and review reports from our own fieldwork and the archaeologists who held permits in Nunatsiavut this past season.

[Speaks in Inuttitut]

We continue our work on the Torngat Area of Interest and our last community engagement session happened this past weekend in Makkovik.

[Speaks in Inuttitut] *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Barbour. We will next hear from the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll briefly update on three divisions, Health Services, Family Services, Mental Wellness and Healing. Nursing face-to-face meetings were held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay the end of January. During this meeting, all staff completed CPR recertification. World TB Day, March 24th 2023: Community events are planned, prizes and swag are ordered and starting to arrive for distribution to the communities. Non-Insured Health Benefits: Vision, the mobile eye team Cowan's Optical visited the week of February 20th to 24th. Medical Transportation: Many referral issues coming from the Nain Clinic. Insufficient or lack of information being received in order to complete travel requests by the NIHB Medical Transportation staff. NG, NIHB Team met with Labrador Grenfell Health Senior Team for Community Clinics on February 20th, 2023, to highlight and address these issues. Hygienist visit: Wendy Wells just completed her last trip and has given notice on her resignation. All communities were visited during January and February. We will be recruiting for another hygienist. Dental Visits: All communities were

visited during January and February. There are no current dates scheduled for dentist Dr. Crocker at this time. 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 our communities. Health Promotion Regional Committee: The first meeting of this group took place mid-January 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 Inuit Health Survey Manager started on Monday January 23rd. Please welcome Tina Ponniuk to the role. Plans are ongoing to resume survey data collection in Rigolet. Mental Wellness and Healing. March 7th and 8th the Director and Manager of Mental Wellness and Healing attended the Provincial Recovery Forum where part of the director's role as a member of the Indigenous Health Team was to discuss land-based programming. The director provided an overview of the cultural mental wellness components, our Division and their priorities, as well as an overview of some of our land-based cultural programs delivered in the past couple of years. We have a network meeting on the 20th of March in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with multiple local justice partners, DHSD staff and staff from First Light in St. John's to discuss how we better support those exiting the correctional system, as well for individuals returning to Labrador. Lateral Violence training for staff has commenced and is taking place in two cohorts. First

cohort 2023 and the second to begin in June. Our Child Youth Mental Health teams just returned from a networking meeting in St. John's where they met with folks from the Janeway, Amal, et cetera. Mr. Speaker, Canada's Round Table to take place in Ottawa next month and the Director of Mental Wellness and Healing and a health educator will be attending. We are in the midst of completing applications for the Mental Health First Aid Inuit to increase training capacity to take place in June and our second training to be determined for the fall of 2023. New Community Justice Worker position to be posted for Nain or Hopedale in the coming days which will provide some case management, service navigation services for those involved in the Criminal Justice System, Prevention and Early Intervention Programming geared toward reducing recidivism, and to also focus on prevention of justice involved for those at risk. And finally, Mr. Speaker, Family Services: Inuit Child First Initiative: We have been experiencing a significant increase in applications for ISFI. We'd like to advise beneficiaries that these applications for services and support are for Nunatsiavut Beneficiary children aged zero to 18. If a parent is interested in applying for a service or support for their child, a letter of support is required to accompany the application. The letter of support must come from a service provider who is directly involved with your child and can speak to the need for the service or supports. Caring for our Children Project: We have had a number of foster parents reach out to us requesting a bedroom built onto their home to accommodate their current foster child or kinship placement or are interested in becoming a foster

parent if they had an addition built onto their home. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, our staff are working diligently through different pathways, including Nunatsiavut Government, CSSD, and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation for a solution to this issue. We acknowledge that housing in Nunatsiavut is a major barrier. And we are advocating for a solution to support our Nunatsiavut Beneficiary Foster Parents in our homeland. We appreciate your patience as we work through this issue. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The next Ministers Statement that we will receive is from the Minister of Human Resources, Information Technology and Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans. But I will mention to the Minister that we have eight minutes before I will have to ask for consensus to continue. So just keep an eye out in case I have to pause you. *Nakummek.*

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just provide a short, brief statement for Day One. And Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Government partnered with Bell Canada on the Labrador North Wireless Broadband Project. During Northern Lights I met with the Minister Gudie Hutchings. We discussed the importance of this project and the profound impacts it will have on our region. Funding from the Government of Canada's Universal Broadband Fund was originally announced in March 2022 for this project. Bell Canada did work this past summer visiting each remote site and developing fulsome plans for the project. There are weekly meetings with Bell Canada and the Director of IT, Information Technology, working on various aspects such as statement of work, project timelines et cetera. We also have regular meetings with the officials from the Government of Canada.

Recruitment and retention is the top priority of the Government, Mr. Speaker. In 2022 calendar year there were 150 new recruitments and to date in 2023 we have 34 new job competitions. This figure does not include the re-advertisement of current job competitions. So the actual number of job ads released is much higher. We have engaged a professional services firm to conduct a jurisdictional scan of current recruitment and retention packages being offered in the North, or to remote locations. This information will help my staff as they look at recruitment and retention strategies for the Government. My department is also reviewing the distribution of job ads, looking at ways to expand the reach of them and improvements to the actual job ads. We have also had preliminary discussions on how to market the Nunatsiavut Government and Nunatsiavut as a place to work and live. Mr. Speaker, our department continues to be quite active and busy. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Evans. Are there any further Ministers Statements? Seeing none, we will move on to Item Five. Item Five is "Members Statements." Are there any Members Statements? The first person that I saw was Mr. Jeff Montague, Chairperson for the Sivunivut Inuit Corporation.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to express sincere condolences to the families who have passed in the last several weeks. I would like to extend condolences to the families of Catherine Russell, William Palliser, Gregory Michelin, and also John White. I didn't get the opportunity of knowing Mrs. Russell. However, I did know Mr. Palliser, Mr. White and Mr.

Michelin, quite well. Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of updates since our last sitting. Sivunivut's Community Freezer operating hours have been expanded to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 to 4:00 to better serve our members. A couple of weeks ago, Sivunivut made a purchase of caribou from the local grocery store to be used by the Community Freezer. This wasn't a cheap purchase, Mr. Speaker, but we have members in our community that are on modest or fixed incomes. With those people in mind, along with the mandate of the Community Freezer policy, a decision was made to purchase the caribou which had been such an important part of our diets in the past. The feedback from our members has been very positive, to say the least. Also, Mr. Speaker, on February 28th, Sivunivut hosted an open house where Ordinary Members Gerald Asivak and Wally Anderson attended, along with Program Coordinator Joann Hibbs and I. There was a greater than expected turnout with about 19 people from the communities in attendance. Issues and questions were brought up that I and the Ordinary Members took note of. And some of those issues and questions will be brought up today, Mr. Speaker. Along with all that, Mr. Speaker, Sivunivut Crafting Afternoons that are held every Thursday have been going very well with a steady group of members coming each week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member to give a statement will be Patricia Kemuksigak of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. We finished another computer internet training program for elders as of February 13th. The last course that will take place started March 7th and will run until the end of the month. We would like to thank New Horizons for Seniors Funding through Employment and Social Development Canada for funding this project for the last two years.

Traditional food for the Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer: We have been buying rabbits and partridges when they are available, however, rabbits are getting very scarce. In January 2023, 174 beneficiary families visited the Community Freezer. In February 2023, 150 families visited the freezer. So our numbers are very high. On February 27th, our Provincial Moose Licence was filled and we received much needed moose meat.

Funding Applications: As our funding from the Nunatsiavut Government is low, we have to apply for funding to help operate the Community Freezer and to offer traditional crafts and Inuttitut classes. I applied to the United Way and Food Banks of Canada for funds for the freezer. I have been unsuccessful in trying to contact anyone from our local Trust to find out if they are accepting applications. NunaKatiget is very pleased that our proposal for New Horizons for Seniors Through Employment and Social Development Canada, was accepted for 2023-'24. The \$25,000 grant will provide activities for elders who are very isolated and do not have an opportunity to socialize. We will be partnering with Memorial University Pye Centre to have elder groups there in spring, summer and fall. And also elder group activities at the Moravian Church Annex, Headland Apartments and Mud Lake. Also yesterday, Trades NL gave us \$5,000 from

their Health and Wellness Impact Grants that will help with the Community Freezer and to buy a freezer. The highlight of the month of February was when our group, the Labrador Anchor Nutrition Collaborative, prepared and cooked a traditional meal for the seniors in the Long-Term Care. That happened on February 9th and NunaKatiget provided-, made char fish cakes and we provided the partridges for the partridge soup and it was so wonderful. The elders were so excited and they felt-, and many people expressed that they felt like they were home because they don't get a chance to eat traditional food. They also had redberry and bake apple tarts and redberry juice and the redberryes were donated by the Metis. The group has also purchased caribou from CRB in North West River and they had caribou soup on Valentine's Day. And they will continue to have caribou on special occasions. We are gonna contact our hunters to try to get partridges and rabbits for the Long-Term Care through this project. Mr. Speaker, our Mud Lake visit went really well. Wally Andersen, Debbie Hynes, the Community Freezer Coordinator and I, went to Mud Lake on January 31st. We prepared food and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Following the meal, we had bingo and chatted with the beneficiaries. Unfortunately, Gerald was unable to attend as he was sick. But we certainly missed him. And it's really good that we plan trips together. It cuts out on the costs and then there's many hands to help. Traditional crafts-, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. As a reminder, there are two statements per day that you have available to you but they're only five minutes at a time.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: So I'll call on you for your second half when it comes around.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The next person who will give a Members Statement is Wally Andersen, the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and with a heavy agenda, I guess, with the budget, I chose this time to make just one ministerial statement. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult things that we face from time to time is when we lose loved ones. And it seems that over the last number of months, that, you know, it's hit our people very hard. I remember on a Wednesday afternoon, sitting down with Kay Russell and her husband as I paid them a visit in their home and she expressed some concerns to me about what she felt that our Government could do to make things better for beneficiaries. And the following Sunday morning, or evening, I think I learned that she had passed away. Greg Michelin, a long-time friend of mine, who I got knowing, going to school in North West River. Mr. Speaker, my long and dear friend Wilson that we lost a short time ago and for, I guess for our family, myself and my brother Tony, that we got to know a lot of the families when they first got relocated. And it-, our bonds go back for quite a few years. And I can remember Wilson, when I first ran in 1996 and we

had a debate, myself and the PC candidate, and Wilson was the one who did the interviews. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that we had an open house and myself and my colleague Gerald Asivak with the Chair of the Community Corporation for North West River, we-, it was a large turnout. And as Patricia mentioned, we had an open house in Mud Lake and when you reach out to your constituents, that's the greatest thing that any elected Member can ever do. It's not what you give them or what you promise them, but when you have the face-to-face meeting with them, that's the most important thing to them. Mr. Speaker, we all watched the opening of the Winter Games in the hub of Labrador, Happy Valley-Goose Bay last night and it was quite a show. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest concerns I hear from our beneficiaries, from Nain right down to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and beyond, is that the COVID money that people were getting has run out or will run out the last of March. And Mr. Speaker, we have so many people that it's gonna have such a big impact on. And a lot of people are scared. The COVID money was a blessing and all you gotta do is walk around and visit people and they'll show you that the income that they had and what that COVID money done to them to help their children and to put food on the table. And I think if there's anything that can ever be done as a Government, I think we should look and dig deep and to see if there's something that we can do to help the low-income families in-, of our beneficiaries. So Mr. Speaker again, as I said, with the-, a lot of time needed for the budget, I won't make a second statement. So I'll just stick with one statement today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. Are there any other Members Statements? Okay, the first one that I saw was the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Gerald Asivak, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to TJ Gear and Danielle Gear of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, attended the National Power Lifting Championship in Vancouver, British Columbia. Congrats on their amazing accomplishments. Continued success to you both and everyone who trains at Gears Gains. As noted by my colleagues, we partnered with Sivunivut on Tuesday, February 28th. We've had a great feedback from the members. They appreciated the Government and corporation updates, question and answer and great feedback. Members were very appreciative of the work that is being done and would like to see another virtual Inuttitut session offered that happened during COVID-19 presented by Ms. Sarah Townley. They were happy to hear about the regressed talks on the 12E Migratory Bird hunt. They also want NG to send a powerful statement on the proposed Gull Island project, that they do not want to end up with the effects of Muskrat Falls methylmercury in North West River. Questions were also brought up about the Food Fishery 10-year Agreement expiring in two years. Another concern was food security with the COVID-19 Food Supplement Program ending March 31st. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, condolences to the family of the late Ms. Kay Russell of North West River, to the family of the late Mr. Bill Palliser of North West River, and to the family of the late Margaret O'Leary of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Ordinary Member to speak will be Roxanne Barbour, the Ordinary Member for Nain, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek UKatti. You might have to remind me to stop because I have a couple of pages so just tell me when, okay? Okay, under Celebrations, on January 25, the young men in my community celebrated their Moravian milestone into manhood. Young Men's Day: This day is to celebrate the coming of age of a man. There was a total of 10 young men who celebrated their day. At this time, I would like to wish the newest young men in my community of Nain the best of luck throughout their life journey: Caleb Dicker, Donovan Pijogge, Daniel Saurak, Robert Merkeratsuk, Menzel Lidd, Gilbert Obed, Trent Obed, Charlie Obed, Steven Mistenapeo and Ian Dicker. On January 31st-, sorry, I was trying to be fast-, on January 31st, Gordon and Silpa Obed celebrated 50 years of marriage. And on March 11, Herman and Jane Webb also celebrated 50 years of marriage. I would like to wish them both many more years of love, happiness, joy and good health. On February 2, the widows in my community also celebrated their day. This day is a Moravian tradition that supports widows in their grieving journey, as well as an identifier for the community so that the community knows who requires more help. There were a total of eight widowers who celebrated their special day this year, Mary Andersen, Sue Maggo, Maria Ikkusek, Josephine Mikkie Semigak, Maggie Kohlmeister, Joanna Dicker, Pauline Tuglavina and Alice Harris. At this time I would like to recognize these strong women who continue to persevere through the tough times in their lives and doing so without their life partners. Strong women, may

we know them, may we be them, and may we raise them. On February 11th, Robert Harris celebrated his 50th birthday, and on February 21st, Benigna Susan Merkeratsuk also celebrated her 50th birthday. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Mr. Harris and Ms. Merkeratsuk many more years of happiness, joy and good health. Church Festival Day is celebrated on February 19th, recognizing (inaudible) 57:23, later named Peter, who was the first Labrador Inuk to be baptized into Moravian faith. On March 6th the young women in my community celebrated their Moravian milestone into womanhood, Young Women's Day. This day is to celebrate the becoming age of a woman. There were a total of 10 young women who celebrate this day and at this time I would like to wish the newest young women in my community if Nain, the best of luck throughout their life journey, Anna Obed, Angel Dyson, Josephine Semigak, Serenity Ivany, Kashia Hay Jenkins, Solomena Lidd, Chastity Rose Ikkusek, Kayla Merkeratsuk, Geraldine Andersen and Shania Winters. Between January 22 and April 6, there will be a maximum of four nickel shipments from the Voisey's Bay mine site. Vale, in partnership with Sikumiut mark the ships track with coloured and reflective trail markers from surrounding areas of Humby's Island, right into Edwards Cove. There are five safe crossing bridges put out at the areas of Humby's Island, Pukjauak, Natak, Tattuk, Caver Island and Paniavik after the ship goes into Voisey's, and four safe-crossing bridges at Taber Island, John Hayes Harbour, Tattuk and Niatak put out after the ship leaves Voisey's Bay. These safe crossings are for hunter, harvesters in the area and if anyone requires any further

information regarding the exports and safe crossings, they can call the Shipping Information line at 1-877-922 - SHIP or Joey Angnatok or Sydney Dicker or check out the Vale website. Nain was designated a 12-hour layover for the bi-annual Cain's Quest snowmobile endurance race. Even though the race was discontinued due to safety and well-being of participants, at this time, I would like to recognize Kristy Howell who takes pride and responsibility in organizing the volunteer group for the checkpoint layover, and like to recognize all of the volunteers for providing their time and effort in the preparations for a smooth layover. There was a total of 25 volunteers at Checkpoint 14. I would like to acknowledge Tony E Andersen or as our Nainimiut call him-, okay, I'll finish after. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member of the Assembly I'll call on is AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

MR. C. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my condolences out to Arch Flower's family who has recently passed. We lost another great elder. We've been losing quite a few lately. We just recently had the Winter Sports Meet held in Rigolet which was a great success. It was good to see all the young athletes out competing. It was a little cold. It was pretty-, minus 30 or more with windchill, but they all had fun. And I'd like to congratulate the NLA Eagles who just won Regionals in Goose Bay, there just there last couple days ago and wish them luck in the Provincials in a couple weeks. We had a lot of rain there the last week, which caused a lot of troubles for our community with the water run-off the brooks and our winter trails and all the snow melted off the ice. We had the bridge

flooding from the school, which caused a shut-down for a couple days. But luckily, we got it under control for now. So I'd just like to let the people know that to travel safe on going to Goose Bay and to the cabins. And SmartICE started up this year which is good. And it's great to have the information about our ice as we're traveling, especially during springtime, Spring Seal Hunt. And we're gonna have a council by-election coming soon and hopefully we'll get some more members for that. And that's it. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, August 8th, 2023 [*sic*] is known as International Women's Day. It is a global day celebrating the social economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for increasing women's equality. International Women's Day has occurred for well over a century with the first International Women's Day gathering in 1911, supported by over a million people. International Women's Day belongs to all groups collectively, everywhere. International Women's Day is not a country, a group or organization-specific. Imagine a gender-equal world, a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination, a world that's diverse, equitable and inclusive, a world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively, we can all embrace equality-, equity, celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about discrimination, take action to drive gender priority. International

Women's Day belongs to everyone everywhere. Inclusion means all International Women's Day action is valid. I end with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt which I found on the internet and I found it quite neat because we can relate. "A woman is like a tea bag. You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Happy International Women's Day, especially to my work colleagues sitting at this table. Working in our HICG office and sitting on our Inuit Community Governments. Mr. Speaker, sadly, we have lost another beautiful elder from our community. I extend my deepest condolences to Gus Semigak and his three children, Justine, John and Ida, on the passing of Lena, Gus's wife and their mother. Lena also worked as a Home Support Worker with DHSD for many years. She was hard-working, gentle and kind. Inuttitut was near and dear to her heart. She spoke it often, especially to those who wanted to learn the language. She will be missed by our whole community. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now here from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, the Honourable Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Good to be back in Hopedale. Good to see familiar faces. The Canadian Constituency Members are still having problems understanding how they seem to be the only members having their membership questioned, a letter sent them asking to re-apply for their membership once again. Each month we keep hearing from members stating that they have had their membership under review and are asking other coastal communities

having such letters sent to them? Mr. Speaker, over the course of the Food Supplement Program, we have had many constituency members contact us and mention that they were denied the program because of the way the application was sent out, the questions were confusing for many. They mentioned that the original form was too long and invasive, having to show proof by providing a notice of assessment from previous year was a clear violation, they thought of their privacy. We know that there were many mistakes over the first year, and again with the second round of funding, but that's part of life. Another concern that our members have is that the Food Supplement Program is coming to an end, and they want to know if Nunatsiavut will be trying to access more funds from the Federal Government to help offset the high cost of food? This program was a blessing to the many single parents, unemployed and working poor, as well as the retired members that qualified. Not everyone was pleased with the way that the funds were distributed. Their reasoning is that poor is poor, no matter where you live, no matter where you work. And giving more funds and programs seemed to help a lot of people. But then the funding was supposed to be for all members no matter where you live. All Canadian Constituency members ask is to be treated equally. And that is all that they ever ask for. Mr. Speaker there is a questionnaire posted on our Facebook page asking our members as to how we can best serve them with regards to the programs and support services offered by Nunatsiavut. We are also asking that what concerns they have and would like brought forth to the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the questionnaire also asks for their email address

and phone numbers as a faster way for us to contact all members with news and information. This is a huge undertaking for us as we are spread across the world's second largest country. Thank you to the Language Coordinator Brenda Jararuse and Shirley Jararuse for inviting two Canadian Constituency members to Nain to participate in the Terminology Workshop. They were Sarah Anala and William Andersen. I am quite confident that Canada was well represented by these two members. But this workshop was by invitation only. It was never posted on Nunatsiavut web page. No open application process, no process that other members that are fluent in Inuttitut, just the known and connected were contacted. We represent over 2000 members. And to have this system still in place for selecting members is out of context of equal opportunity and representation. Mr. Speaker, coming to the Canadian Constituency soon, some good news, the North American Indigenous Games. The Games will be held in Halifax and Dartmouth area beginning July 15th and ending July 23rd, 2023. I hope that Nunatsiavut will be represented by the athletes from across Canada and in particular, coastal Labrador. Thank you, very much.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now call on Barry Andersen, AngajukKâk for Makkovik.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A brief Members Statement this afternoon, as my AngajukKâk friend from Rigolet just mentioned, I'd like to congratulate our athletes from Makkovik who participated in the school sports meet in Rigolet. They done really well and they're well-, by all accounts they were

well received and had a great time in Rigolet even though the temperatures, as mentioned, were quite cold. I've seen lots of pictures on Facebook where people are running and outdoors, having a great time despite all that. The Heritage Forum, as mentioned, I think was mentioned earlier, that took part in Makkovik last weekend, but we did have an extended stay of a lot of the participants for, I think it was 10 days all together in Makkovik. AngajukKâk Dicker and Marjorie Flowers were also there for an extended period of time. But I think the turnout was good and we had some good discussions with regards to the Heritage that we're trying to promote in Nunatsiavut. And I'd like to also congratulate all the team members and wish them well for the Labrador Winter Games as my AngajukKâk friend Ordinary Member mentioned from Goose Bay that started yesterday. So best of luck to the team from Makkovik and friendly competitions all around. I'll have another statement tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any more first statements from people who haven't already spoken? Yeah, I'm recognizing Ordinary Member George Gear of Postville, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the ones that's gone up to represent our community of Postville in the Labrador Winter Games. As you all know, we're the smallest community on the coast and it's very hard to get people to go, but we got a full team going up, so I hope it goes well. And I wish them the best of luck. And I'd like to also send my condolences to the Gus' family, Gus Semigak and family. Gus, I've known Gus ever since

I was a small, little boy. We used to fish together with my parents years ago up around Hopedale before I moved to Postville. And when I hear something like that, it just really shakes you up and I feel for Gus and his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Seeing no further first statements, I'll call upon Ordinary Member Roxanne Barbour of Nain, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. I'll just start where I took off. I would like to acknowledge Tony E. Andersen or as Nainimiut call him, Tractor Tony. He dedicates time and effort free of charge to help Nainimiut heat their homes. He's been rolling out random name draws to provide free loads of wood to those in need and it is done out of the kindness of his heart, and the care he has for our Inukatit. Mr. Speaker, Tractor Tony demonstrates true Inuit values and customs of sharing, community, and helping each other. *Nakummesuak, Tony.* You are an inspiration and role model to all. Over the weekend of January 21, the JHMS Huskies placed first overall at Table Tennis Regionals, hosted in Churchill Falls. Kyla Martin received the MVP award and their win at Regionals, advanced them to the Provincial competition. They traveled over February 10th weekend to Pilley's Island to participate. And during the first day of the tournament Tristan Denniston played a match against an individual who is considered the best in the Province, and he won the match. Peyton Dicker was also awarded most sportsman-like and the Huskies placed third overall in the Provincial Table Tennis Tournament. During the weekend of February 3, was the first Annual Mark Dicker Memorial Ice Hockey Tournament, and there was a 12

and Under Division, a women's division and a men's division. There were two 12 and under teams, two women's teams and five men's teams, consisted mostly of local players. A few players from Natuashish came to Nain to participate. This tournament was created in honour of the late Mark Dicker who loved to play ice hockey and was so good at it. If you've ever seen him skate, it was like he was floating on the ice. Congratulations to all the participants and champions of the tournament. And I look forward to watching and participating in the Second Annual Mark Dicker Ice Hockey Tournament. As other Members mentioned, during the weekend of February 17, was the Regional Winter Sports Meet that happened in Rigolet. Our student athletes from Nain were weather-bound for the first two days, but eventually, they made it to participate in ball hockey and badminton. Congratulations to the JHMS Huskies, Tristan Denniston, Samuel Flowers, Gilbert Obed, Peyton Dicker, Savannah Ivany and Serenity Ivany for taking home gold in ball hockey. And I wish them the best of luck at Regionals. Team Nain participated in a co-ed volleyball tournament in Natuashish during February and they ended up winning and came home with a grand prize of \$6,000. Way to go, Team Nain. March 3rd weekend was the Sixth Annual Grace Flowers Memorial Ice Hockey Tournament. There were two teams registered in the 12U Division, four teams registered in Female and five teams registered in the Men's Division. Congratulations to all players who participated and traveled in to play Nain's favourite sport, ice hockey. The 2023 Labrador Winter Games is happening this week. These Games created cherished memories, new

friendships, reaching to old friendships and bring Nunatsiavimiut together from each of our communities, Upper Lake Melville and sometimes even the Canadian Constituency. The Winter Games highlights the spirit of our communities and brings out the best athletic abilities in each and every athlete. This year's representatives from Nain are Stephen Denniston, Tristan Denniston, Michael Dyson Junior, Curtis Dicker, Jake Warren, Jeremy Howell, Shannon Howell, Caleb Dyson, Gustav Barbour, Sydney Dicker, Peyton Dicker, Samira Kohlmeister, Keryn Andersen, Sarah Karpik, Lena Onalik, Danika Winters and Coach Kelly Edmunds. Team Nain will be participating in the optional sports of volleyball, ball hockey, table tennis and badminton. Good luck, Amaguit. I'd like to wish good luck to Team Nain, who will be participating in the C Division Annual Ben Michel Memorial Ice Hockey Tournament happening in Sheshatshiu during the weekend of March 24th. There are teams that are going to Sheshatshiu from other First Nation Reserves of Quebec, Labrador City and other communities of Labrador that compete in this tournament. This will be the second year that Team Nain will be participating, and last year Team Nain was the champions of Division C. So good luck to all athletes attending that tournament. The last highlight I wanted to share is for Team NGC/Sikimiut. During the week of February 20th, Nunatsiavut Youth travelled to St. John's NL to participate in the 18U Male Female and NLVA Provincial Volleyball Championship. There was a total of 64 teams registered in three divisions. Our Nunatsiavut Youth registered in the Male

Division A, which is considered the elite division. Done? Okay. Okay.
Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I believe Chairperson Kemuksigak has a second statement?
When you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. In reference to traditional crafts, Cindy Pottle Allen will be instructing seal-skin craft courses in Mealy Mountain School every two weeks till the remainder of the year. Ms. Pottle-Allen went into the school in December to teach seal-skin ornament making. We are hoping to start a knitting course next week, and seal skin mitt-making in April. Many people, as was mentioned previously, are fearing the end of March when the Food Voucher Program will be ending because people, for the first time, have mentioned their fridges and freezers are full. They don't have to be worrying about being hungry and wondering what they can eat on very low incomes. So it's gonna be very difficult for the people. NunaKatiget would like to send condolences to the family of Lloyd Goudie who passed away in February. Lloyd loved performing to elders in the Long-Term care, and any time we asked him to sing to seniors, he would always do it. He will certainly be missed. We wanna send condolences to the family of Jackie Shiwak, Margaret O'Leary, John White and Kay Russell. Ms. Russel was our former Ordinary Member, Keith Russell's mother. And I also would like to wish all the athletes the best of luck in the Labrador Winter Games, as it's called, "The Friendly Games." *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other second Members Statements around the Table? Yeah, recognizing the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to all the athletes involved in the Labrador Winter Games 2023, the volunteers, the coordinators and sponsors. Have a great, fun week. I'm happy to help volunteer and attend events. My colleague, Mr. Wally Andersen and I are planning an open house in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for March or April. *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other second statements around the Table? Seeing none, we will take a 15-minute break, meaning we'll be back at 2:45. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Welcome back. We will now move on to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." At our January sitting, Ordinary Member Saunders asked First Minister Melva Williams, "Could you give me a complete breakdown of the number of Members in each and every community, including Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency. You had a number of 6,924 this morning. I would like that broken down into each community, please. I will now call upon First Minister Williams to provide her response.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Membership office is responsible for providing information on beneficiaries. A "Request for Information" should be made in writing to the Registrar. The request should include

what community they want information for, and what is the purpose of the request." Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation Chairperson Kemuksigak asked Minister Vincent, "Will you recommend or commit to your staff to reviewing the formula for moose distribution?" I will now read the written response provided by Minister Vincent as he is not here. Minister Vincent responded, "Our staff review the formula every year. If you want us to revise it, we certainly can, but that will mean taking more away from our Nunatsiavut communities. That's the only way to do it, and this decision would have to be approved by the NEC." There are no more- , oh, my apologies. Ordinary Member Wally Andersen asked First Minister Williams, "Recently, there has been Government business by the Provincial Government to the North Coast and there 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?" I will now call upon First Minister Melva Williams for her response.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunatsiavut Government is responsible for the acquisition of property for housing programs, including for the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. As of right now, there is no decision made by the Nunatsiavut Government to acquire NLHC housing units in any of the Inuit communities.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. There are no more Returns to Oral Questions today. So we will continue with Item Seven on our *Orders of the Day*. Are there any

"Oral Questions?" The first hand that I saw was Ordinary Member Wally Andersen of the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I will just ask one question and I won't be doing any supplementary. My question would be to the Minister of Finance or the First Minister. With the phasing of the COVID money that helped so many people, and we all know that it's gonna cause a lot of strain on the low-income families, single parents, single moms, more so than ever before with the high cost of living. I would ask either the Minister of Education or the First Minister, would you still consider trying to find ways in which you could come up with a block of money to help low-income families? And if you had to set a base, like those who are making under, say, for example, 40,000 or less, something along that line? And again, I ask either the First Minister or the Minister of Finance, would the Government still try to find a way to help low-income families in a very difficult time ahead?

MR. WINTERS:

Would either Minister like to provide a response?

MR. EVANS:

I can just respond and Melva can...

MR. WINTERS:

Calling upon Minister of Information Technologies and Human Resources and Finance, the Honourable Thomas Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question Honourable Member. I was just thinking-, I think everyone is thinking the same thing, you know? Like we realize that the COVID-19 money is over and that, like, we're trying to come together and try to ensure that we can help our people, you

know? One thing the COVID-19 Program did for us is that we got data that we can use that data for the-, to support our Nunatsiavut Food Strategic Security Action Plan. Right now from the Federal Government there's no specific program that we can apply for to get funding to continue the COVID-19, but we'll use the data that we have accumulated over the last three years to help advocate for additional funds, like, you know how you, you're probably aware of the advocating that took place and we were able to secure housing funding, not just like a one-time thing. We've got dedicated housing funding now and we used data to prove and back up the need for dedicated funding for infrastructure. And we have that now. And so with the data that we have accumulated over the COVID-19 pandemic, I think we can use that to continue to advocate for a long-term solution and deal with the food insecurity in the North. Like I think, hopefully we can-, like this is really important to-, if you look around the Table and you see your colleagues, right, like the-, and the Ministers, like every one of them, they-, they're here for a reason. They're here to do for our people, right? So, like, I'm sure, like, we all continue to work and try to come up with a solution to ensure that our people don't suffer because this funding is discontinued, you know? I'm sorry, First Minister, if she wanted to speak today?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Having already stated that there will be no supplementaries, we will be moving onto the next question. However, I would like to remind the people around the Table that you do have supplementary questions for a reason so please don't ask more than one question at a time. The

next hand that I saw for a question was he AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Information Technology and Human Resources. Earlier the Honourable Wally Andersen asked a question about holidays regarding appointments. In Nunatsiavut we have to take two or three days to get to appointments, 10 minutes, whereas in Goose Bay and beyond, you can drive or attend a doctor's appointment in 10 minutes. Also on the North Coast, we take two or three days just to prepare to get to appointments. My question to you is, where are you with that policy changes, because it was gonna be talked about? Has there been a discussion on it? Where are you with that?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. Would Minister Evans like to provide a response?

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think if I understand the question correctly, he was asking about a leave, staff leave, if I'm correct, to attend medical appointments? Like he explained, it's quite obvious and quite true. Like if you're working in Happy Valley-Goose Bay you can take-, you've got an appointment at the clinic or whatever, or you can take the afternoon and be back to work within a couple hours, right? And what our staff in Nunatsiavut face is they'll make the appointment, they'll travel that day, so like, that's one day, and then they have the appointment the next day and then return the next day. So, like instead of an appointment that would take two hour or hour or whatever from leave, we'll have to put in

for 21 hours, you know? Right now with one of the benefits of the Civil Service is that there's Family Responsibility Leave. It used to be 21 hours but now it's 35 hours. And so, like, that is a help for like individuals that have to travel with their children or whatever. But it still-, what the Ordinary Member from Nain-, sorry, the AngajukKâk from Nain, what you're referring to would be like staff that are traveling for their own personal leave. And right now it's-, like we've got a sick leave that you can use if you have to travel for appointments, but that's like if you are sick throughout the year and you have to travel for appointments, it doesn't take long to use up all your sick leave. So just getting back to the question, that's the issue that's been around, like, for-, it's not the first time that, that was pointed out to HR. And one thing that HR implemented back a while ago was that to-, for the Family Responsibility Leave from 21 hours, they increased it to 35 hours. But right now the sick leave is just like the 15 days, right? So right now it's been brought to the attention of HR a couple times and like, right now, it's still being worked on. Like there's nothing saying that we're gonna increase it or whatever, right now. Right now, what's there is right-, it's what it is right now.

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you, Minister Evans. Does AngajukKâk Dicker have a supplementary question?

MR. DICKER:

Yes, I do. Minister, it's fine and dandy that the Family Responsibility Leave is increased, but that leave is increased one-time only. The question I asked is, it was going-, the other leave I'm talking about, the sick leave or annual leave, was going to be discussed at the Member Services

Committee level to be recommended to the NEC. I wonder-, my question was, where is that discussion? Have you talked about it to be recommended? I haven't heard anything. We haven't heard anything. So I want to know where it is?

MR. WINTERS:

Can you re-clarify your question please, Joe?

MR. DICKER:

Okay. Family Responsibility Leave, okay? That's for a person who's gonna take his loved one or someone somewhere else. That's fine. But it's a one-time thing. Now with this leave that I'm talking about is for individuals, like myself, like AngajukKâk for Rigolet, takes to go to appointments. They have to take leave in order to see their doctor at clinic. I want to know if this has come up as a discussion to the NEC level or they're recommending a change in that policy?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That question is for the Member Services Committee and it is on the agenda for the Member Services Committee, but it wouldn't be a decision made by Minister Evans. Do you have an additional supplemental question for Minister Evans regarding staff and the Civil Service, or was it specifically about Members of the Assembly?

MR. DICKER:

I just wanna know where it is. Can you give me an update on the discussion? Is there any recommendation coming through the NEC for it?

MR. WINTERS:

The NEC would only be in discussion about Civil Service. So what relates to Members of the Assembly would not be related to Minister Evan's department. That would be specifically to Members Services Committee. So that being two separate issues, that is something that we can provide

you with an update with, but it is not related to Minister Evan's department. The next question that I saw was for the AngajukKâk of Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. My question-, not quite sure who to ask, but since it has to do with hiring, I think the question would go to Honourable Tom Evans, Minister for Finance, Information Technology and Human Resources. We attended the Heritage Forum in Makkovik this-, last week. So long ago the weather was bad-, I think it was last week or the week before last. Anyway, there was a concern that came up about Membership and people not knowing their family trees. And we were told, or a recommendation came out that there would be an individual hired in each community to do family trees. And my question is, will this take place soon, or do you know anything about it? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. I believe that would be a question for First Minister Williams who has Membership in her portfolio. Whenever you're ready?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers. In relation to the question on hiring somebody in each individual community to help with Family Trees, I would have to take that question under advisement because I do not know. In relation to my report I had mentioned that we are working on an Ancestry Database, that we're getting for Membership, that would capture the information on the ancestry of Inuit as a whole, but we, as I said in the update, that we had, it closed, on February 27th, we have 90 days to

review the proposal to see if we will be hiring that firm to do that database for us.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, First Minister Williams. Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. The next hand I saw for an oral question was Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources and, no-, yes-, and Language, Roxanne Barbour, Minister Barbour. Recently you held a workshop in Nain, a terminology workshop, and we had two representatives attend. My question is, why was this workshop not openly advertised and was to a select few only, and by invitation only, within the Canadian Constituency? We never knew anything about it-, neither Bryan nor myself were notified there was any such thing happening. But then it happened.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. I'll call on Minister Barbour when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR: As an Inuit Government, and in our department, we know who are Inuttituk speaking people are. We have that list internally. So we reach out to these people, if they would like to participate in ensuring that Nunatsiavimiut is used accurately and properly. There was a limited space. I think the Illusuak Cultural Centre theatre can only host-, I'm gonna have to get back

to you on the exact number of people that can get there, that can be held in there. But it's a limited space. There were mailouts sent to some-, the people that we have on our list, but nobody responded back, and the two that was mentioned, you mentioned earlier, William Andersen and Sarah Anala were the only ones that accepted the invitation. So it wasn't a secret meeting. It's something that our department tries to strive for annually. This is the first one since COVID, you know? And again, as mentioned, as an Inuit organization who are most involved with our fluent speakers, we know that the people that were invited, they were previously, like interpreter translators, teachers, so if anybody, I guess, if you know anybody else who would've like to come in your constituency, please reach out to our department. We'd be more than happy to hear from them if they're willing to support our department in striving-, promoting and advancing Nunatsiavimiut.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Barbour. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MR. SAUNDERS:

Yes, I do. Thank you, for the information, but still, the way you did it was, in my opinion, and many other opinions, not right. You just had a select few. We have lots of fluent Inuttitut speakers in the Canadian Constituency. None of them were contacted. There was no open invitation. It was by secret ballot or whatever you wanna call it, but will the Minister commit to having a fair an open application process for the next Terminology Workshop with sufficient notice for Members from the Canadian Constituency? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member. Minister Barbour, when you're ready?

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question Member Saunders. Again, as mentioned, as an Inuit organization who work closely with our Inuttitut speaking population, the ones who are left, we know who's fluent. So again, if there's anybody who's fluent who can reach out to my department, and again as mentioned, it's not a secret workshop. Our department has been providing it for years. So if there's anybody that you know that would like to participate in it, reach out to our department and we'll gladly invite them. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: Does the Ordinary Member have a second supplemental question?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: The next question that I saw was from AngajukKâk Barry Andersen of Makkovik, when you're ready, sir.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Human Resources and Information Technology, Mr. Evans. My question is regarding your Broadband Internet Fund you mentioned in your speech. Can you give us-, can you give the Assembly here, the timeline or any timeline that you may have for the completion of this project, so that for the cellphone and broadband internet for the communities?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. When you're ready, Minister Evans.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ordinary Member. The timeline that the Government of Canada had put on it is by 2025, 90, I think 98 percent should have the access to the high -speed internet. Right now we're still

working with Bell Canada on the project timelines and we're hoping that we can soon release like a more accurate timeline just by saying, like, by 2025 we'll have it done. There's been things going back and forth but we're still working with them-, not only Bell Canada but with the officials of the Government of Canada. And the statement of work project timelines, we're hoping that we'll have something more accurate and definitely that we can say to the people because as you understand, it was announced like a couple years ago. And that announcement, that's the date that they had, by 2025, everything would be completed for 98 percent of Canadians to have access to high-speed internet. So right now that's all I can say right now is the 2025 date is still the date that we have. But we're trying to get a more accurate up-to-date figure that we can release to the Assembly, you know?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I will ask the Members to try and keep their questions concise and the Minister to keep their responses concise as well. AngajukKâk Andersen, do you have a supplemental question?

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

No, I don't, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Do we have any other First Questions around the Table? Seeing Chairperson Kemuksigak from the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology. I was reading that the Consumer Price Index is now 6.9 percent. As everyone knows, inflation

is really bad. Will the Nunatsiavut Government give the Inuit Community Governments and the Inuit Community Corporation an increase of 6.9 percent in their respective budgets?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. Would the Minister like to respond?

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Ordinary Member-, sorry, Chair of the Inuit Community Corporation. So you mentioned the Consumer Price Index of the 6.7 percent? So it's-, the inflation is expected to reduce to hopefully, like three, three to 3.5 percent in the second half of 2023. And we're unsure if this will help reduce the grocery prices, but in terms of your question, will your budget be increased by the inflationary amount, I can certainly take your questions, 'cause I, I'd really like to get the exact answer to your question, instead of saying like something and it might not be completely accurate. So I'll take your question under notice and provide a response.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Evans. Does Chairperson Kemuksigak have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted a clarification. I asked, because of the cost of doing business for the Inuit Community Corporations and the Inuit Community Governments. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

So are you reiterating the same question or do you have...

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

(Inaudible.)

MR. WINTERS:

You'll need to ask a different supplemental question rather than saying the same. So you are not going to ask a supplemental question? Okay. Are there any other first questions around the Table? Now we're on to Second

Questions, I guess. The first that I saw was AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Honourable First Minister. And it goes like this, we heard that Brenna Jarrar is leaving NG. That frightened me a little bit 'cause it took so long to find her in the first place. My question is, has NG begun to advertise to replace her and when are they going to replace her?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. First Minister, when you're ready?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to AngajukKâk Dicker for the question. We too are sad to be losing Brenna, as she was instrumental in getting the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission up and running. But unfortunately, that's-, people choose their own paths in life and she has decided to move away. We do have a plan in place to replace Brenna. She will stay with the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission until we can hire somebody and have a transfer. So-, but having said that, it would be-, her position was for a maximum of three years anyway, because it was outside of Nunatsiavut. So she would've been, either had to move into Nunatsiavut or she wouldn't-, her position would've been re-advertised anyway, going forward. But we are going to advertise. I'm not sure if the ad has gone out yet. I don't know. I haven't been advised if it's gone out, but we are going to replace her as soon as we quickly, can.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. Does AngajukKâk Dicker have a follow-up question?

MR. DICKER: No, I don't.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question that I saw was from AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Honourable First Minister, Melva Williams. In your report this morning, you were speaking about the Nain Airstrip, and you mentioned R1's, R2's, R3's. Can you tell me what the R1, R2, R3 is, please? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* AngajukKâk Flowers. We'll just give the First Minister a minute to find her page.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do have the information. Feasibility study list. R1, is for the weather station and to collect data and that's in Phase One. R2 is the topographic survey. R3 is an Environmental Review Desktop Assessment. R4 is Surficial Geology, Geomorphology, Permafrost and Hydrogeological Investigations. R5 is Weather Studies and Report. That's part of Phase Two. R6 is the Hydrological Study. R7 is Electrical Power Supply Alternatives. R8 is Preliminary Engineering Services. R9 is Preliminary Architectural Design Services. R10 is Construction and Supply Strategy. R11 is Cost Estimation. And R12 is Environmental Impact Assessment.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* First Minister. Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't. I thank the Minister for her answer.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question that I saw around the Table was the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education and Economic Development. I have seen that the LATP has reopened. Would you be able to provide an update on the reopening, how long they got funding for, and what training they will be providing through their organization? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Chairperson. Minister Tony Andersen, would you like to provide a response?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, yeah, thanks so much for asking a question. Mr. Speaker, I didn't make a statement today because I've left my glasses at home. But tomorrow I will be making a statement as well as the statement for Minister Vincent. But and the information I'll provide to the Member at that time.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* So the Minister is taking it under advisement and will provide a response tomorrow. Is there any supplemental question by the Chairperson or no? Shaking your head, no. I will now recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the, I guess they would be the Acting Minister for Lands and Resources. I've asked in this House several times about the Migratory Bird Hunt.

MR. WINTERS: You can't ask a question of someone who isn't here. So we'll have to put a pin in that.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Well, I'm sorry because on the most sitting Parliaments, territorial-, whatever, that there's always a designate who is that Acting Minister if the Minister responsible is not in the House, so...

MR. WINTERS: Is there currently an Acting Designate at the Table?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: I can certainly take the question under notice and get a response from Minister Vincent before the end of the day tomorrow.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Would the Ordinary Member care to complete his question? And it will be taken under advisement by Minister Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the question that I would like to propose to the Minister is that I've asked in this House since there was other Members that, with regard to the Migratory Bird Hunt in the Upper Lake Melville area. And where it's becoming more difficult for people to put food on the table, the question is again, when will we hear something with a definite answer on the Migratory Bird Hunt in the Upper Lake Melville area?

MR. WINTERS: As explained, this question will be taken under advisement. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and further to that, we also asked the Minister the question about the salmon harvest for the Upper Lake Melville area. That's up for renewal and that's coming pretty quick. And we asked the Minister almost a year ago if we could be given an answer upfront, well ahead of time. So if the answer comes that it's not the one that we're

gonna want to hear, that would give us time for us to, like, put our stuff together to help fight, I guess, the powers that be, who make that decision. And all our Members now are saying it's become more and more difficult. And Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult when you are the only-, as Members of Nunatsiavut Government, we are the only Aboriginal People in Labrador who are not allowed a Spring Goose Hunt. So again, Minister Andersen if you could relay these questions to the Minister that we are looking for an answer, sooner rather than later.

MR. WINTERS

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. I will ask you to get to your question more quickly. And also, your supplemental questions must be related to your initial question. If you have a second that is, you may proceed. Seeing a shake of the head-, it appears as though First Minister Williams would like to respond to you. When you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have some information to provide to the Ordinary Member-, 12E conversation is under the Implementation, which is under my department. All three parties have had opportunity to make-, we've presented comments and they're all being reviewed, currently, but that's the status where it is too. It's under review right now.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any further questions around the Table? Seeing none. That concludes Oral Questions for today. We will move on to Item Eight. Item Eight is, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Nine, "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions today. So we will move on to Item 10, "Petitions." There are no petitions today. So we will

move on to Item 11, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses to petitions today, so we will move on to Item 13, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees. We will move on to Item 13 is the "Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, I will move, seconded by Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville, as follows: Whereas the Member Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget recommendations for the approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Member Services Committee to finalize Consolidated Estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2023-2024...

MR. WINTERS:

I'm afraid I have to interrupt the Ordinary Member. I believe that to be the wrong document.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Oh. I don't have any other.

MR. WINTERS:

At this time we're going to take a five-minute break and straighten this out.

Nakummek.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* I appreciate your patience and I apologize for the inconvenience. We'll go back to the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Roland Saunders, when you're ready, sir.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Sorry for the confusion. We now have things straight. Item 13, Mr. Speaker, as required by the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, I am pleased to table the Assembly Budget 2023-2024.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* Member. The Tabled Document will be numbered as 01-5(3). There are no more documents to be tabled today. So we will move on to Item 14. I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, I will move, seconded by Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville, as follows: Whereas the Members Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget Recommendations for the approval of the Assembly, as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, and whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Members Services Committee to finalize Consolidated Estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2023-2024. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear, that Tabled Document 01-5(3), The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, Comptroller (*sic*) of the Nunatsiavut Government, as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous

consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this matter today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Ordinary Member Saunders, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I bring forward the following motion seconded by Mr. George Gear, and Ordinary Member for Postville: Whereas the Elected Official's Policy Manual sets out, among other things, benefits...

MR. WINTERS:

Ordinary Member Andersen. You're giving notice. So, please go back to the beginning there. You have to give notice, as opposed to put it forward.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

I'm just reading what's on my statement, so-, okay, well, then I'll give notice to move the following motion.

MR. WINTERS:

You're just giving notice.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Okay.

MR. WINTERS:

You're giving notice about something that's going to happen tomorrow. So, just please just read what's on the paper at the top. We'll take a two-minute break to sort this out. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

It appears as though we've had some confusion with the scripts for each of these motions. It won't happen tomorrow. Back to Ordinary Member of the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March the 14th, 2023, I will move, seconded by Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville, as follows: Whereas the Elected Officials Policy Manual sets out among other things, benefits such as Labrador Allowance, Travel Benefit and other such financial allowances available to the Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas changes in Labrador Allowance Travel Benefit and other such financial allowances for Members of the Assembly require separate consideration and similar changes for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, and requires public consultation with Inuit for each proposed change, and whereas it is considered appropriate that Members automatically receive the same adjustments in allowance and benefit rates, as the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, whereas there are changes in such a rate, and whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly must provide amendments to the Elected Officials Policy Manual; and whereas the Members Services Committee has invited comments from the Inuit public on such a change as required under Inuit law, now therefore, I move, seconded by Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville, that the Elected Officials Policy Manual be amended as follows: Section 1(d) Labrador Allowance, and Section 1(e), Travel Allowance, are deleted and the following is inserted immediately after Section 1(c), (d)1, Allowances: Elected Officials are entitled to the following allowances remunerated at the announced that the Executive Council approves for full-time employs of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, including any changes to the level of such allowances as may be approved for Nunatsiavut Civil Servants from time

to time. a) Labrador Allowance, b) Travel Allowance, c) Bilingual Allowance. 2. Elected Officials are entitled to receive an equivalent amount, other allowances or benefits not mentioned in paragraph one. And that the Executive Council may approve for full-time employees of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive SO 37-1 to deal with this motion today.

MR. WINTERS:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Ordinary Member Andersen, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. There are no more notices of motions today, so we'll move on to Item 15. Item 15 is "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of first reading today. We'll now move on to Item 16, "Motions." I recognize the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Whereas, the Members Services Committee has tabled its Consolidated Budget Recommendations for the approval of the Assembly as required by Section 81 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*. And whereas the Assembly should consider the recommendations to allow the Member Services Committee to finalize Consolidated Estimates of the Assembly Budget for transmittal to the treasurer for inclusion in the Consolidated Financial Plan for 2023-2024. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the poor Ordinary Member from Makkovik, Mr. George Gear, that's the fourth time today, is it-, that Tabled Document 05-1(3) The Assembly Budget recommended for 2023-2024...

MR. WINTERS: Ordinary Member.

MR. SAUNDERS: Slow down?

MR. WINTERS: I think you got the number wrong.

MR. SAUNDERS: Tabled Document 05-1(3)?

MR. WINTERS: One second, everyone. Ordinary Member?

MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. I'll start again. Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Postville, George Gear, that Tabled Document 01-5(3), The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, Comptroller (*sic*) of the Nunatsiavut Government, as a witness.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Saunders. The motion is in order. At this time, the motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole. Ordinary Member Saunders, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. SAUNDERS: No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you. I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries. The Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024 will be considered in the

Committee of the Whole with the witness. We'll first take a 10-minute break so that the witness can join us. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We are now in the Committee of the Whole. And Ms. Crawford has entered the Chamber. However, before we get started, I want to address Standing Order 5(3). I'm asking for the consent of the Assembly to continue on past five o'clock as we're already well past four. And chances are we're gonna go forward. May I have the consent of the Assembly? Seeing no, "Nays," Mr. Saunders, would you like to make remarks on the proposed motion?

MR. SAUNDERS:

No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford, would you like to make remarks to the motion?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. The Nunatsiavut Assembly should have received a document called Nunatsiavut Assembly Budget 2023-2024. It is three pages, which includes the cover, so it should be in your binders. I'm not sure what tab it's under? Three, tab three, thank you, *Nakummek*. For the new Members, just a little preface. The Members Services Committee is responsible for preparation of the Assembly Budget. It does not go to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. The MSC will engage me as Comptroller (*sic*), to assist with the preparation of the Budget, and then it is brought to the Nunatsiavut Assembly for review and approval, at which time it is then brought to the Treasurer to include into the *Budget Act* of the entire Government. The elections portion of the Budget is prepared by Nunatsiavut Electoral

Officer, who is Nanette Blake and so, this Budget, while she was unable to assist with it this year, is the exact same Budget that she prepared in the last Presidential Election and we didn't come anywhere near expenditures of her Budget but unfortunately, due to some personal circumstances, she was unable to come in and prepare the Budget for this year. So on page two, you'll see the Overall Proposed Budget. And so the Overall Proposed Budget this year is \$3,663,500. And there are seven categories which I'll get into on the next page and explain some of the differences from the previous year in how we arrived at the Budget. So there is \$159,500 increase in the Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year from the previous fiscal year. There's \$186,000 increase in salaries. So every five years, under the *Assembly Act*. The MSC does a review of salaries. The review is done in the current year. And there is no proposed change that went out to Labrador Inuit on the methodology for looking at salaries for elected officials. That being said, we-, the Members Services Committee was not entirely comfortable-, or I don't know if comfortable is the right word, with the report. And so during this year, they will be looking for an additional information, another review done on the salaries. So for this Budget here, what we have included is the current methodology that is in place. And so for new Members, in 2017-2018, the Assembly approved a new method for salaries. And the salary for elected official, the base salary was set at \$76,050 and then each year it's escalated by CPI. So for this upcoming year, the salary for an elected official is being increased by 6.8 percent to \$87,999. And that will be the new base salary. There are no

proposed changes for indemnities for Ministers at this time. Also included in the salaries is a new position of Deputy Clerk. As you recall, in the Assembly in September, a motion was passed to create a new position of a Deputy Clerk. And this position has been included in the Budget, as per that motion. In May-, oh, before I go on, I'll stop here on Salaries and Benefits and see if there are any questions.

MR. WINTERS: Recognizing Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, for the update on that, and you just noted the indemnities for the Ministers. Will that be forecasted for review as well? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: I will take that back to the Members Services Committee to look at when we go in the next review's gone out.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none-, oh, Ms. Barbour, do you have a question? Your mic is on. At this time, Ms. Crawford can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: There is a slight increase in the Travel category and this is just due to escalating airfare costs. There are no other significant changes in this category. The amounts budgeted for Nunatsiavut Assembly Committees, again, has had a slight increase due to the, just some escalating costs, and looking at what are the actual number of committee in-person trips that you would have to have under your committee travel. There's no change in constituency allowance. And there's also no change under Professional Fees. Professional Fees has two components. One is for professional fees

for if you have to engage legal counsel or a consultant to deal with matters such as, for example, if there's a *Code of Conduct*, or if there's a legal matter that relates to Assembly and we have to engage outside counsel. The other component under Professional Fees is an allocation of \$20,000 for training for elected officials. As I noted, the election costs, there is a significant difference from the prior year. And so what you will see every year is, in the year leading up to either the Presidential or General Election, the costs will be lower because the NEO will come on with her staff a couple of months before the election to prep-work for the election. And then the year of the election, of a Presidential or a General Election, you'll see a higher amount budgeted for those election costs because, as you know, the election, that'll cover April, May, June, till they're concluded their work. And there is also always an allocation in the event we have to have a by-election. If an elected official resigns for whatever the reason is, we always include a contingency for that particular scenario. And under Operating Costs, they've decreased slightly because some of the maintenance costs that were related to a mini-home that is administered by the Assembly is included under Public Property. So really those costs would be now included under the Public Property Division as it is a Public Property infrastructure. Are there any questions on the information I've gone over so far?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Ms. Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS:

Just a quick question. The mini-home that you're talking about, is that the one that was for the Clerk here?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: I'm not sure if I quite heard you but the-, you're referring to the mini-home that's here that the former Clerk used to reside in? That is the one I'm speaking about.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions at this time? Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: That concludes my review of the Budget for the Assembly as I noted, the total Budget is \$3,663,500. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions or comments while we are in Committee of the Whole? If not, I will thank the witness and we'll move back into the Assembly. *Nakummek.* We'll take a couple of minutes. *Nakummek,* Ms. Crawford. We are now back in the Assembly. Given that the Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024 have been considered in the Committee of the Whole, is the Assembly in favour of approving the Assembly Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024? All those in favour, please say "Aye." Are there any, "Nays?" The motion passes. Moving on, we are still on Item 16, "Motions." I would like to recognize the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by Mr. George Gear, the Ordinary Member for Postville, as follows: Whereas the Elected Official's Policy Manual sets out, among other things, benefits such as Labrador Allowance Travel Benefit and other such financial allowances available to the Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and whereas changes in the Labrador Allowance Travel Benefit and other such financial

allowances for Members of the Assembly require separate consideration than similar changes for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, and requires public consultation with the Inuit for each proposed change. And whereas it is considered appropriate that Members automatically receive the same adjustments in allowance and benefit rates as the Nunatsiavut Civil Service whenever there are changes in such a rate, and whereas the Nunatsiavut Assembly must approve amendments to the Elected Official's Policy Manual, and whereas the Members Services Committee has invited comments from the Inuit Public on such a change, as required under Inuit Law, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Mr. George Gear, Ordinary Member for Postville, that the Elected Officials Policy Manual be amended as follows: Section 1(d), Labrador Allowance, Section 1(e), Travel Allowance, are deleted, and the following is inserted immediately after Section 1(c): (d), Allowances. 1) Elected Officials are entitled to the following allowances remunerated at the amounts that the Executive Council Approves for full-time employees of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service, including any changes to the level of such allowances as may be approved for the Nunatsiavut Civil Service from time to time. a), Labrador Allowance, b) Travel Allowance, c) Bilingual Allowance. 2) Elected Officials are entitled to receive in equivalent amounts and other allowances or benefits not mentioned in paragraph one that the Executive Council may approve for full-time employees of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Would the Member like to speak to the motion?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everything was done that's recommended. Your office put out a notice inviting the public to respond. I think as the Speaker's Officer or the Clerk can confirm that basically all the comment that did come back was indeed very positive.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* That is correct. Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Yes, Mr. Joe Dicker, AngajukKâk of Nain.

MR. DICKER: Are we still in Committee of the Whole or Assembly? Okay. Just a question on Bilingual Allowance, is there a way of proving or disproving whether or not that individual is indeed bilingual? Is there a committee for that?

MR. WINTERS: I'm sorry, can you repeat your question, please?

MR. DICKER: Just to get clarity with the Bilingual Allowance, under (d) under Allowances, for the Bilingual Allowance, is there a methodology in place where-, that proves-, that shows that, that Member is indeed bilingual and do you have a committee set up to grade that individual? That's my question.

MR. WINTERS: It's a-, there is a test that's conducted in order to determine that you are eligible for the Bilingual and Minister Barbour might want to speak to this item.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek, UKatti.* In our department we provide that test. Our Language Committee, Isumatât, reviews it to ensure that Inuit can prove that they're bilingual. So if anybody would like to take the test, you can

reach out to Silpa Saurak. She's the Interpreter Translator Coordinator. And she'll be able to assist you in getting that test completed.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. And for clarification, I was responding because I'm the Chair of the Committee putting forward this motion. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak, does the Member wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That concludes debate. Those in favour? And are there any, "Nays," those against? Seeing none, the motion is carried. There are no more motions today. So we will move on to Item 17, which is, "First Reading of Bills." There are no bills for first reading today. Item 18 is, "Second Reading of Bills." And there are no bills for second reading today. Item 19, is, "The Assent to Bills," and there are no bills for assent today. Item 20 is, "Adjournment." The Assembly is now adjourned until tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 14th, 2023.

Day 2
Nunatsiavut Assembly
March 9, 2023

MR. WINTERS:

I would like to welcome everyone back to our Assembly. We have a big day ahead of us, and I thank everyone for their work yesterday. And I also want to thank our Deputy Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, Ms. Rexanne Crawford for her presentation yesterday on the Assembly Budget. I would also like to wish athletes competing in the Labrador Winter Games, all the best today in their competitions. Item Two is, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." And right now I don't see any. I would also like to note that the Assembly is excusing AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard from Postville. We'll move on to Item Three. Item Three is, "Minister Statements." Are there any Minister Statements? Yes, I see the Minister of Education, Economic Development, the Honourable Tony Andersen, when you're ready, sir.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From Economic Development Division, the Rigolet Gas Station: We continue to work with the Rigolet Inuit Community Government on this file. As previously mentioned, we are awaiting documentation to review the current status, next steps and required support moving forward. An update will be provided to the NEC once available. Business Support: Between January 11th and February the 28th, the Division had two new businesses added to the Inuit Business Registry. Regarding procurement, seven packages were received from Vale with our Division submitting 21 Inuit Business nominations and zero Qualified

Business Entity nominations. We're developing a benefits package for new and existing Inuit Business on the value of registering with our Inuit Business Registry. This will be publicly shared in late March. There are a total of nine clients, seven in Business Start-up and two in Business Growth. Mr. Speaker, our Northern Lights 2023 Business Financial Support Package was a huge success. We supported eight Inuit Businesses to attend the event. The feedback from businesses was that the event provided concrete benefits including new partnerships, potential contract leads, networking, retaining their operations in Canada and expanding their existing services to meet industry demands. We'll offer a similar financial assistance package for business to attend Expo Labrador in the spring. Funding distribution: Both our Community Economic Development Fund and the FFA Programs remain open until the end of the fiscal year. We encourage communities to apply for Community Economic Development Positions, enhancement projects and community building initiatives for the current fiscal year, and for the upcoming '23-'24 fiscal year. Self Employment Programs, we have-, we are supporting three clients, two in Arts and Crafts Sector and one in Accommodations. The program is successful in creating new Inuit businesses. Three of our previous Self Employment Benefit Program clients have registered as Inuit Business and are currently operating. The program is open year-round. We encourage Start-ups to contact the Department to learn more about this and apply for the Program. Community Development: The interview process continues for Service Canada's full-time position in Nain. Once the

candidate is selected and the office set up, we will provide details to the public immediately. Engagement: We're hosting a community event in Nain on Friday March the 10th. And I think it was delayed because of the weather. When they do go ahead, this event will complete the Small Business Community Tour in Nain with an open house at the Illusuak Centre and will be a casual event to share information of our services, programs and supports. Our social media presence has been updated. This remains a key tool for sharing information with beneficiaries and businesses on programming and event information. Training: We are currently-, we have nearly finalized a contract to offer a bookkeeping training program in April 2023 in Nain. The program will support travel for participants from other Nunatsiavut communities. Details and promotions of the program are expected in mid-March-, any day now, I guess. Staff: As previously mentioned our Director of Economic Development has begun her six-month deferred leave program and will return in early September. The Annual Division Planning has been finalized, and staff have been preparing for this leave period. The Division will be overseen by our Deputy Minister Tim McNeil. And from our Education Division, Mr. Speaker, new applicants, as of this week we have 119 new applicants for the upcoming spring and fall semesters. One hundred and seven for fall 2023, and 12 for this year's spring intercession. We'll continue to accept applications as they come in. K to 12 Inuttitut Next Steps: The K to 12 Inuttitut Evaluation Report was presented at the NEC meeting and was approved in principal. One recommendation was also approved by the

NEC, was the creation of a new full-time position that will focus on the development of a full scaffold Inuttitut curriculum from Grades Kindergarten to 12 with each year building on what was learned the year before. The Inuttitut Curriculum position is now with HR and the jobs should be posted once we have heard back from translations. Career Trips: Mr. Speaker, our Education Advisor and one additional staff member took eight Grade 12 students to St. John's for a career trip. This was the first career trip the Education Division has offered in over 10 years, and we believe it went extremely well. Students from Hopedale, Makkovik and Rigolet toured both secondary institutions like the College of the North Atlantic, the Marine Institute, Carpenter's Millwrights Institute, and Academy Canada. They learned how to use public transit systems and saw some of the sites in and around St. John's. Despite our multiple efforts to recruit from all Nunatsiavut communities, we did not get any applicants from Nain or Postville. As it is the first year reinstating career trips, we're taking both Grade 12 students and later this month we'll do a second trip for the current Grade 11 students. Recruitment has been complete and as with future trips for Grade 11 it is open to applications from Lake Melville as well. This year's Grade 11 trip will return to St. John's and is scheduled for later this month. Inuit Crown Partnerships Committee, Education, Early Learning and Skills Development Working Group: The Director of Education sits on this working group to make the workplan is endorsed at the Senior Leaders meeting with the Prime Minister. We are currently working on the 2023-'24 workplan that will focus on developing a policy

that will see the Federal Government provide more supports for the K to 12 education which currently is solely under the jurisdiction of the Provinces and the Territories. That is my report for Education and Economic Development, Mr. Speaker, but yesterday I was asked a question on Labrador Aboriginal Training Program known as LAMP and I did say, Mr. Speaker that I would include it in my report. So I'm going to. But I'm going to do it in this manner. After talking with my Deputy Minister and with, what I think is the Director of LAMP, Mr. Keith Jacque, we concluded that although Nunatsiavut is very involved with the Labrador Aboriginal Training Program, they're somewhat separate from our Government. And the information provided to Members should come from the LAMP. And I agree with that. However, I think it's important that my department be involved and provide updates to Assembly Members. So what we agreed upon last night was that the LAMP would provide written update to me on where the program is, what they're hiring, where the programs are, and then I will, along with my statement, post to all Assembly Members. And as we receive information from LAMP in the future, I will forward it to Assembly Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. The next Ministers Statement that we will receive is from the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

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, the science and stock assessment for various risk species are now underway for 2023. The Department is busy taking part in science meetings with DFO Science and Managers. It is still too early to determine what quotas will be available for the 2023 fishing season. The 2023 applications for the NG Commercial Fisheries became available on January 15th and closed on January 28th in accordance with approved policy. Wildlife: Mr. Speaker, the moose hunting season in LISA opened on September 15th, 2022 and we had 14 licences available for Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. The season will close on March 7th, 2023. To date, four licences are filled, two in Nain, and two in Upper Lake Melville. The Torngat Secretariat are conducting another aerial survey for moose in the Nain area and the Department is assisting the Secretariat in the activities. The 2023 polar bear hunting season opened on February 2nd. We had 12 licences to offer in the communities, three for Nain, three for Hopedale and two each for the communities of Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet. To date, five licences are filled, three in Nain, one in Hopedale and one in Makkovik. I'd like to update that please, Mr. Speaker. There is two in Hopedale. The polar bear hunting season will close on June 30th or when all 12 licences are filled, whichever comes first. Mr. Speaker, I once again encourage beneficiaries to remain compliant with the Provincial hunting ban on the George River Caribou herd and to report any hunting to our department staff or to Provincial Justice Officials. Collaring of the

herd was started in early February, but due to snow conditions, it's rescheduled to later this month. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we will be once again distributing caribou as we have in two previous years. We will receive our caribou in March from Nunavut. Once we are sure of the dates, my staff will be reaching out to the community freezers in each community and Upper Lake Melville. Just a little update on that, the caribou has been received and is already in the process. Lands Division: Since the last Assembly meeting, the Lands Division has been engaged in the following files: Mr. Speaker, two land-use applications have been submitted in 2023, one for a cabin and one for a cruise ship visit this summer. In addition, the Canadian Rangers and the Canadian Military based at 5 Wing Goose Bay have planned a number of winter training exercises in Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, since the last update, the GIS Specialist has been working on Lands Division reps for leases, certificates of tenure and applications. There are currently 40 on-site leases being reviewed. The GIS specialist is also finishing the report on mapping for Imappivut. Impact Benefit Agreements. The Voisey's Bay Mine Mill and the mine expansion is going well. A large number of job ads were posted in January and February. However, we are once again seeing a drop in beneficiaries applying. Winter shipping information sessions were held in Nain and Hopedale on January 30 and 31st respectively. There was a concern raised that the ship always enters the land-fast ice on the weekend. Vale has committed to reviewing this practice and hopefully change it to a Monday instead of a Friday. Vale is restructuring and

Voisey's Bay will become part of Base Metals. Until the restructuring is completed by the end of March, there's a pause on hiring, with the exception of operators, maintainers, front-line supervisors and co-op students. The Torngat Mountains National Park Co-Management Board face-to-face meeting in Kangiqsualujjuaq, from February 28th to March 2nd has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Plans are in the works for a virtual meeting, hopefully by mid-March. Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board has scheduled a virtual meeting for March 9th. Non-renewable: Since the last Assembly meeting, the Non-renewable Resource Division has been engaged in the following files: Mr. Speaker, Labrador Uranium plans to continue exploration in the Central Mineral Belt this year. They were recently approved to fly a Large Regional Airborne Geophysical Survey. They also submitted a workplan for their Mustang Lake Property. This workplan is still currently under review. Mr. Speaker, Northern Graphite plans to continue exploration on their Okak South Property in the Puttuallu Lake area inside of Tasiujak, Northwest of Nain. They recently received approval from the Province for prospecting, erect a flight camp and drill. The planned drilling includes 3,000 meters of core over 12 holes. They are exploring for copper, nickel and base metals. Their claims are located on LISA. Mr. Speaker, Dean Fraser has also applied to explore his other property in the Moran Lake Area inside of Postville. His project is called Boiteau Lake, located on LIL. This application is still in the early stages of review. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Non-Renewable Resources and Lands Division will be attending the

Annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference March 5th to 8th in Toronto. This year they have a booth to encourage and promote exploration in our region. Since the last Assembly meeting, the Environment Division has been engaged in the following files: Mr. Speaker, The Environment Division in partnership with DFO, MUN, and the University of Calgary is working with Amundsen Science to have Amundsen Research Ship conduct a four-week research mission spanning the entire Nunatsiavut coast. The information and data collected will feed into the Imappivut Marine Plan and the development of the Torngat Area of Interest. Additionally, Amundsen Science will have the ship spend a full day in Nain for a Science and Research Day and it will allow community members to visit and tour the ship. Lands and Natural Resource Staff, in partnership with Canadian Wildlife Service have been conducting aerial survey training for birds and marine mammals. Staff have been flying Sina from Rigolet to Saglek Fjord, learning how to identify different species of birds, while also observing marine mammals. The survey is a replicate of a survey conducted in 2013 and it will provide important data on the overwintering of birds in Nunatsiavut. The Environment Division is working on three different environmental assessment initiatives including the Nain Wind Microgrid Project, the Nain Airport, and recently provided an overview of the Environmental Assessment process to Torngat Metals, a company looking at development of the Strange Lake deposit. These conversations all involved Environmental Assessment staff at the

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and with the Federal Impact Assessment Agency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now hear from the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll briefly update this morning on Community Programs. The Team Leader quarterly meetings are reinstated with the goal to discuss common issues and share program ideas. The first one was held in January. The next one is scheduled for April. Community Health Workers began team meetings in January as well. All communities are scheduling or in the process of developing their Community Health Plans for the upcoming fiscal year. There is much work being done in all communities. I'll only highlight on one in each. Nain: Regular programming continuing-, mixture of in-person and virtual programming. Postville: The Community Program staff in Postville consists of just the Team Leader with both Community Health Worker positions vacant. 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: Regular programs are running, including Community Kitchen, Healthy Dinner two times per week for school children funded by Canadian Feed the Children, Healthy Recess, Youth Groups, Seniors Social, Diabetes program and a high school cooking and the Grade 9 Connections Program. North West River: All regular programs are running with high attendance in all groups. Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and Mud Lake: Outreach activities and programs, Brown Bag program continues to be distributed monthly, distribution of

ADI gift cards, YMCA passes, bi-monthly distribution of traditional food baskets to families in need, partnering with Family Connections, support to the emergency shelter with weekly purchase orders. Mr. Speaker, under Food Security, the Food Security Manager participated in Nutrition North Canada panel discussion with Indigenous partners, academics and Federal Government representatives, with a goal of making recommendations for improvement of the Nutrition North Program. The Inuit Food Security Working Group met in Ottawa focusing on actions of the Food Security Strategy Implementation Plan and on school food programs in Inuit Nunangat. The COVID Emergency Food Program will end March 31st, 2023. Community offices are getting calls from clients expressing their concerns about the program ending. Nourish Project: Continuing work with partners on a pilot project to offer more country food to Long-Term Care. A report will follow soon. The Food Security Program Funding is supporting Family Connections Program by offering food programs to vulnerable families. The Food Security Manager is the rep on the ITK ad hoc Committee on Poverty Reduction. Child Care: 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 the committed funding for program services and governance. This new funding will allow us to provide year-round daycare services. We now have the opportunity to implement year-round daycare services, potentially beginning summer 2023. As part of the mandate off the framework, a portion of the new

funding must be used to support urban Inuit families. A consultant with the Department of Education, Early Learning and Child Development Division completed site visits to the four licenced daycares. She was very impressed with the amount of Inuit Culture we have in all centres. Here's her comments, "Now that I've been to every childcare centre and family resource centre on the North Coast, I want to extend a big thank you for the important work that you're doing for children and families. I learned so much from my visits, as your childcare consultant. You should all be so proud of the work that you're doing to keep children and families connected with Inuit culture. It was so beautiful to see you all interact with children speaking Inuttitut and embracing Inuit culture, traditions into your childcare programming." Status of Women: The Status of Women coordinator remains vacant. The Director of Community Programs continues to sit on the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee. The MMIWG Coordinator also sits on the committee. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, under Social Development, we are happy to announce that we have found a temporary home for the Hopedale Emergency Shelter and were able to open the doors in early January. We are working on a new permanent structure in the near future. The shelters in Nain and Happy Valley, Goose Bay continue to be very busy. Much work is being done in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, as we work towards a new purpose-built facility which is being supported through Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission but will be operated by Nunatsiavut Government.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I will now call upon the Honourable Tom Evans, Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just provide a brief summary update with regard to our HR Department. Mr. Speaker, our Human Resources Division is currently extremely short-staffed. We're currently recruiting for the Director of Human Resources, a Human Resources Manager and an HR Specialist Recruitment and Training. To assist us with our day-to-day operations, we have hired a consultant for at least the next three months. This is impeding our ability to move forward on many HR projects and reviews. As the Member spoke about yesterday, HR has plans to review many of the policies, allowances and other important issues facing Human Resources. There's still plans, however we will be moving forward along at a slower pace. The priority has to be current day-to-day operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any more Ministers Statements? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item Four. Item Four is, "Members Statements." Are there any Members Statements? The first hand that I saw was AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a brief summary of what's going on. Mr. Speaker, all our projects are going ahead as scheduled and we're looking forward to a busy summer. The JMC, Joint Management Committee will be sitting later, and extra dollars will be divided for monies that each ICG needs to move ahead this year and next. The Nain ICG will report on the progress at the June session of the Assembly. I want to thank Makkovik

for hosting the Heritage Meetings we had there last week or the week before. We were stuck there for a while, but our stay was made enjoyable. Thank you, Makkovik. Mr. Speaker, our Quarry permit runs out in July of this year. We have enough stone to see our project through but the NICG needs to identify a new area for a quarry. There are two areas, the Nain Inuit Community Government is looking at and we have emailed Gesdunn, G-E-S-D-U-N-N from the Department of Mines NG come to Nain and select an area. No answer yet as to when they will come, but we are expecting maybe May or June. And the NICG is looking at getting a subordinate quarry permit because the NGC price for stone are way too high to even put stone on our roads. So we're looking to get that and to possibly get someone else who manage the subordinate quarry for that. That's the brief update that I have, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member to give a statement will be the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. My report will be brief today due to the big load we have with our agenda. On behalf of Hopedale Inuit Community Government, I would like to wish Team Hopedale the best of luck in the Labrador Winter Games taking place this week in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. It is an exciting time for all, and a time to meet all friends and make new ones at what is known as the Friendship Games. Thank you, to all the sponsors, and a big thank you to the coordinator, Susan Nochasak who worked hard getting the team together and scheduling practices and fundraisers. Thank you to the town of Rigolet who hosted the Winter

Sports Meet for schools this year. By the looks of the awesome pictures on Facebook and the very positive comments. It was evident a good time was had by all. Under HICG news, once again, Mr. Speaker, we are short-staffed at the Nanuk Centre. Our recreation assistant resigned his position. At this time, we only have one staff member trying to run programming. We thank Nathaniel Winters for his services while he was with us. I apologize to our community for the inconsistency in programming at this time. Both CYN Recreation and afterschool worker positions have been posted. We're very grateful to receive funding under NG Infrastructure Strategy Program. It was extra funding we needed to upgrade the transmission main. Mr. Speaker, climate change is a growing concern here in our communities. During a big storm in February, 22 solar panels blew off the roof at the Nanuk Centre. The winds were almost tornado level, something that we don't normally see, but it's becoming a common occurrence. I believe we, as a Government need to prepare for all the changes that will occur. And I'm pleased to say that SmartICE is here in our community now and we have workers trained and I thank Rex Howell for working with us for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will receive the next Members Statement from the Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. Yesterday in my statement, I stated that there were five and four safe-crossing bridges, but there's two at Tabor Island and Attok. The last highlight that I wanted to share was for Team NGC Sikumiut. During the week of February 20th, Nunatsiavut Youth traveled to St. John's

NL to participate in the 18 U male, female NLVA Provincial Championship. There was a total of 64 teams registered in three divisions, A, B, and C. Our Nunatsiavut Youth registered in the Male Division A, which is considered the elite division and was comprised of four youth from Nain, Ian Dicker, Tristan Denniston, Aiden Kalleo, and Gilbert Obed, three youth from Makkovik, Robert Andersen, Jesse Ford and Jacob Dyson, and one youth from Postville, Hanson Jacque. They were coached by Nainimiut, Bernard Obed and chaperoned by Makkovimiuk Susan Onalik. For a team that did not practise or play together, and being their first time playing together when they arrived at the tournament, they placed second overall in the Elite Division A. Ian Dicker and Hanson Jacque were awarded Team Allstar awards and Tristan Denniston was awarded with a Most Spirited award. What an amazing accomplishment for our talented youth. Coach Obed wrote, "Our team showed sportsmanship, class, friendship and what a great bunch of boys to be around. We didn't have one practice together before the tournament. They showed up and played their hearts right out until the end. We played against these Allstar clubs and coaches from Newfoundland who've been practising and playing together for quite some time. We ended up two-to-two, finishing fourth after round robin. We played back-to-back at the end and faced off with the Loopers 18 U who was 4-0 in the semi-final. We ended up losing in the final, but our semi-final match was one of the best matches I've witnessed and coached. It is amazing how a bunch of boys, first time playing together as a team just can come together at this level of volleyball and show their skill and talent

and beat the best in the province. Second best in the Province ain't bad at all." Congratulations to Team NCG Sikumiut for representing Nunatsiavut and placing second overall in the 18 U male, female NLVA Provincial Championship. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members Statement that we'll receive is from the AngajukKâk of Makkovik, Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to pass on my condolences to William Nochasak of Makkovik. And I'd just like to speak a little bit. I sent out an email in early February about the passing of Simeon Nochasak of Makkovik. Mr. Nochasak was relocated to Makkovik in 1956 along with the other people that were relocated from Hebron to all the various communities that they went to. But Simeon, when he came to Makkovik he was already a proficient organist. He played the organ at the church. He always said that he learned to play the organ from his father while in Hebron. While the other kids were out playing he said he would stay in the house or in the church and learn to play the organ from his father. And once he relocated to Makkovik, he learned to speak English. He could communicate with the English-speaking population as well as the Inuit population there and he played the organ right up until he moved away to Goose Bay to the Long-Term Care Home. And even while he was there in the Long-Term Care Home, he was provided, I think, with a hymnal or hymn book and I think he had the opportunity to play a few tunes up there as well on their own organ. But as all of us here, I think might've heard Simeon play his music from time to time, Simeon was not only an

organist that played by ear, but he could play and read sheets, music sheets. And he helped university, or Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Dr. Hans Rollman, write some old music out in notes so that right now it's here in our church for anybody who can read music to play and see in writing. So it is preserved, thanks in all, to Simeon Nochasak for that help. I think Dr. Rollman has acknowledged that as well. So I just wanted to rise, stand here and acknowledge Simeon for the work he's done in our community and the Moravian Mission as a whole throughout Nunatsiavut. There's only William left, out of his family, so I'll pass on my condolences to William in Makkovik. Also to Gus Semigak, of Hopedale here, the funeral is today for his wife Lena. I'd like to pass-, on behalf of the Makkovik community our sincere condolences to Gus, a translator here at the Assembly and many other venues for meetings and things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members Statement we will receive is from Wally Andersen, the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready, sir. I'll ask the Member to pause. It appears as though the interpreter isn't able to hear you. Can you try the mic beside you, please?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Testing, one, two.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. You may resume.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I want to echo the sentiments of the AngajukKâk from Makkovik regarding Simeon. While we have lost him, Simeon has made his mark as a part of our history and our culture. And I

can remember, I was 19 years old when I was first selected by the chapel servants in Makkovik. At age 19 it was unheard of in them days to become a chapel servant. And Simeon was the organist. And through the years he shared the community as well. And no doubt, while he's gone, its memories like this that we will hold forever as a part of our culture. Mr. Speaker, today again I will speak on the part of the difficulty and the hardship that's gonna be upon our people, single mothers, seniors and low-income earners with the phasing out of the COVID money. And Mr. Speaker, I, for one, have talked to too many who said that the COVID money was a blessing. But many of them only have an old age pension. A lot of our seniors, some of them don't even have a Canada Pension. And they told me that they had to pick and choose even with the COVID money. Every one of us have seen the cost of home-heating fuel and groceries soar in the last number of years. And Mr. Speaker, they're out there. And if every one of us around this Table imagined that single mom or that senior today, as they take their piece of paper and their pencil and they say the basic food, "I can't afford this. I can't afford this." Mr. Speaker, this is not an exaggeration. This is the reality of what they're facing, the difficulty that lies ahead. And again I-, it's pretty difficult when you're asked as a Member of the Assembly, and you say, "Well, right now we don't have any programming," or, "We don't know what direction to point you in," when they're asking for help for the basics of necessities in this day and age. Mr. Speaker, I wanna speak in support of the two Community Corporations in the Upper Lake Melville area. I know the one in Goose Bay, you gotta be

60 years old in order to go to the Community Freezer. In North West River it's age 55. And with the largest population of beneficiaries in the Upper Lake Melville area, every year you've got people who turn the age of 60. And every year you've got more people who are coming to the Community Freezer to avail. And yet the amount of money that they get, if there's any increase in their budget, is very little, or very small. So, Mr. Speaker, I speak again today because I've talked to people in the airport from every community on the North Coast of Labrador. On a daily basis I talk to constituents in the Upper Lake Melville area. And I'll say it again, our most important people to us, many of them are our seniors. Many have moved from the coast through no fault of their own because of health reasons, they have to live in Goose Bay. And they find it very, very difficult. So, Mr. Speaker, it's not a question that they're asking or what they're looking for where tomorrow it paves the way, tomorrow it'll be more challenging for them to provide the basic food for themselves and for the children. What is the answer, Mr. Speaker? I don't know. But I know for one Member who took an oath to help all beneficiaries, I will bring this up and I will strive in every way. And every time I rise, I will bring this up again because it is a very serious, yet touching question, I think that needs to be answered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I will now call upon the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard, when you're ready, sir.

MR. C. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just give a little statement about events that's going on in our town this month and next month. We got our Spring

Festival, Tikigiaksaugusik Festival happening next weekend of the 25th of this month. And I was-, with the weather conditions I don't know if it's gonna be much outdoor events like it usually has, but we're gonna try to get as much outdoor events as we can. And also there's the women's-, our women's dart league is going to Goose Bay in April and I wish them all luck in their games. We had the Levi Pottle Dog Team race and we have our Levi Pottle Memorial Dog Team race happening this month soon. And also the Ron Pottle Memorial Dog Team race will be happening. Hopefully, we'll have lots of teams come from other communities. And I would also like to wish our Labrador Winter Games team the best of luck and have fun and make new friends and I hope to see you soon. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any more first statements around the Table? Seeing none, are there any Members who would like to make a second statement? Seeing none, we will now be taking a 15-minute break and resuming at let's say 10:15, quarter past the hour. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Thank you all back. We will now move on to Item Five, "Returns to Oral Questions." And there are no Returns to Oral Questions today. So we will continue with Item Six. Item Six is "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Terry Vincent. In reference to your

written answer regarding the percentages of moose/caribou that was submitted yesterday, I'd like to ask this question. Would your department consider asking each community to have 0.5 percent or half a percent to be given to Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and Mud Lake to bring us up to seven percent from presently 4.5 percent? This small percentage will help us immensely as Ordinary Member Andersen spoke this morning that a lot of people are moving to Nunatsiavut due to medical reasons. So our number of people using the freezer is increasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Minister Vincent, will you respond, please?

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ms. Kemuksigak for your question. Yes, we can certainly consider it, but it would have to be taken to NEC to get approval. So once we take it to NEC and we get a final answer, we can let you know. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

So am I to take that under advisement? *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any more questions around the table? Seeing none, that conclude-, oh, my apologies. AngajukKâk Joe Dicker, of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Yesterday-, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I considered-, I asked about changing the policy, I suppose. This question is to Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tom

Evans, would NG consider implementing a Travel Day for each time the person has to travel for medical purposes? That's my question.

MR. WINTERS: Can you repeat the end of that, please?

MR. DICKER: Would NG consider implementing a travel day for each time the person has to travel for medical purposes, not a one-time thing, but each time the person travels, would the employee, would he get a travel day, you know, that would be continuous?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Evans, would you like to respond?

MR. EVANS: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. So to-, maybe I'll take that question under advisement and I can get the oral question so I can see what exactly the question is and provide an answer that is acceptable and appropriate.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The question is taken under advisement. Is there any additional supplemental question that you would like to add to that AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER: No.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any further questions around the table? Yes, are there any other first questions before we get to-, okay, Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure who I would direct this to, maybe the President. President Lampe, would NEC consider putting in a proposal to our Trust for funds to help people with food insecurity April

2023, that would help alleviate the major problems that's gonna happen once the Food Voucher program ends-, the COVID ends? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. When you're ready, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. [Speaks in Inuttitut]. Yes, we are considering about what steps we should take in order to look at the importance and priority of our Labrador Inuit health and well-being. And most certainly, to the food insecurity that Inuit are experiencing, whether it is in Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville or the Canadian Constituency. And Mr. Speaker, it is not just toward the food insecurities that Labrador Inuit are experiencing or looking to the end of March 31, 2023. And heat is also an important factor for Labrador Inuit who are vulnerable and especially for the young women with children that was mentioned earlier. And so this issue has been with Labrador Inuit for a long time. But COVID-19 as a sickness was something that we had to deal with in terms of health. But at the same time, it brought something like a blessing for the Federal Government and Canada to learn that Indigenous people are suffering-, not just from sickness, but from poverty and also no warmth in their home. And so it is the responsibility of the Federal Government. But up to this point we have not had any discussions on this issue with the Federal Government Minister. But as the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, we as Government will be looking at this issue, and most certainly, each department will have to step up with funding that will be provided to the food insecurities and warmth in the home. And we have a couple of weeks to work on this

before April 1st happens, but I am confident in my Government that we'll come up with a solution to this issue. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I see that the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism would like to speak.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. Just additionally to that, me and Gerald, we were back and forth about the ICFI Program, the Inuit Child First Initiative Program. So it's the Inuit Child First Initiative is the Inuit similar to Jordan's Principle for First Nation's Children. So I was-, we were just passing back and forth that, you know, since I've been here, I've supported some of my constituents with support letters for their applications, and we've seen applications-, the applications were for stove oil and for groceries. And there were some families that received that support from Inuit Child First Initiative. So if we're talking about parents and families with children under 18 years old, you know, they can submit that application. I just wanted to highlight that, provide that information so if you know if anybody is coming to you saying that they need help and they have children, who are registered beneficiaries CFI will accept support letters from us as Members of the Assembly. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Minister Asivak, Department of Health and Social Development, you may go ahead.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanna add on a few things with President Lampe and Minister Barbour because I know we've been talking about this food security ending and I've been getting a lot of questions within the

Assembly. So I just wanna add on a few things. I've been consulting with the Department of Finance as well. Some important things to remember on timelines for the Trust Funds, it's not a simple answer. I know this was discussed probably in January. There would have to be a proposal submitted to the T Trust. The application deadline is March 31st and September 30th, 2023. The trustees will then have to review the proposal and make a decision. They have to make a decision also based on what their Distributable Cash Flow is. I've also inquired around food security and I know that ITK is working hard on Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy Implementation Plan. This plan is the first roadmap ever developed for improving food security. The Implementation Plan is anchored in specific measurable and time bound and deliverables for creating a self-determined and sustainable food system in Inuit Nunangat. This would include school food in Inuit Nunangat. ITK has completed a costing report to fund a School Food Program in Inuit Nunangat. They are hosting a meeting in Inuvik this month to develop this further. Other regions are using the Child First Initiative to fund school breakfast programs, as the Minister and I have been discussing. Other things to consider, Hunter Support Grants, also Nunatsiavut is developing their own Food Security Strategy Development. A contractor was engaged to write reports from Community Engagement Sessions in 2018. They are still reviewing this and doing some more work. So Nunatsiavut Government have been discussing this, especially the Executive Council and are aware

that concerns that the Assembly is bringing forward on the ending of COVID-19 programs. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIAGAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Another option possibly would be to use some of the carry-over from other years. That maybe be able to help people. But I'm really glad to know about the Child First. So, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Just checking, Chairperson, do you have a question or was that just a comment?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Maybe I'll ask the question, would they consider looking at our surplus dollars from previous years, even just to help for a short time until a Trust Proposal can be submitted?

MR. WINTERS: Considering that the original question was directed to the President, I will now ask the President if he would like to respond to this question.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I'm not the Minister of Finance. *Nakummek, UKatti*, but certainly I'll take this under advisement and certainly this issue would have to be discussed by the NEC. And so-, and it is related to the Food Security Issue and so we will look at all areas of issue that we have to discuss to make sure that we do whatever that we can do to help Labrador Inuit. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Would the Minister of Finance, HR and IT like to respond?

MR. A. ANDERSEN Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Mr. President. So I would just, like the President mentioned, we'll take it under advisement, but what I can say to the carry-over funds, normally, the carry-over funds are

internally restricted, just for the specific program that they were intended for. As they are carried over, they still have to be appropriated for the program or whatever it's restricted for. But I mean, like we could-, we'll certainly take the question under advisement just to, like I'm sure everybody's aware, everything's being considered. Like, you know? Like it's a very serious issue and every department hears the people and it's something that I think we've all got to, like our President said, like our departments have to step up. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Would the Chair like to ask her second supplemental question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ministers and President for your answers.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next question will come from Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Finance and to the Executive Council, it's not really a question, but thank you, for this morning when questions was asked about...

MR. WINTERS:

Ordinary Member, this does have to be a question.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Okay. Well, further to what I said, then I guess I'll finish off asking the question is, will you keep up the good hard work that you've announced here this morning, because I know anyone who was listening, that it's, it's really encouraging to hear the President and the Members of the Executive Council speak in their efforts to try and find a better a way of life for our people. So I ask the question to the Minister of Finance, will you and your

colleagues keep up the good work to try and find a solution to the difficult food program?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville. And yes, of course, we will continue to work with other departments. The program originally was under the Department of Health and like we went just to let the people know, we hear the concerns and we'll continue to advocate for additional funds to address the Food Security problems.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville have a supplemental question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other questions around the Table at this time? Yes, recognizing the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear.

MR. GEAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister Asivak. I think I never heard him properly this morning when he done his presentation, but did he say daycare would be open all year round starting this summer? And I know that we're having a hard time with daycare in Postville and I guess everywhere else is the same. And we don't have nobody hired yet. Would that mean for all Nunatsiavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, Mr. Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member for Postville. Yes, starting this summer, the daycare centres can be open year-round. We're in the final stages of implementation. So we're proceeding as if we're going to open for summer. And more notice will be given closer to the summer when it is finalized. Also for the daycare in Postville, we continue to advertise for positions, and it's been very hard to recruit in Postville, but we'll continue to work with Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology to continue posting for the daycare in Postville. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GEAR: Thank you, Minister Asivak for your answer and no, I don't have no supplementary.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions around the Table? Seeing none, that concludes oral questions for today. We will move on to Item Seven, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Recognizing the Honourable Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to submit this written question to the Clerk if I could just get the page to bring it over please?

[Muted] 1:14:39-1:15:50

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any more written questions today? Seeing none. "Returns to Written Questions." There are no returns to written questions today, so we'll move on to Item Nine, "Petitions." There are no petitions

today, so we will move on to Item 10, "Responses to Petitions." There will be no responses today. We will move on to Item 11, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees today. So we'll move on to Item 12, "The Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As required by the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, I am pleased to Table the Nunatsiavut Government Financial Plan 2023-2024.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Evans. The Tabled document will be numbered as 02-5(3). There are no more documents to be tabled today, so we'll move on to Item 13. This is, "Notices of Motion." I would like to recognize the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday March 15th, 2023 I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 03-5(3), the Financial Plan 2023-2024 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2023-01, "*The Budget Act 2023*" and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller (*sic*) of the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness. And Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The Members is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Go ahead.

MS. FLOWERS: Mr. Speaker, it's Tuesday today, not Wednesday and it's March 14th not 15th.

MR. WINTERS: Just for clarification, as I did see some confused faces around the Table, it does have to be provided with 24-hour notice as per Standing Order 37(1), hence this request to waive 37(1) and address it today. It's confusing wording.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Once again, I am seeking unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to deal with this today. Seeing no, "Nays" and all hands, we will proceed with this motion today. Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. There are no more Notices of Motions today. So we will move on to Item 14, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." I once again recognize the Minister of Finance and Nunatsiavut Treasurer, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday March 15th 2022, I will move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, the First Reading of Bill 2023-01, the *Budget Act 2023* and Mr. Speaker I am seeing unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to First Reading of the Bill today.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing and hearing none, Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your

motion today at the appropriate time. This brings us to Item 15, "Motions." I recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move as follows: Whereas the Nunatsiavut Executive Council is required to prepare a Consolidated Financial Plan for each fiscal year and present to the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan 2023-2024 has been Tabled in the Assembly, and whereas the Financial Plan should be considered by the Assembly, I move, seconded by the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams that Tabled Document 02-5(3), "The Financial Plan 2023-2024" be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2023-01, "*The Budget Act 2023*", and that Ms. Rexanne Crawford, the Comptroller (*sic*) for all the Nunatsiavut Government be called as a witness.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. The motion is in order. At this time, the motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole. Minister Evans, would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. EVANS:

No, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. EVANS:

I wish to close debate.

MR. WINTERS:

That concludes debate. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Seeing none, the motion is passed. Financial Plan

2023-2024 will be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion in conjunction with Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023*, at the appropriate time. There are no more motions today, so we'll move on to Item 16. This item is, "The First Reading of Bills." This is the first reading of Bill 2023-01, Budget Act 2023. I would like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, that Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023* now be introduced and read for the first time.

MR. WINTERS:

Would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. EVANS:

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker to deliver my first Budget Speech as Treasurer of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly. Our President often reminds us that even as we face steep and daunting challenges like we have done in the past, we will overcome. And to do so, we need to strike a critical balance between promoting, enhancing, and protecting our language and way of life, while supporting economic and social growth. This budget presents this balance, Mr. Speaker. As we continue charting a course towards growth and sustainability, this budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in previous budgets. We envision a prosperous Nunatsiavut in which our sustained growth reaches all of our communities and indeed, all beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. Since our establishment as a Government, our financial prowess, while putting the needs of our people and our communities first and foremost, has garnered us the reputation of being responsible and progressive.

We're on the right track Mr. Speaker. We can continue to hold our heads high and be proud of our achievements and successes. Mr. Speaker, as this is the first Budget for the Fifth Assembly, it is important to outline the sources of revenue for the Government. The main source of funding flows under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, or as we commonly refer to it, the FFA, which sets out certain core programs and services that the Nunatsiavut Government has to deliver with funding from the Government of Canada. However, as a Government, we do have the authority to set the dollar amounts for these programs and services. In addition, Mr. Speaker, to the work of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, the ICPC, in allocating and putting forth our respected positions in key priority areas, such as infrastructure, housing and education at the Federal Government level, we have been successful in receiving dedicated funding for those areas. Funds under target programs such as Indigenous Skills and Employment Strategy, ISES, Inuit Health Survey and TB Elimination programs, to name a few, are flowed through the FFA rather than through multi-year contribution agreements. This is a reflection of our strong Government to Government relationship. Mr. Speaker, this Budget reflects a record of \$115.6 million being remitted to Nunatsiavut in the upcoming fiscal year. Another key element of the FFA is the ability to carry over funds that are not expended in any given year. This flexibility allows us to plan for projects that are multi-year or cost more than a single year's funding. There is a significant amount of funds being carried over from previous years, approximately 229 million, Mr.

Speaker. All of these funds have been appropriated in this Budget so that as these funds are required, the Government has the authority to expend them. In addition to funds received under the FFA, the Nunatsiavut Government has budgeted revenues received from personal income tax, GST, interest in investment income for total overall revenues of 369 million. Mr. Speaker, these revenues allow our Government to make strategic decisions based on evidence and needs. We can move forward improving the quality of life and well-being for all Labrador Inuit. When we visit each of our communities, we see first-hand why housing is a key priority for our Government. We have the data to support our needs and have been immensely successful in receiving dedicated funding. In the upcoming year, there will be a total of 22 new units built in Nunatsiavut. These units will begin to address the needs for vulnerable populations, including elders, women and children. The Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is now operational, Mr. Speaker. Its Board of Directors are extremely busy planning and implementing its operations and programs. The decision of the Commission are being made based on the Housing Needs Assessment and guided by the Nunatsiavut Government's Housing Strategy. The Nunatsiavut Housing Needs Assessment also informed us that a significant number of houses in Nunatsiavut required major and minor repairs. This has led to the creation of the Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Home Repair and Emergency Repair programs. I am pleased to say we are making strides in this area. This budget commits funds to the 2022 and 2023 Home Repair programs as well as to the Emergency

Repair Program. The years of inadequate funding for infrastructure has led to the requirement for new financial investments in our communities. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council approved the Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Action Plan outlining key priority areas based on infrastructure gaps and needs in our region. By the end of 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Government will have received \$54 million dedicated to infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, these funds will enhance our ability to grow, enhance our sustainability, will improve access and improve the health and well-being of Labrador Inuit. Over the next five years, the items under Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Action Plan will become more than words on paper, Mr. Speaker. They will become a reality in our communities, a very exciting time to be in Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, protecting, enhancing and promoting our language is of the utmost importance culturally and emotionally. Our language helps define us as a people as it allows us to pass down our values and traditions to future generations. If we lose our language, Mr. Speaker, we lose a part of our culture and way of life. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council approved the Language Strategy. Inuttitut Ukkalutta, in February 2021. The vision on this strategy is, "Speak it, teach it, live it." It's a vision, I'm sure we all can support. This budget reflects financial commitments to the Department of Language, Culture and Tourism to help achieve this vision. As an example, the Department will assume responsibility of the Language Nests, an important step as it works towards the goal of increased levels of Inuttitut being spoken within homes, social circles and public events. Food Security is another key

priority area for Nunatsiavut, and indeed for all of Inuit Nunangat. And Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy was released by Inuit Tapariit Kanatami, ITK, in the summer of 2021. Our staff are now developing action plans and programs related to food security. They are involved with their counterparts from the other Inuit regions in advocating funds to move forward, implementing this strategy. Mr. Speaker, the pandemic highlighted a significant food insecurity faced by many Labrador Inuit on a daily basis. Through funding from the Government of Canada's Indigenous Community Support Funding, we were able to provide much-needed relief to many Labrador Inuit for the past three years. As all Assembly Members know, the COVID-19 Emergency Food Supplement and Cleaning Supplies Programs will end on March 31st. We realize many of our people will have a difficult, difficult time transitioning and adjusting when these programs end. We hear the concerns. We understand, which is why we'll continue to advocate the additional funds to help address the Food Security. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I've only touched on a few of the key priorities. There are many, many more program services and issues being addressed with the appropriations under Budget, all of which help us achieve our vision of a healthy and prosperous Nunatsiavut, and improvements in the lives of all Labrador Inuit. I want to take this time to thank all of the Ministers and their dedicated staff. There is much work behind the scenes to secure funding, to develop strategies, action plans, programs and service, and to build this budget, one that I'm proud to stand and deliver today. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to speak to the principal of the bill? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to conclude debate?

MR. EVANS: I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2023-01 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023* has had first reading. I would like to again like to recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS: Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the Assembly proceed to the second reading of Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023* today.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* In accordance with Standing Order 54(3), the Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d) to proceed with second reading of Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023*, today. All those in favour? All those opposed? Seeing none, Minister, you have unanimous consent, so the Bill can proceed to second reading today. Item 17 is the "Second Reading of Bills." So this will be the second reading of Bill 2023-01, *Budget Act 2023*. I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans for The Second Reading of Bills.

MR. EVANS: Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the motion passed previous by the Assembly, I now ask we move to the Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Plan 2023-24 in conjunction with Bill 2023-01.

MR. WINTERS: We will now take five minutes to let the NG Comptroller (*sic*), Ms. Crawford join us in the Committee of the Whole and while she sets up, please, just note that we'll be back at 15 minutes after, quarter past.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Nakummek. We are now in the Committee of the Whole and I welcome Rexanne Crawford the NG Comptroller (*sic*). As the Members are aware, the procedure for Second Reading Debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Budget. The Financial Plan is important for our discussions today and requires approval from the Assembly. It will be considered first today during our Committee of the Whole discussions, and I will ask for the Assembly's agreement of each page-, actually, I won't. The Financial Plan is just an explanation so there does not need to be agreement on every page. Sorry. My apologies. After agreement on the Financial Plan, we'll move to the Annex of the Bill, *The Budget Act*, Annex A, then on to the clauses of the Budget Bill. The Financial Plan 2022-2023 is 11 pages. Ms. Crawford will review each page as a page-by-page explanation of the Financial Plan before we get to the Budget Bill. The Controller explains the Financial Plan page-by-page, so you all understand what we're going over. Please proceed when you're ready, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So what we have in front of you, it's under Tab Three. I think the first document under Tab Three is the Assembly Budget and there should be a coloured page, and then the next document would be the Financial Plan. And I will correct the date, it is 2023-2024. So your title page of your document would have the Nunatsiavut Government logo and it will say, "Financial Plan 2023-2024." Does everyone have the Financial Plan document in their binder? So as it was pointed out, this Financial Plan is a document prepared by the Department of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. It is-, to help explain the *Budget Act*. So the *Budget Act*, really, it's a bill. So it's very legalistic and a bunch of numbers. So this document is to help tell the story and explain what the numbers mean. And it's been prepared by our Department. Of course the Budget is not a one-person exercise. It's greatly assisted by all the Departments in putting together Departmental Budgets, priorities, reviewing documents, et cetera. So we'll start on Page Three, titled, "*Fiscal Financing Agreement*, Section one. So as the Minister spoke about, there are a number of sources of revenue for the Nunatsiavut Government. The main source of revenue comes from our *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. It is a tripartite agreement between Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. However, only the Government of Canada remit funding under the FFA to the Nunatsiavut Government. And the details are under Schedule A and Schedule B of the FFA and we receive an annual Fiscal Plan Document Table that outlines the sources of funding and the amounts, as well as the

escalator each year. Usually it comes in the last quarter of the year. And it does set out certain programs and services that we have to provide, and as the Minister said, there are some programs and areas that we can reallocate some funding between categories. The biggest-, there are a couple of really key points to the FFA that are important. One, it is a recognition of a Government to Government relationship. So it's not like your typical contribution agreements where you have multiple terms and conditions, where you have to meet very stringent reporting requirements and financial requirements. We are able to carry over funding which does allow us to make long-term planning, or capital projects is a really good example. Typically the amount of money you receive for some capital projects is inadequate in one year, but over a couple of years, you can build up your funds, and then be able to do the larger projects. The other part about the FFA is that a number of specific or targeted programs are now being flowed to us through the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. And again, as a recognition of our Government to Government relationship, it significantly reduces our reporting requirements. And I'll use an example under the ISITS Program used to be a five-year contribution agreement. And the Consolidated Revenue Fund or CRF Funds would flow through this contribution agreement. And the number of reports and the details required under those reports was very time consuming and very detailed, very significant. And now that it's flowing under the FFA, the reporting requirements are just our annual audit reports-, and we will share information. But there's no condition that we have to. So that's just to

give you some explanation on the FFA because I know a lot of Members are new this year. So the Current Year Revenues under the FFA are \$115 million and we are entering the final year of this Renewed *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, and we will begin to develop a mandate and enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada for the renewal of the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. The prior year revenues are significant for a couple of reasons. Funding that has not been expended for if we receive contribution agreement money, if we received money late in the year which does happen with the Government of Canada, then what as a Government will do is will internally restrict the funds and budget it in the next year because if it's not budgeted, we can't spend it. And that's the requirement under the *Financial Administration Act*. The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the use of funds over the last couple of years as we were doing limited operations and limited construction projects, et cetera. Are there any questions on the revenues under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*? I'll get into more details when we look at the Annex. So Expenditures, there's \$35.5 million allocated to the operations of the Nunatsiavut Government and ongoing programs and services. And these are detailed in Section Two of the Budget. Housing is a priority area and there is a significant amount budgeted under the FFA. It is comprised of funds received prior to April 1st, 2023 and an annual allocation of \$16 million for the '23-'24 fiscal year. The Housing Commission is now operational, and the Board of the Housing Commission has been working on their operational plans, programs and budgets. A funding request has

been submitted, and once approved, funds will be transferred to the NHC for their operations. The NG has also committed funding for the '22 and '23 Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Home Repair Program, as well as the Emergency Repair Programs. As the Minister noted, there are 22 new units being built in Nunatsiavut this upcoming year. \$5.4 million of the FFA funding was committed and used to leverage additional funds from the Government of Canada. Specifically, there are six senior units in Nain, six senior units in Hopedale-, there are also 10 units being constructed targeted for vulnerable persons, of which 50 percent must be allocated to women and children. And these are broken down as four units in Nain, four units in Hopedale and two units in Makkovik. NG will have \$54 million to address infrastructure needs by the end of the fiscal year. As the Minister noted, the NG submitted a high-level proposal with priority areas and needs to the Government of Canada. We were successful in receiving funding which will be remitted to the Government over a five-year period. And the Nunatsiavut Affairs is now engaging with the Inuit Community Governments and internally, to develop the Strategic Implementation Plan to address these needs. There are no significant changes in the program plans for funding allocated to Health and Social Development, Education and Economic Development, Language, Culture and Tourism, and Lands and Natural Resources. There are some increases in funding that we're receiving as funds are being moved from Contribution Agreements and being flowed through the FFA. And we've had great success in that specifically in the Health area and under the Education area. Inuit

Community Governments and Capital Works: Their operations on the Capital Works Programs are funded under the FA. So the allocation for the Inuit Community Governments for the upcoming 2023-'24 year is \$7.887 million and there was an adjustment based on FDIPI. It was not 6.8 percent, but we do receive an adjustor each year. The Capital Works Budget has significantly increased from the 2022-'23 fiscal year. We have our annual allocation of \$5.6 million and an additional \$4.3 million that was allocated to the Nunatsiavut Government specifically for water and waste-water projects. I'll pause here to see if there are any questions on the expenditures related to the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and the information that I just provided?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, AngajukKâk Joe Dicker, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Chairman. The monies that are talked about for the communities through Colin Gilbride and Rene Coudie, where does that come into play here with Capital Works?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

That is under the \$54 million for infrastructure. So on top of the \$10.7 million for Community Capital Works Projects, there is also the \$54 million that will have for infrastructure projects.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any more questions? Seeing none...

MS. CRAWFORD:

We'll go to Page five. Don't know my numbers in Inuttitut yet. We'll start with Section Two, our Own Source Revenues. So while we do receive a significant amount of money under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, we do

have other sources of revenue which we term, our "Own Source Revenues." The annual remittance for personal income tax revenue is projected to be \$5 million for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal year. In the past, NG has received additional funds for personal income taxes that have not been expended. Of these amounts received, in prior years, NG has budgeted \$5.4 million for the current year operations. And as an explanation for new Members, the Canada has agreed to give us \$5 million as our annual remittance. And then once the taxation year is completed, CRA undergoes an audit process because sometimes people will indicate they live in an Inuit community or on Labrador Inuit Lands that do not live in the area, or vice versa. We had beneficiaries in our communities or residents in our communities who don't tick the box to say they live in the communities. So CRA will go through an audit process. And when they finish the audit process, what we have seen historically, is more money remitted to us. So they're comfortable to give us an annual remittance of \$5 million knowing that it shouldn't-, the likelihood of having to claw back any money is very low. And this is where we've been able to reserve some of our additional personal income taxes. We don't normally find out till March what the remittance will be from previous years. And at that point, it misses the budget year. And if it's not budgeted, we can't spend it. We also have a *GST Agreement* with the Government of Canada. And the estimate from the Government of Canada for the upcoming year is \$1.7 million. Interest and investment income is based on interest earned on our bank accounts and on our long-term investments. Also under the

Labrador Inuit Land Claims Implementation Trust, the NG will receive 50 percent of the investment income earned in a previous year, which has been budgeted at \$1.86 million. The Nunatsiavut Government also has a Fisheries and Environment Fund, valued at \$7.98 million. The NG collects access fees from fishers for the use of the NG fishing licences. And this has been occurring over the last six years, and in accordance with the Nunatsiavut Government Commercial Fishing Policy. Fishers were consulted on the development of this policy and they signed an agreement to remit these access fees. These access fees are restricted for use specifically for the purchase of fishing opportunities such as quotas or licences, and for the implementation of the new Commercial Fees Designation Policy. Other revenue includes funds received from the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* for the Habitat Stewardship Program Facilitator position and programs, external sales from Nunatsiavut Visual Design, rental revenue, to name a few. I also feel it's very important to note that again in the '22-'23 fiscal year, we did not receive any mining royalties from the Voisey's Bay project. And that is an area that we have been going through litigation and have significant legal advice. Are there any questions on our Own Source Revenues?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Joe Dicker, of Nain-, AngajukKâk?

MR. DICKER:

The last section there, could you-, how do you say it-, explain to me again why we don't get royalties for the mine?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

I will give a quick summary. What the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's position is, that the construction of Long Harbour and the expenditures from Long Harbour, including the depreciation of the capital assets in Long Harbour, can be used to reduce their mineral tax payable-, royalty payable to the Province. And we receive five percent of that royalty. So because of the processing allowance and the depreciation, it has whittled that royalty down to zero. So over the last 10 years, we've been engaged in a legal, I guess-, I don't know if I should use the word battle, but in legal proceedings with the Province. It's gone through various levels and in the next couple of weeks we are going back out with our external lawyers to determine the next courses of action and what we can do. We do not believe and we do not believe that that's the right position for the Province to take and we do not agree with it at all.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions? AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

So basically, what you're saying is if we win that battle, as you say, we will get reimbursed for the amount, royalties?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Our position has been that the Province would owe us mining royalties based on the past years. That's our position we've taken. It is-, I know it's a question in the budget and I don't have all the details but we can, you know, try to put together a summary for the Members as to where we are on it.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions at this time? Seeing none, Ms. Crawford, you may proceed.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Within the Budget Bill there will be a page called the, "Projected Budget," and a "Five-Year Plan." As under-, as per the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, Section 5.5.5, we are required to maintain a Contingency Fund. And the purposes of the fund are laid out on Page Six. A total of \$847,500 has been budgeted for the Contingency Fund in the upcoming year. And it brings the Accumulated Contingency Reserve to \$7, 755,000. The Executive Council also received the budgets for both the Inuit Community Corporations, and the budgets that were received were approved. And the cash outlay that will have to be remitted to the Inuit Community Corporations is \$161,500. It's also very important to note that in August 2019, Canada-, the Government of Canada approved a new policy called, "Canada's Collaborative Self-Government Policy." And under this policy the Own Source Revenue offsets based on our fiscal capacity against the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* are suspended. And they're suspended while we work through various other components of the policy. So we do have an Own Source Revenue Capacity Agreement between us and the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. And under this agreement, we have to remit a percentage of our Own Source Revenues back to each of the two Governments when we draw down programs. So since we've been working through this new policy to take the elephant off the Table and out of the room, the Government of Canada suspended the Own Source Revenue offset and we

have not had to pay any money in for the last number of years. We don't have any programs drawn down from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at this time. And so there is no payments to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. And under the five-year plan, the Budget for the five-year-, in five years will change, depending on the Planned Capital Projects, and to a small part, whether it's an election year or not an election year, et cetera. But the biggest change in the next five years is due to Capital Planning. Are there any questions on this page?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is regard to the Inuit Community Corporation Budgets. Would we be entitled for a FDIPI increase as it is with other areas?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the process for the Budgets for the Inuit Community Corporations are outlined under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. There is not a set amount. Each year you submit a budget based on your needs. It's then brought to the NEC for discussion. And the Budgets are either approved or there may be some amendments. I believe in the last couple of years, Patricia, if we looked at the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation in the prior year, while the remittance to you from an Annual Cash Remittance remain the same, there were some other carry-, there was another approval of funds carried over from a prior year that was used. So that's the process under the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. It's not a guarantee that there's a FDIPI. It's based on a zero-based budgeting approach.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions? You may proceed, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The next section is on our Departmental Budgets. And we'll go over the plans for each department. And it's really exciting for me to be part of this process because I get to see what every department is planning and doing and be-, and while I'm not involved in the intimate details of the program, I get the information, 'cause everything people do needs a dollar and needs people to do. The Nunatsiavut Executive Council have identified that employees are key to the success of the Nunatsiavut Government and key to delivering programs and services to all our beneficiaries. To reflect the commitment to the Nunatsiavut Government and its civil service, there's a two percent increase budgeted for employees starting April 1st, 2023 for each of the next three fiscal years. As well, a review is completed on Labrador Allowance rates. And as a result, an increase to our Labrador Allowance was approved and will be effective as of April 1st, 2023. I'll move on to each department and I'll take a pause after each department in case there are questions related to their plans for the upcoming year. Nunatsiavut Secretariat is responsible for the planning and priority setting of the Nunatsiavut Government for developing the Legislative Agenda, as well as for intergovernmental affairs. In '23-'24, the Department will continue to advance Labrador Inuit priorities through the finalization and implementation of Nunatsiavut Government Strategic Plan, participation in the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, and advancement of the Nunatsiavut Energy Plan. There continues to be funds allocated to address information management needs as well as establish a library of a Labrador

Inuit Association and Nunatsiavut Government Reports and resources. This department is also responsible for external public information, communications and for the operations of Visual Design. The department has requested additional funds under Professional Fees, to address the needs for increased communications. And also for the marketing and communicating on the Nunatsiavut Government's priorities, events, programs and services. And there are no other significant changes in the operations of these divisions from the prior years. I'll just pause if there are any questions on the Nunatsiavut Secretariat.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Sorry, I have a question on the part about the employees. Are you able to say how much the Labrador allowance is going to be as of April 1st, or not?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford, when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD: I don't actually have the Table in front of me. It's not a secret. We just hadn't communicated it out at this point. I know that the Dependant Rate in Nunatsiavut is \$7,780. I know the single rate, I think it's in Upper Lake Melville is \$3,019. And the other two amounts, I just don't have off the top of my head. And I sincerely apologize. I can send that out afterwards, or if we wanna take a break, I can go gather the information.

MR. WINTERS: Would you like for her to retrieve this information right now or can you wait?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, it can wait. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

So, Nunatsiavut Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, Housing, Legal Services the Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries and Public Property. Very busy portfolio. There are no significant changes in the plans for-, related to Implementation and Legal Services. The Office of the Registrar of Beneficiaries is on its second round of requests for proposals related to the Inuit Ancestry Project and the First Minister did speak about this project yesterday in the Ministerial Statement, and I believe addressed a question during Oral Question Period. So their ultimate goal is to have a database with accurate and up-to-date ancestral information. So as part of this process, there is a budget for additional workshops with the Membership Committees and the Inuit Appeal Board. Infrastructure and Planning Division is exceptionally busy managing our current stock of properties and coordinating the plans and constructions of new offices, new program spaces and staff housing. With the growth of the number of public properties, comes an increase in operational maintenance costs, which we all are aware of. They also have a requirement for two new snowmobiles and new vehicle for their maintenance staff. And this is their day-to-day operations that's on top of the work they're doing which I noted in the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, related to Housing and related to the Infrastructure Plan. Are there any questions on Nunatsiavut Affairs?

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

I'd just like to know who the Deputy Minister is for that Department?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Darryl Shiwak is the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs. Naku.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any more questions? Seeing none, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So move on to the Department of Human Resources and Information Technology. My Department's responsible for the Financial Affairs, Human Resource needs and for supplying and managing the Information Technology needs and resources of the Nunatsiavut Government. So we have a role in finance in the Implementation of Strategic Priorities through the review of financial forecasts, budgets, policies, tax and funding agreements and documents. The demand for our Finance Division has exceeded its Human Resource capacity. A Senior Financial Analyst and a Budget Analyst for Capital Projects are required to assist with the financial reporting, budgeting and analysis of projects and programs. There are also additional funds being budgeted this year to assist the Nunatsiavut Government and the Inuit Community Governments with new accounting standards coming to effect in the 2023 Fiscal Year. I'll just pause to give a little explanation on that. In particular, there is an accounting standard called Asset Retirement Obligations. And we will have to assess every one of our Capital Infrastructure, whether it's Water and Sewer, or a building, and determine if there is a legal obligation that when those buildings or those infrastructures are retired or not in use anymore, if we have to do something. And I'll use a basic example that are in some of the literature. So if you had a building that had asbestos in it, and we all know as long as asbestos is not disturbed or if there's asbestos wrapped on a pipe, if there comes a time that you need to remediate that, and you know today that there's asbestos in the building that you may need to remediate 10 years

down the road, we have to account for it and put a liability on our Financial Statements. It's technical. KPMG is doing-, I've just engaged KPMG for Nunatsiavut Government. It came into effect for us April 1st, 2022. It only comes into effect in 2023 for the Inuit Community Governments. So we will be engaging with you, and we have budgeted the funds to do this accounting standard on behalf of each Inuit Community Government. The Human Resource Division continues to move forward with strategic objectives to make the NG an employer of choice. So areas of focus in our plan include an analysis of Recruitment and Retention Strategies, development of new policies related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a general review of policies, educational sessions on policies related to harassment and violence prevention in off-duty conduct. We also have funds budgeted in the area of Occupational Health and Safety for continued implementation and training. And we continue to budget \$25,000 for the Summer Student Program. There is a requirement to purchase capital assets related to data storage, backups and infrastructure at a projected cost of \$90,000. One of the largest items in Information Technology is our subscriptions. And in the upcoming year we have \$342,000 budgeted for subscriptions for items such as our Microsoft Volume licence, anti-virus licences, and back-up licences, et cetera to name a few. Are there any questions on this department?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Ms. Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS:

I think I ask the same question every year. Is there any funds or anything coming to the ICG's regarding the IT support for ICGs?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: So when the Governance Funding was determined a number of years ago, Information Technology, accounting, et cetera, was built into the Governance section of your funding. I believe your question in the prior year too has been about, "Could Nunatsiavut Government assist with our own Human Resource capacity?" And then I continue to work with my staff, but we are limited in our capacity at this time. We've brought in a couple of, kinda level one, tech one positions to help grow our capacity internally, and train people up. So hopefully there is a time when we will have adequate resources to be able to help the ICG's. Our Director has offered and continues to offer that if there's support he can provide in developing proposals or helping you look for external IT providers or assess external IT providers, he's willing to provide that assistance. But we can't- , we don't have the ability at this time to provide day-to-day support.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I have a question, but it might already be in place and I just don't know. When somebody is leaving a position within the Nunatsiavut Government, is there an exit strategy given by them to see maybe ways we can keep or retain employees?

MS. CRAWFORD: We don't currently do exit interviews as a matter of every position that we vacate. We have done some. And we do have a plan to develop an exit-, I don't like to call it strategy, but it's really looking at exit interviews to get information as to why people may be leaving the Government. Often

when people are transferring between positions, we're aware of why they're transferring or looking for a new opportunity, growth in their own personal development and professional development-, those type of things. So internal transfers we're very aware of why people are moving. It is on our plan and I know the Minister spoke about it in his Ministerial statement. We are significantly down in resources right now. So some of these plans that we had are gonna be delayed in getting executed and finalized.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions at this point? Yes, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I guess a comment too for the Comptroller (*sic*), when you speak of the depreciation, I guess, of the buildings, and stuff, ICG's I think are already working on that along with the Maintenance Manuals. Is that the sort of thing that you mentioned, or is that-, 'cause we, as ICG's are sort of on that path to get our Maintenance Manuals up to date and see what infrastructure may be old and which is new, and that kind of thing.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The Asset Requirement Obligation is not really at that operational level. It's really looking at if you have a legal obligation to do something to your building, to your property, when it is no longer in use, at Day One you have to recognize the cost of that. So if you have a mine site and at the end of the mine site, if the mine closes, sometimes you have provisions where you have to reclaim the land. Like you have to plant grass or trees or do something to return it to nature. That's an obligation, a legal obligation to do that. And so at Day One that, that mine opens, they would have to

budget the cost to do that at the end of the mine life. So the standard is not necessarily on your day-to-day making sure your Operation Manuals are up-to-date, looking at depreciation of buildings, et cetera. It's looking at, do you have a legal obligation to do something at the end of life of the building?

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions right now? Yes, Mr. Vincent.

MR. VINCENT: Yes, talking about legal obligations for the mine, does this pertain to exploration also? Because I know there have been many exploration camps left and just, well, just left untouched after they're done.

MS. CRAWFORD: So, I'm talking about an accounting standard which is a financial accounting standard. And it only relates to Nunatsiavut Government properties and in this case, also Inuit Community Governments. It won't-, this-, I can't speak to any external piece or mining sites. I don't have that in the Budget. I don't know if that's something your department looks at in terms of unclaimed camps, et cetera.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Mr. Tony Andersen?

MR. A. ANDERSEN: I suppose perhaps the mining site would not be a good example, but gravel quarries, for instance that are run often by Community Government, old buildings that are community halls, whatnot, would be very much a part of that standard, eh?

MS. CRAWFORD: You are correct, Tony. I was just trying to use an example, and you're right. Quarries probably would've been a more relevant one to use in terms of a

legal obligation to do something at the end of its life. It's a really technical standard. I've read through the standard and I've gotten, you know, your Cole's Notes versions from accounting firms. And I know we're kind of going off track of the Budget. So that's why we've engaged an external advisor to come in and do the work for us and do the evaluations.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions right now? Seeing none, you may continue, Ms. Crawford.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for Labrador Inuit Lands and all-natural resources within, both renewable and non-renewable. The management and regulation of Inuit Harvesting, protection of the environment, establishment of exploration standards and the approval of work plans, the establishment of the management of protected areas in LIL and the implementation and administration of Impacts and Benefits Agreements. So while there are no significant changes planned with the Programs and Services of the Non-renewable Division or the Lands Division, there will be a continuation of the conducting of inspections of various sites on LIL with potential environmental concerns, as recommended by the Community, Lands and Resource Committees. As well, the Non-Renewable Division is planning on delivering a prospecting course in the 2023-'24 fiscal year. The Renewable Resources Division budget will reflect an appropriation related to the Fisheries Fund. As noted previously, we restrict all the access fees received from fishers, into a fund for the purpose of fishing opportunities. Since opportunities arrive on short notice and need to be acted quickly on,

having the appropriation completed in the *Budget Act* will allow the NG to avail of these opportunities. The Renewable Resources Division will be participating in research projects related to moose, and as well as the Annual Fishery Workshop. The Division continues to implement its Capital Asset Replacement Plan. They have an allocation for purchase of two boats and trailers and two new snowmobiles, as well as all the appropriate safety gear required to meet Transport Canada regulations. The Environment Division has no significant changes in their current program plans. There are appropriations for the Northern Contaminants Program, Lake Melville Baseline Study, Sustainable Communities, Imappivut, and other research projects. A new technical position for research has been budgeted to assist with the many research projects ongoing. They've also requested a truck to assist with the transportation of research equipment and materials, as well as to assist with deliveries from the Community Freezer in Nain. Are there any questions on the Department of Lands and Natural Resources?

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm gonna speak specifically for Nain. Is there any money available or made available to hire more staff for the guardianship, stewardship of the area that the two conservation officers have to explore, I suppose? It's a huge area. And they cannot do it-, two people cannot do it. I just wanna know if there's any money available to hire more people?

MR. CRAWFORD:

So at this time the Department has just requested the funding for two positions, and that's coming from the Department. We can take this back-

, I can take it back to the Department. Your commentary about the need-
, the potential need for an additional conservation officer or more, for the
region. And bring that back to them for their determination and review.

MR. WINTERS: Go ahead, Mr. Dicker.

MR. DICKER: This, the introduction of Imappivut, that's gonna study all the area of use.
We're gonna need those decisions soon and the quicker you get to that,
the better.

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford, when you're ready.

MS. CRAWFORD: I wasn't sure I heard a question, but more a commentary about Imappivut?
What I can speak to on Imappivut is that there's funding budgeted. I'm-, I
can't speak to timelines or deliverables or items related to the Imappivut
project. I think it's coordinated between the Lands and Natural Resources
and Language, Culture and Tourism. So if there are specific items for
update in terms of the entire Imappivut program and timelines, we can
direct it back to those to departments to get you information.

MR. WINTERS: If there are no further questions, you can continue.

MS. CRAWFORD: Health and Social Development is responsible for establishing and
administering health and social policies, programs and services for
Nunatsiavut Government. And for promoting the health and social well-
being of Inuit. The majority of the funding for their operations comes from
the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. It runs their Health Services, their
community programs, mental wellness and healing. There's some money
now flowing for Family Connections and for targeted programs such as the

Inuit Health Survey, TB Elimination Program, some small-, and obviously the largest program we run is the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. There are no significant changes in the plans for the programs and services for Family Services, for Youth, Elders, Status of Women and for Food Security. I'll move on to Education and Economic Development before I pause for questions. Education and Economic Development is responsible for establishing and administrating Education and Economic Development policies, programs and services for the Nunatsiavut Government, and for promoting the Economic Development of Nunatsiavut and the education of Inuit. The Department continues to implement programs related to education, capacity building, and the development of economic opportunities. Education expenditures are primarily supported through the Fiscal Financing Funding. They have funds for post-secondary student support. The Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy, the CRF component of ISETS supplementary funding for secondary education that flows to the schools in Nunatsiavut. The Department also budgets for programs such as wage subsidies, the Community Economic Development Program and programs related to the development of Inuit businesses. Are there any questions on Health and Social Development and Education and Economic Development?

MR. WINTERS:

Seeing no questions, we are now going to break for 40 minutes because our food is here. We will be back at quarter to the hour, so at 12:45 sharp we will be seated and starting. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Welcome back, everyone. Thank you, for being prompt. We're still in the Committee of the Whole at Language, Culture and Tourism. Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek. Language, Culture and Tourism is responsible for administering the cultural and linguistic affairs of Inuit and the Nunatsiavut Government. This includes Policies, Programs and Services for the preservation, use and development of Inuttitut, the protection and management of archaeological and historic resources and protecting and developing the cultural heritage of Inuit and fostering Inuit creativity through the arts. The Department also administers Nunatsiavut Government's policies, programs and services in relation to Tourism, promotes Tourism, strengthens Inuit participation in the Tourism industry and encourages economic growth and employment throughout Nunatsiavut in the area of Tourism. The Department's plans are guided by three strategies, the Language Strategy, the Nunatsiavut Tourism Strategy and the Nunatsiavut Art Strategy. Implementation of the Language Strategy continues to be a key priority area for the Department. For 2023-'24, they will assume responsibility of the Language Nest Programs from the Department of Health and Social Development. A new position will be hired to manage the programming and staff at the two locations. Funds continue to be appropriated for ongoing language programs such as the Inuttitut Radio Hour on the OKâlaKatiget Society Radio Station, the Interpreter Translator annual workshops, Inuttitut Master Apprenticeship programs as well as other programs. While language continues to be a

focus, there has been a gap in the development and implementation of cultural programs. In 2023-'24, a coordinator will be hired to begin developing and delivering specific cultural programs. The Archaeology Office will continue its projects such as the Digital Outreach and Oral History Initiative, the Annual Heritage Forum, Place Names Project, and identification and designation of historically significant buildings in Nunatsiavut. They'll also be doing a feasibility study for a Nunatsiavut Repository, along with plans to visit museums that currently host Inuit artifacts and collections. They're also exploring having a reunion for Hebron and Nutak relocates, an event that has not occurred since 1999. We have some seed money budgeted in which to leverage external funding for this project. The Tourism Division is the lead for Tourism in Nunatsiavut, Hebron, the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre, and also for the Arts. Hebron is a very important part of Labrador Inuit history and funds are budgeted for the Hebron Ambassador and Restoration Program again for the 2023 summer season. The NG is committed to the operations in a Youth Leadership Program at the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre and this is the final year of a five-year contract with an external operator for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Centre. The Division has budgeted funds to support operations in the 2023 season. There are funds budgeted for the Arts Strategy which is guided by three pillars, improving access, building strong partnerships and artist development. And the Nunatsiavut Government will continue to contribute funds for recreational activities of

the Torngat Recreation Commission which flows through the Inuit Community Governments and has also budgeted funds for athletes to participate in the upcoming Inuit Northern Games. The last area under our Departmental Budgets is Administration. There's very little change in this and we really strive to keep our Administration costs as efficient and as effective as possible because we want more of our money to flow into the programs and services for our beneficiaries, as possible. So are there any questions on Language, Culture, Tourism or Administration?

MR. WINTERS:

Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

The next section in the Budget is the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and I won't spend any time on that section other than to point out that this Budget was approved yesterday at the Sitting. The Implementation Plan section of the Budget has funds budgeted for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board. The Nunatsiavut Government, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada under the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*, contributes funds for the operations of these co-management boards. It's referenced under Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 of LILCA. We concluded negotiations two years ago for a 10-year period and the Budget reflects the current financial commitments for the Nunatsiavut Government for the two co-management boards. Capital Infrastructure: There's a schedule in the Annex for budgeting for Capital Infrastructure. So the Nunatsiavut Government reviewed the current office and storage requirements in each of the Inuit Communities and developed a five-year

plan to address current and future needs for office buildings, storage and staff housing. The 2022-'23 fiscal year was a year that was dedicated to a lot of planning for these infrastructure projects. And what you will see in '23-'24 is a number of construction activities in each of the communities. The Nunatsiavut Government is addressing the growing demand for office space in Makkovik, Postville and Nain. Construction is due to begin in '23 in these three communities with office extensions planned in Nain and Postville and a new building in Makkovik, and as well as the continuation of the Department of Health and Social Development Office in Rigolet. As well in Nain, the design and site work for a multi-purpose building will begin. With insufficient and inadequate apartments currently available, staff housing continues to be an issue as NG recruits and retains employees. We have developed a five-year plan to address staff housing needs in all of the Inuit communities. And that brings us to the end of the Financial Plan. Are there any questions on the areas I just covered?

MR. WINTERS:

Seeing no questions, I will now ask Ms. Crawford to go through Annex A.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Annex A is the Annex to the Budget Bill. So the first page, seven, is a summary of each department and the Nunatsiavut Assembly, Inuit Community Governments and Inuit Corporations showing the administration and fiscal financing funding for a total budget of \$369,758. The details of these flow out in the later parts of the Budget.

MR. WINTERS:

We're gonna take a brief break. One second. So as we are now going through Annex A and into the Budget Bill itself, we will need to review and approve by voting on the substantive sections first, starting with Section

Two, then onto the substantive sections, then when the substantive sections are finished, we will go back to the beginning to consider the Preamble and Title of the Bill. Sorry, I'm going to ask for approval of Page seven, the first page of the Annex. Yes? Sorry, Mr. Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Yes, sorry, just for clarification and I'm not sure if there's a correction or not for the Comptroller (*sic*), for the total Budget it would be \$369 million not thousand? Just as a correction.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Nakummek, \$369,758,000.

MR. WINTERS:

Yes, Mr. Andersen?

MR.B. ANDERSEN:

That was just a correction. That's all.

MR. WINTERS:

Okay. Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted confirmation, I guess. So with Nunatsiavut Affairs being so high, I can assume that's because of the housing and the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission and other housing?

MR. WINTERS:

Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD:

Yes. When we get into Section One of the Budget, you'll note that a significant portion of that relates to Housing and Infrastructure funds that have been remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government from the Government of Canada.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions on this page? Seeing none, can I get approval of Page Seven, the first page of Annex A? And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we'll move on to Page Eight.

MS. CRAWFORD: Page Eight is another summary page in the Annex which reflects a balanced budget. So it shows total projected revenue of \$369,758,000 and Total Projected Expenditures of \$369,758,000. And the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* amounts are covered under Section One and Operational Revenues and Expenditures are covered under Section Two.

MR. WINTERS: I'm looking for unanimous approval of Page Eight. Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, on to Page Nine. Go ahead Ms. Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR: Just a technical issue. There's a typo on the-, under Operational Expenditures, just wanted to point that out.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Thank you. Okay. That's noted. On to Page Nine.

MS. CRAWFORD: So we are now entering Section One of the Budget Bill which covers the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. So Core Funding is \$299,273,000. Other funding is \$45,291,000. Other funding are targeted program areas or specific funds being remitted under the Fiscal Financing area for priority areas which include areas such as Education, Housing, et cetera that are coming under the current year. And it's the naming convention that the Government of Canada uses and I've just carried into this schedule. There are \$35,519,000 carried over into Section Two of this Annex. Under Section One, Housing is our most significant expenditure which is \$103,846,000. We recently were remitted \$45 million, and I mean recently, in about three weeks ago we received notification under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement Amendment*, a \$45 million being remitted before March 31st of 2023 specifically for Housing. And this comes from

the exceptional work that our staff and staff from other Inuit Nunangat regions are working together on priority areas. They front-ended a lot of the money for Housing in the '22-'23 year, so there is an allocation of \$45 million that should be in our bank account before March 31st. And that's one of the big drivers of the large amount we have for Housing. The Department of Health and Social Development has \$63,883,500 for their operations. Governance is \$62,952,000. Infrastructure, \$54,311. We did cover infrastructure in the preamble in the Financial Plan, and again, I just do want to highlight that there is a lot of work and advocacy going on at the ICPC Tables. And infrastructure was one of the priority areas and we've been successful in receiving money over a five-year period that will help address infrastructure needs and the gaps in our communities, over the next number of years. Education is \$24,684,000. Community Governments Capital Works has a significant increase from the prior year. So it's at \$10.1 million. And this is due to \$4.3 million coming specifically for water and wastewater projects in our communities. We received notice after the Budget period last year, of a \$2.1 million allocation for water and wastewater projects. So it wasn't budgeted in the prior year. We thankfully, this year, received notification early. So we've been able to build into this budget. The gap-closing fund was specific funds for multi-purpose buildings in Nain and Hopedale, \$9.4 million. Inuit Community Government Operations, \$7.877 million. Then we have \$4.59 million for Economic Development, \$1.8 million for Emergency Operation Centres.

And then some smaller amounts for Data, Lands and Natural Resources and Culture and Language, for a total overall expenditure of \$309,045,000.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions at this time? Yes, Ms. Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: The \$60,000 that came through the Infrastructure Strategy, is that-, and then you said there was \$40,000,000 more that you had notification for-, 45? Is that right or am I mistaken?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: So in the category, "Infrastructure," there's \$54.3 million. These are monies that are coming due to the work of the Infrastructure staff under the Nunatsiavut Infrastructure Action Plan. That is one item. Under the other item where we have Community Government Capital Works, that's every year when you get your money for Capital Works projects in your communities, this year it was about \$4.6 million that would've been for that. On top of that we're actually getting another 4.3 for Water and Sewer. And that's outside of the Infrastructure Action Plan. So in total for Infrastructure we would have \$64 million.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions? Seeing none-, sorry, yes, Mr. Dicker?

MR. DICKER: Under Community Governments Capital Works, that money there, does that go under Joint Management Committees?

MR. WINTERS: Ms. Crawford?

MS. CRAWFORD: Yes, it does.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any additional question? Yes, Ms. Barbour?

MS. BARBOUR:

I don't have a question, but I would just like to make a comment if I may. Going through this, like Minister Evans mentioned, this is one of the biggest bills, the highest bills that's coming to the Assembly. So I think there's, like, good questions but it's also good to keep in mind that this is very significant to see and hard work of the ICPC that we're finally seeing somewhat adequate amounts of dollars coming in to close the infrastructure gaps in our communities. And I just wanted to highlight that.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there further questions or comments around the Table? Not seeing any, can I get unanimous approval of Page Nine? Seeing no, "Nays," we'll move on to Page 10.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 10 is the last schedule under Section One for the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*. Under either the *Constitution* or the *Financial Administration Act*, we do have to provide a table that shows the breakdown between each Inuit Community Government and the increase-, what we've done is shown what was actually remitted in the '22-'23 fiscal year which was \$7,440,000. And the increase in your budget, broken down by community is \$7,877,000. And for new Members, the allocation between each community is determined on two components. One, there's a governance component which is an equal amount provided to each Inuit Community Government for what it takes to govern your community. It covers positions like your CAO, Town Clerk and other such positions, plus allocations for Accounting, Information Technology, et cetera. The second part is called the Service Allocation and it's based on actual data provided by each of the Inuit Community Governments about the number of

residential and commercial buildings that you service. And then we take and prorate it over the total number and come up with the allocation for each community. So the total Budget is \$7,877,000 and the amount by each community is noted and will be remitted each quarter, broken down in four payments, so each quarter.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions on Page 10? Seeing none, we'll ask for unanimous approval of this page. And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we'll move on to Page 11.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 11 starts Section Two of the Budget. And this page outlines the Sources of Revenue for the general operations of the Government as well as some programs and services. A significant source of money is from the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and coming from Governance Allocation of \$35.5 million. I ran through under the Financial Plan, the different sources of revenue that the Nunatsiavut Government receives each year. I don't want to take up too much of your time to give the details behind each one, other than to say they're outlined on the Table here. And it brings us to a total revenue of \$6,713,000.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions on Page 11? Seeing none, I will seek approval of Page 11. Are there any, "Nays?" We are on to Page 12.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 12 is the Projected Budget. It covers the Departmental Budgets of \$33,890,000. The allocation to the Contingency Fund of \$847,500. Zero for the OSR claw-back, \$161,500 for the Inuit Community Corporations, \$3,646,500 for the Nunatsiavut Assembly, \$562,500 for the

Implementation Plan. And Capital Infrastructure of \$21,588,000 for a total budget request of \$6,713,000.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there questions around the Table on Page 12? Seeing none, I'll seek approval for Page 12. And are there any, "Nays?" We'll move on to Page 13.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 13 looks at a five-year cycle of Budgets-, two years prior to this year and two years ahead. And the differences between each Budgets, typically are driven by Capital Infrastructure projects. A small change, whether it's an election year or not, and some changes in planning in the departmental budgets. So it really is a summary and a projection for the next two years.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions about this page? Seeing none, I'm looking for approval of this page. And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are on to Page 14.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 14 is a busy table and it is small, small font. It shows the plans in financial numbers for each of the Departments and Administration, and total by different categories. So our largest expenditure is salaries and benefits which is common for any organization. There's a total of \$10,647,500 for Programming. And this is driven significantly by the Fishery and Environment Fund under Lands and Natural Resources. And just to reiterate that if we don't budget the fund, we can't expend from it. So we have budgeted all the Restricted Fishing Funds so that if an opportunity comes up they can act on it. We only meet as an Assembly five times a year and then in order to do separate Budget Acts for those

opportunities, we may miss it. So we have been doing this for five or six years where we budget all the funds for this Fishery and Environment Fund and use it so that we can use it when needed. Professional Fees is \$2 million. It has increased slightly from the year prior. We do have some funds for additional communication needs, some additional funds for accounting to deal with the new accounting standards coming in. I think everything else is pretty much status quo under the Professional Fees. Just trying to highlight-, there's money for Membership Committees for their workshops, \$225,000. A significant amount of money, you know, our insurance is almost half million dollars. There's funds for Maintenance and Registry of Laws, \$31,000. And a total overall request of \$33,890,000. I'll pause if there's any questions. I know it's a busy Table. We try to highlight in the Financial Plan, the different programs and services and initiatives or priority areas that each of the departments would be working on. And this Table just summarizes the total budgets.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any questions? Seeing none, you may continue.

MS. CRAWFORD:

I think you need to vote on this page before I move on?

MR. WINTERS:

Sorry, I didn't realize you'd completed it. Can I get approval of Page 14?

And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we're on to Page 15.

MS. CRAWFORD:

Page 15 covers the Approved Assembly Budget from yesterday's sitting, just to give the total, the total Budget for the Nunatsiavut Assembly is \$3,636,500. *Naku.*

MR. WINTERS: Do we have any questions on this page? Seeing none, can I have approval of Page 15? And are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, we are on to Page 16.

MS. CRAWFORD: This summarizes the Implementation Plan commitments. So we have budgeted \$278,000 for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, \$278,000 for the Torngat Wildlife and Plant Co-management Board. That's one third of the funding for those co-management boards and reflect our commitment which was approved when we did the 10-year renewal. There's a small amount that comes from the Implementation Plan for the Land Use Planning of \$6,500, for a total amount of \$562,500 for the upcoming year.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any questions on Page 16? Seeing none, can I have approval of Page 16? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none we are on to Page 17.

MS. CRAWFORD: The last page of the Annex covers our Capital Infrastructure Funding. This, we did discuss earlier, the different projects and buildings, that we'd be doing under, "Office Buildings and Renovations," for the upcoming year, including new builds in Makkovik, continuation of the new Community Office in Rigolet, extensions to the buildings in Postville and in Nain, as well as looking at Staff Housing in our communities, based on our five-year plan. So the total amount for this fiscal year is \$21,588,000. It is going to be an incredible year, a busy year for our infrastructure team. So we'll be supporting them as much as we can as they move forward with all these projects.

MR. WINTERS:

Do we have any questions on Page 17? Seeing none, can I have approval of Page 17? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, I will note that after the divider, you have the same Budget in Inuttitut. Of course, it has to be passed in both. And we will now be moving on to the Budget Bill itself, which you can find at Tab Five.

MR. WINTERS:

We will now be going through the Budget Bill clause by clause starting with Section Two and then on to the Substantive Sections until they're finished, then we'll go back to the beginning to consider the Preamble and Title of the Bill. I ask you first to look at Clause Two, beginning on Page Two and going to Page Three. And please let me know if you have any questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions. Just to make sure we're all moving at the same page, I will read the rest of these. Are we agreed upon Clause Two beginning on Page Two and ending on Page Three? Are there any, "Nays?" Excellent. On Page Three, we're looking at Clause Three, under Budget Approved and Adopted, the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal year beginning April 1st, 2023 and ending on March 31st, 2024, a copy of which is Annexed to this Act is hereby approved and adopted as the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the fiscal period, April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024. Are there any questions? Are we agreed? Clause Four, the Nunatsiavut-, actually, I'm not gonna read all of that. Please let me know if you have any questions. Are we agreed? Clause Seven. Sorry, Clause Five, on Page Four. Are there any questions? Are we agreed? Clause Six. Are there any questions on Clause Six? Seeing none, are we agreed?

Clause Seven. Are we agreed? Clause Eight is from Page Four to Six, so I'll give you a minute. Are there any questions? Are we agreed? On Page Six, Clause Nine. Are we agreed? Clause 10. Are there questions? Are we agreed? Clause 11. Are there any questions? Are we agreed? Let's now go back to Page Two, Clause One, which is the Short Title. Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Finally, the Long Title. Do we have any questions? For clarification, the Long Title is, "An Act to Implement the Consolidated Financial Plan of the Nunatsiavut Government for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1st, 2023 and ending March 31st, 2024." Are there any questions? Are we agreed? That concludes the page by page and clause by clause review of the Annex and the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. EVANS:

I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. That concludes debate. That concludes the Committee of the Whole and I want to thank Ms. Rexanne Crawford for her time and all of this information. We'll now pause for a minute while she exits. *Nakummek.* We are now back in the Assembly. All those in favour of the Second Reading of Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023*? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2023-01, *The Budget Act 2023* has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister. We will now move on to Item 18, "The Assent to Bills." Honourable President, the Assembly has given second reading to Bill 2023-01, *the Budget Act 2023* and wish to present it to you for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. Honourable Speaker and Members of the Assembly, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2023-01, *the Budget Act 2023* and hereby sign it into law.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. President. Nakummek. We will now move on to Item 19. Item 19 is, "Adjournment." I want to thank everyone around the Table for their work this week in getting all of this completed. I would like to thank the pages, as well as the IT support, the support from OKâlaKatiget Society and our Interpreter Translator. The Assembly is now adjourned until June of 2023. And for the interest of Members the drivers will be available out front for anyone who wants to attend the service of Lena Semigak.
Nakummek.