



Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

**FIFTH ASSEMBLY
OF
NUNATSIAVUT**

**SPRING SESSION
3RD Session
3RD SITTING**

**kAVAMALIGIJET
KAUJITITSIUTINGA
PARLIAMENTARY REPORT**

In Attendance:

Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Bryan Winters

Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member for Canada, Honourable Roland Saunders

President of Nunatsiavut, Honourable Johannes Lampe

First Minister and Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honourable Melva Williams

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

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

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

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

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

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen

Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear

AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Julius Dicker

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard

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

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

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

Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette

Absent:

AngajukKâk for Postville, Ms. Diane Gear

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

MR. WINTERS: [Speaks in Inuktitut] I would like to call to order the Third Sitting of the Spring Session of the Fifth Nunatsiavut Assembly, and ask Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Wally Andersen, to say the opening prayer.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: [Recites prayer.]

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Thank you. I will now ask for the President's opening address.
Mr. President, when you're ready.

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

Mr. Speaker, a community feast was held at Jens Haven Memorial School following the meeting, with performances from the Nain Drum Dancers, as well as some throat singing. And it was a pleasure to host the Prime Minister, the Federal Ministers as well as Inuit leaders in Nain. Hopefully the visit will have a lasting impact on all of them, and that they now have a much better appreciation of some of the challenges we face. I also had the opportunity last month to participate in the Grand Opening of the new Innu Nation Office Complex in Sheshatshiu. This new facility will help the Innu Nation better serve its people as a hub for community engagement and development. In many ways, the building is a symbol of progress and growth for the Innu Nation, as it continues to strengthen its relationships

with its partners, including the Nunatsiavut Government. We look forward to building on the strong relationship we have with the Innu Nation, in advancing mutual issues and concerns. As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, the Nain Wind Microgrid Project is a proposed one to two-turbine, 2.3 to 4.6-megawatt wind power project with a battery storage system and microgrid controller, to integrate with the existing diesel system in Nain. The proposed location of the wind turbines is approximately 2.5 kilometers from the centre of the community. It is the first project of this scale within Nunatsiavut. And it is expected that it will serve as a pilot project for renewable energy development in the region. This project will help reduce the amount of diesel fuel consumed at the NL Hydropower plant in Nain. It is anticipated that the construction will begin in June 2024 with commercial operation in 2025. The construction phase, one to two years, includes the civil and electrical work, road and electrical circuit building, wind turbine erection and installation of the battery system. As well, the Nunatsiavut Government has introduced the Residential Heat Pump Program for our beneficiaries residing in the five Labrador Inuit Communities. This program allows eligible participants who currently use electric heat as their primary heat source in their home, to apply for a heat pump that is either fully paid for by the program or has the 75 percent of the cost subsidized. A heat pump is an alternative heating and cooling system to a furnace and an air conditioner that operates by extracting heat from the air, water, and even the ground outside of your home, and transferring that heat indoors by using electricity. Again, to be eligible for

a heat pump, your home must be primarily heated by an electric heat system. This means that 50 percent or more of the heat in your house must be produced from an electric source. Beneficiaries who make a combined gross home income of less than \$100,000 annually, will have all heat pump costs covered by the program. Those who make a combined gross income that is greater than \$100,000 annually, will be responsible for 25 percent of the cost of the heat pump and installation. To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank you and indeed all Members of the Assembly, and our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to advance issues and concerns of all beneficiaries and to wish each and every one of you a safe and enjoyable summer. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, Mr. President. Item Three is, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery." I would like to welcome everyone to beautiful Hopedale in the third sitting of our Third Session. Thank you to everyone who may be listening on the Nunatsiavut Assembly Audio Feed. Please note that AngajukKâk Diane Gear is excused from this Assembly. Minister Roxanne Barbour of Language Culture and Tourism and Ordinary Member for the Community of Nain is also excused although she is joining us later today. I would like to recognize our Director of Legal Services, Mark Gillette. Are there any Members who wish to recognize visitors in the gallery? Seeing none, the pages for this sitting are Kiera Gear-Collins and Tabea Onalik Jr. The interpreter, translator is Gus Semigak. And we're very happy to have you back at our sitting, Gus. 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. Item Four is "Ministers Statements." Are there any Ministers Statements today? Yes, the first hand that I see is the First Minister, Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to begin today to speak to a couple of items within my department, Membership and Enrollment. Mr. Speaker, Ancestry Database. Nunatsiavut Affairs has contracted Know History, that's K-N-O-W History, to develop a Ancestry database for the Nunatsiavut Government. Working closely with the Membership Office over the next few months, a first phase, which will include consultation with Membership Committees, community members. We will be developing family trees, and workshops for the community of Nain and north of Nain beneficiaries. Once Nain is complete, another community will be selected to complete this work until all communities are done. Change of address: The Membership Department at the Registrar's office would like to remind all beneficiaries to contact Nain Administrative Office if you have moved or have a change of address. You can call 1-866-922-2942, extension 251 to take care of that piece of work. Beneficiary Cards: If you would like to replace your old Labrador Inuit Association, LIA Beneficiary card, please request a new Nunatsiavut Government Beneficiary card by calling the Membership Office. Newborns: The Department would also like to advise all new parents to apply for their

child's beneficiary status at the earliest convenience. Membership Committees need to assess each application, which may take up to a few weeks to complete. Children are covered under their mother, father's beneficiary number for up to two years old. And after they're two, then it's the responsibility of the parents to pay for any medical costs, et cetera.

Nineteen-year-olds: A reminder to all re-applying 19-year-olds, you should complete your application within the 120 days from the date of your first letter that the Registrar sent to you, to the address the Registry has on file. Again it's important that you update your address to ensure you receive your letter. If you are going to post-secondary school, then you could advise the Registrar's Office as to where you would like your mail sent, as they cannot change your address to where you're going to school, as this will affect your travel with the Education Department.

Deceased: If there is a family member that has passed, who is a beneficiary member, please ensure the family member contact the Registrar's office and provide proof of document of deceased, so their name can be removed from the Register.

Committee Vacancies: The Makkovik and Postville Membership Committee is in the process of filling two vacancies. Any applications that are processed and sent to the Committee will be processed as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience and delays. As of June 9th, 2023, there was a total of 6,944 beneficiaries on the Register.

Public Property, Mr. Speaker: This summer, we are on schedule to start the construction of over \$50 million worth of capital infrastructure for the Nunatsiavut Government. Projects include, Seniors Units, construction

underway, Nain Fourplex, Nain Duplex, Hopedale Fourplex, Hopedale Single unit-, another single unit will be constructed when we get legal title to lots. Nain's staff six-plex construction is underway. Hopedale fourplex, a rapid housing initiative, CMAC-funded program, construction underway. Nain fourplex rapid housing initiative, CMHC, construction underway. Makkovik fourplex, staff housing, construction underway. Regional Education office, construction package one, CPI package for civil work, has been completed. Construction package two, CP2 building construction starts June 12th. Makkovik Duplex, social housing, the Project Team is evaluating this one. Postville Duplex Social Staff Housing, planning is underway. Postville Office addition, tender package has been issued and construction will start summer 2023. Rigolet DHSD, contract has been awarded. Some site preparation started for construction. Will be constructed during the 2023 construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will finish my report on Day Two of this Assembly.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Minister to give their statement will be the Honourable Gerald Asivak of the Department of Health and Social Development, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll report this morning on Social Development and Family Services. Deputy Minister Kinney and I had the opportunity to share our health priorities with the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Health and Indigenous Services, as well as Indigenous leaders in Newfoundland and Labrador. The purpose of this session was to highlight Indigenous Health priorities in light of the Prime Minister's announcement

related to additional health funding for provinces with a specific funding envelope for Indigenous populations. The Zoom meeting went very well, and I felt we were heard with great feedback from the Provincial and Federal Governments. Deputy Minister and Director of Health Services attended the Inuit Health Tripartite Committee meeting in Halifax. This session focused on delivering a strategic plan based on joint health priorities for Nunatsiavut Government, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Indigenous Service Canada. We are in the process of hiring a new position, Indigenous Relations Manager. This position will provide support and act as a resource, as required for healthcare providers and other staff members regarding provision of culturally safe care. Identify and address power imbalances inherent in systems by education, consciousness raising and understanding of the unique social determinants of health of Inuit and the ways power and privilege impact the health, identify the risks associated with health inequity, and develop strategies to address systemic issues, to foster culturally safe care. And lastly, the responsibilities, review and provide input regarding health policies at the community, regional and Provincial level that create barriers, challenges for equal access to healthcare for Labrador Inuit. The Emergency Shelters in Nain, Hopedale and Happy Valley-Goose Bay are very busy, reaching or surpassing capacity most nights. Family Services, Mr. Speaker: Inuit Child First Initiative. Nunatsiavut Government has sent a directive to the Inuit Child First Initiative, Indigenous Service Canada, on NG's expectation for the delivery of Inuit Child First Initiative within

Newfoundland and Labrador. All applications for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries residing in Newfoundland and Labrador that are submitted to Indigenous Service Canada, must be approved by the NG to ensure services and supports are administered within the Legislative authority of the Nunatsiavut Government and in the spirit of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. Specifically two sections, Best Interest of Children, Section 2.4.22. The Labrador Inuit Child's best interest are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child which is to be decided by an institution of the Labrador Inuit Government, Court or Tribunal. Section 2.4.23, "Water, Food, Healthcare and Social Services". Every Labrador Inuk has the right to have access to water, food, health care, and if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social services. And every Labrador Inuk has a responsibility to provide for his or her own well-being in accordance with his or her abilities. To be a self-sustaining, productive member of Labrador Inuit society, in accordance with his or her abilities to share food and shelter with those Labrador Inuit who are in need, and to protect children, the elderly, and those Labrador Inuit who are vulnerable or helpless. Since the start of this fiscal, the amount of funding spent on services and support for Nunatsiavut beneficiaries is \$1,878,034.22. This figure represents approximately 500 Inuit children served and approximately 275 families supported. The majority of applications flow through child service workers, through the Nunatsiavut Government. There are cases where in the past, parents or guardians may have submitted an application for services and supports

directly to Indigenous Service Canada. However, the funding still flows through DHSD finance, and is organized through our Child Services Staff in our Nunatsiavut communities and Upper Lake Melville. For all applications in the province to now be approved by the NG aligns with the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. And the path to self-determination for this initiative on behalf of Labrador Inuit children. Mr. Speaker, I know time is of the essence. I will send out an update for the remainder of the information. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The next Ministers Statement will be coming from the Honourable Tom Evans of HR, IT and Finance. When you're ready, sir.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just provide a short statement of our Human Resources today and on Day Two I'll provide an update on Finance and IT. As you can imagine, with the close to 500 employees with our Human Resources, there's quite a bit of work that's going on behind the scenes. So my brief update doesn't do justice to what actually is going on in HR. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to inform the Nunatsiavut Assembly that Janice Webb has returned to the Government as Human Resource Manager. Welcome back, Janice. There are currently three vacancies in the Human Resource division, Director of Human Resources, HR Specialist, and Health and Safety Administrator. This is impacting the time of delivery of services and we thank the Civil Service for bearing with us as we navigate the competing priorities for all departments. That being said, progress is being made on many files. We continue to work on a

thorough and detailed review of the Nunatsiavut Civil Service Act and the Policy manuals. This is being completed, Mr. Speaker with the assistance of McInnes Cooper Advisory. All employees of the Government are required to take Harassment and Violence Prevention training. There have been seven sessions offered to date in Nain and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Bad weather has delayed the sessions, or adverse weather has delayed the sessions being planned for Hopedale this month. However, all sessions will be offered in all communities before the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, for the update, Minister. The next Minister Statement we will receive is from the Honourable Anthony Andersen of Education and Economic Development. *Nakummek.*

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Mr. Speaker, I'll give an update from the Education Division and tomorrow an update from the Economic Development Division. Not a lot since my last updates to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, but an update on career trips. Our *Contribution Agreement* with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has funds allocated for an annual Grade 9 career trip to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This trip has not occurred for a number of years, so this year, our Education Advisor took on the responsibility of organizing the event. All Grade 9 students from Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville and Rigolet were given the opportunity to attend. The schools still oversaw the selection of teachers and chaperones that would accompany the students, as well as organizing the billets. A total of 45 students took part. The students had

tours and, or presentations from Memorial University Labrador Campus, Pye Farm, the College of the North Atlantic, SERCO, Labrador Grenfell Health, Air Borealis, the RCMP, Trades NL, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies, and the YMCA. An update from the Memorial University Labrador Campus; this past May, the school of Arctic and Subarctic studies launched their Inaugural Graduate Studies Program, offering Masters Certificate, Masters Degrees and PhD Programs to interested participants. The first cohort consists of 13 individuals, 19 {sic} of which are Nunatsiavut beneficiaries sponsored by our Education Division Funding Program. Two of these 19 students are our own employees, Assistant Director of Secondary Education, Roxanne Nochasak is enrolled in the Masters Degree Program and the Director of Education, Jodie Lane is enrolled in the PhD program. An update on the Annual Summer Literacy Camps for 2023, we have again contracted United for Literacy, formerly known as Frontier College, to oversee the delivery of the Summer Literacy Camps in all five Nunatsiavut communities. We have a high number of local counsellors hired again this year with 21 Nunatsiavut beneficiaries hired as counsellors. There are only three southern counsellors hired this year and it has always been our goal to eventually have all camps delivered by local counsellors every year. The camps will again run for four weeks starting July the 17th and running till August the 11th, and are free of charge for children ages 5 to 12. Update on Funding for the fall semester, post-secondary. We have approximately 150 new applications currently being processed with a few for the summer session, but the majority of

applications for the fall semester. Those applicants will be notified on the status of their application within the coming weeks. Update on staff: We currently have a staff shortage with a couple of key positions being vacant. And we hope to have them filled soon. We're also exploring the possibility of adding a new position to help with the high workload that we currently experience. Good problem to have, I guess, since it means our numbers of funded students and new applications remain high and continue to grow. That's the update for the Education Division, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, very much.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. The final Ministers Statement will come from the Honourable Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. When you're ready, sir.

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 my department since 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 Snow crab fishery opened on June 1st in Area 2JS and NG had two beneficiary fishers designated to take part in it. Once the ice conditions start to clear, we anticipate that Area 2JN crab season discussions...

MR. WINTERS:

Minister Vincent, we're having technical difficulties. I'll ask you to pause for a moment. There's something causing feedback. Damien, would it be

possible to turn down the gain on Minister Vincent's microphone? Can you try it again, sir?

MR. VINCENT: Hello.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* You may continue, sir.

MR. VINCENT: Thank you. Once the ice conditions start to clear, we anticipate that Area 2JN Crab season discussions will begin with Torngat Co-op. In Shrimp, our SFA5 quota is rolled over from 2022. However, we did see an increase of 293 tons. SFA4 quota, and this was an overall quota increase in SFA4 and not in NG overall percentage increase. The 2 and 3K Competitive Turbot Fishery will open on June 15th. Oh, sorry-, and NG had one designate fisher taking part in the June opening. Wildlife: Mr. Speaker, the 2023 polar bear hunt season opened on February 2nd. We have 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, 11 licences are filled and Postville still has one left. The hunting season will close on June 30th or when all 12 licences are filled, whichever comes first. NEC recently approved for the position of a second conservation officer in Nain to be permanent fulltime. This is good news for the CO program in Nain and the job advertisement is currently posted. 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. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Caribou Distribution Project is complete. My staff will be reviewing and reporting to the NEC in the near future on total

cost. However, we anticipate being under budget once again. In our Lands Division, Mr. Speaker, 10 land-use applications have been submitted in 2023. Includes two for mineral exploration and two from AECOM for environmental impact assessment related to the proposed new Nain Airport and a proposed access road running from Strange Lake to the Vale Port site. Mr. Speaker, the GIS specialist has been working on applications, certificates of tenure, leases and permits since the last update. They have updated and maintained the maps for these files using official and commonly used geographic data. They've also prepared a web map for internet use for the Lands Division and are working on improving it. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the Lands Division attended the Lands Environment and Economic Capacity Summit in Halifax in early May to strengthen capacity in areas of land management, economic capacity and environmental management. How are we doing for time? Okay. For Impact Benefits: Mr. Speaker, the Voisey's Bay Mine Mill and Mine expansion continues to go well, with approximately 83 percent of the mine expansion being complete. It is anticipated there will be some issues with supply chain requirements due to worldwide demand. There may also be issues with bed space in the coming months. IBA information sessions were held in Hopedale and Rigolet in May. Due to weather and mechanical issues, Nain, Postville and Makkovik have been rescheduled within the first two weeks of June. The new Employment Coordinator for Vale, Belinda Webb, has started in her position. She started in the role on May 29th. Torngat Mountains National Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on May

25th with discussions on research, summer programs for the park, date for the CMV face-to-face meeting, and CMV business. Elizabeth Ford is the newest appointee for Parks Canada. She's replacing Noah Nochasak. Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve Co-Management Board had a virtual meeting on April 28th with updates on recruitment for the Rigolet Parks Position. There should be a job ad posted for a permanent position in early June. There was also discussion on Cain's Quest and the proposed route for 2024. A cabin being built in the Beaverbrook Swallow Harbour area and next face-to-face meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll finish the second part on Day Two.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Vincent and the rest of the Ministers for their statements. Item Five is, "Members Statements." Are there any Members statements? The first that I saw was the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen. When you're ready, sir.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice my concern that we, the Nunatsiavut Assembly should voice our concerns publicly for air service for those who have travel arrangements made on the ferry Kamutik W, being after delayed for one week due to the ice and possibly longer with the wind conditions today and the forecasted wind conditions if the winds stay unsure. This would provide relief from the high cost of air travel within Nunatsiavut to the outside. The Province has done this as recently as late May for Black Tickle Run, even though the vessel was not on a scheduled run. So thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have another later.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. The next hand that I saw was the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker. When you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2023 looks like a busy construction season for Nain Inuit Community Government. First, we have two projects sponsored by the NICG, along with the help of funds from the Nunatsiavut Government. They are completely rebuilding at the footbridge and the cemetery restoration project. Lumber materials is at the dock in Goose Bay and is coming on the first boat whenever that may be. And the applications for hiring of two (inaudible) is able to do the job. The generator for the water tank will be done and the building of the chlorination units will also be installed. The decommissioning of two hydrants across the outer side. What I mean by the other side is across the brook, will finally be done. Mr. Speaker, the NICG had a meeting this past Friday on June 9th passed Phase Two of the water project for this year. The contractors said Phase one would finish early, so there's enough time to complete Phase Two. Along with that, the second boat launching area will be in place and we hope to contract work locally. This funding was already approved and it looks like we'll be a year ahead of schedule, which is always a good thing. The two engineers for the projects, the water and sewer and the decommissioning is in Nain this week. They were supposed to arrive yesterday and looking at what needs to be done. Beni Ittulak, our Town Manager is going to speak to the engineer to see if there's time to replace the water line from Gus Barbour's down to the Nunatsiavut building. Those familiar with Nain know what I'm talking about. That's the

section up there. We are hoping for a project answer to that. And the Province is sending up two people next week to see where the new quarry might be found. So like I said we have a busy 2023 construction season ahead. Mr. Speaker, all of this would not be possible without having the money to do it. NG and Federal Government as well as the ITK found funding to get the Joint Management Committee to do this and I acknowledge and thank them for that. The other monies for infrastructure came from the Federal Government, NG and ITK from the project money targeted for Inuit Co-Partnership Committee and all ICG's spend from that. So a big thank you to them for that. (Inaudible) Mr. Speaker, I may have missed a few thank yous but I'm sure my fellow AngajukKâk will remember and acknowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. The next Members statement will be from the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague, when you're ready.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, Mr. Speaker, since our last sitting, North West River has had some sad news on several more members of our community. Mr. Eugene Maggo, Mr. John White, and Mr. Hector Baikie have passed. And I express my sincerest condolences to their friends and families. I hate to be the bearer of such bad news, Mr. Speaker, but that would bring a total of eight deaths in our community this year, all NG Members, Mr. Speaker. And if I may, Mr. Speaker, could I please ask at some point during this sitting, a moment of silence for those that we've lost and mourn for? Turning the page on this sadness, Mr. Speaker, I would

like to provide a little update on our happenings. Summer is upon us and Sivunivut is in the process of providing our community freezer with salmon harvested by our local members. Earlier this spring, Sivunivut received caribou and musk ox from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and we'd like to thank the department and the Government for such generosity. Along with the wild meat, Sivunivut has received 10 boxes of arctic char, which we are also thankful and grateful for. Some of this char has been bottled and smoked using local members in our community. Mr. Speaker, Sivunivut has received funding from the Labrador Regional Wellness Coalition to sponsor community bingos that are helping raise awareness of nutrition and also raise awareness of fraud that many individuals get affected by. On May 24th, Sivunivut partnered with North West River and DHSD for a community feast that consisted of caribou soup and Fish and Brewis. Sivunivut donated its remaining caribou for the soup which was shared to the beneficiaries in North West River. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. The next Member Statement will be coming from Wally Andersen, the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville. When you're ready, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And there are so many things that I could speak on as the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville area, with all the activities that go on. But today I will make a statement for those who serve. And today, to say thank you and pay tribute to a member of the Assembly that is no longer here with us. I'm speaking today of the former AngajukKâk for Postville, Glen Sheppard. And while I speak of his

accomplishments, I'm sure that the elected Member and the new elected AngajukKâk for Postville will carry on that tradition. Mr. Speaker, I first got to work with Glen when I was the MHA for the riding of Torngat Mountains. And Glen would speak on behalf of his community and he would speak on behalf of the people of Northern Labrador. When COVID first started out, as most of the AngajukKâks will attest to, that every week we were on the conference call with the MP for Labrador of every mayor in Labrador. And on these calls, we had sometimes members of the Provincial and Federal Government, the CEO from Health Labrador, and sometimes doctors. And Glen would speak very strongly on behalf of his people. Glen would stand in front of anyone without any paper or notes and speak from the bottom of his heart. Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that his willingness to speak with passion and pride was inherited by Glen from his grandfather, Uncle George Sheppard, who along with our past fathers, like, Uncle Bill Andersen and more, could stand in front of any Government without any notes and speak with pride and passion on the people and the land that they loved. Glen stood in this house many times without any notes and spoke loud and clear. But Mr. Speaker, Glen never once asked for stuff for Postville that the other communities didn't have. But rather, he spoke about fairness of being treated fair. And I think that's something that we can all take to heart and learn from. As I said, I'm sure that the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Gear and the AngajukKâk, new elected AngajukKâk Gear as well, will speak with pride and passion. But Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that we haven't heard the last of Glen Sheppard

because he's living passion. He's too great. I'm sure that down the road we'll hear from Glen and I want to wish him all the best in his future endeavours and certainly to thank him for his tremendous contribution that is made to the people, the Inuit People of Labrador. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. The next Members Statement will be coming from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak, when you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. The treasurer of the NunaKatiget Board of Directors, Doug Saunders, passed away on May 15th, 2023 at Gull Island. Doug was a very dedicated and integral Board Member and always cared what was best for our beneficiaries. Doug will be missed. Prior to being a Board Member, Doug taught traditional cooking and learning to smoke char, clean ducks and partridges, to youth in Mealy Mountain Collegiate and our Summer Cooking Program. In addition, he provided traditional food to our freezer, partridges, rabbits, berries, et cetera. We want to send our condolences to his wife Audrey, children Valerie, Douglas and Laura, his grandchildren, brothers and sisters, family and friends. And just yesterday, we heard on the passing of Doug's sister, Priscilla Tooktoshina. I'd like to send condolences to her daughter Beth and all her family and friends. This has been very difficult on the Saunders family. I would like to send condolences to the family of Nicolena and Amos Jararuse on the passing of their son Joseph. Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer:

We want to thank Carla Pamak from Lands and Natural Resources Department for 20 cases of char. We received our first 10 cases on April 13th and another 10 on May 19th. On June 9th they gave us an additional 19 cases. We gave some to the Labrador Correctional Centre for National Indigenous People's Day and we wanted to give some to the Hospital of Long-Term Care but they had to be deboned. The char is very much appreciated by the elders in our two communities. As our traditional food are almost depleted, we had to purchase some cod and chicken legs to supplement our freezer. Mr. Speaker, in relation to traditional courses, we received \$22,000 from the International Grenfell Association for traditional craft programs for various ages. On May 24th, Cindy Pottle-Allen completed this year's Wellness Wednesdays Program at Mealy Mountain Collegiate. She did sealskin making projects for us NunaKatiget. We would like to thank Cindy for her dedication for inspiring the youth. In May we held a sealskin making course instructed by Irene Burden and a knitting course instructed by Brenda Colborne. We have started our new Seniors Horizons for Seniors Program in May through funding from Employment and Social Development Canada. This program is for vulnerable elders in our two communities who are very isolated due to various reasons such as widow, no vehicle, mobility issues, no family, et cetera. Once a week, we will be providing activities and a chance to socialize with the Inuit elders in various places in the community. We had a meal and activities with seniors in Headland Senior's Apartments and we want to thank Gerald and Wally for joining us. It was very nice. We went

to Assisted Living to play bingo and have snacks and on Thursday June the 15th, we will be starting bi-monthly visits to Pye's with elders doing various activities on the farm such as planting, watering, picking berries later in the season, et cetera. We want to thank Memorial University for partnering with us on this important project. Lastly, I would like to wish Brian Lyall all the best on his retirement that's forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Chairperson. The next Members statement will be coming from Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak, when you're ready.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congrats to the following athletes who will be attending the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in July 2023. Grace Tuglavina of North West River will participate in the Teen Newfoundland and Labrador Under 19 female volleyball team. Team Staff is Sarah Karpik, of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, formerly of Nain. Aaron Porter of Happy Valley-Goose Bay will swim in the Under 19 male team. Aidan Wheeler of Happy Valley-Goose Bay will swim in the Under 16 male team. For basketball, Sydney Goudie and Jackson Winters, both of Happy Valley-Goose Bay will compete. Congrats to all athletes on your hard work to make the team, play hard and have fun. Enjoy the experience and make many memories. Condolences to the family of the late Mr. John Paul White of North West River, to the family of the late Mr. Gregory Michelin of North West River, to the family of the late Mr. Eugene Maggo of North West River, to the family of the late Mr. Hector Baikie of North

West River, to the family of the late Mr. Ralph Blake of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, to the family of the late Mr. Doug Saunders of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members statement will be coming from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been many exciting events held in Hopedale over the past couple of weeks. And I want to first congratulate the ACMS graduates for 2023, Aiden Lampe, Kansas Winters, Cadence Winters and Abigail Tuglavina. They held a beautiful ceremony and it was so good to see these youth graduating. Also very exciting was the Pan Labrador Choir, Mr. Speaker. It was a joy to behold. And I believe two of our pages took part in the choir and the singing from the youth, the drum dancing and the throat singing was just a joy to watch and I thank all the organizers and the choir members for putting up such a beautiful event. And the following day was the Robotics competition, which is fairly new. But some of the students from here, including one of our pages, Kiera, took part in that as well and it was very good to see something emerging besides sports. And it was well received. Also the Inuttitut speak-off was held in Nain and students from here, Keisha Hunter, Hailey Flowers, and I think Kennedy Winters took part in it and it's good to see them continuing on with their traditions. I sadly want to bring condolences to Nicolena and Amos Jararuse and their family on passing of their son Joseph Tuglavina. It's such a sad time when we lose members of our community and

everyone suffers when there is a death. And I just pray for support and strength for the families involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. The next Members statement will be coming from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Assembly Members, staff and pages. Thank you, to Beverly Hunter, the Elders Coordinator for making contact with the Canadian Constituency and asking for two members to be a part of the committee to plan future meeting for Nunatsiavut elders. The two selected members are Maude Campbell living in Edmonton Alberta, and Elizabeth Adams of Dryden Ontario. The next Elders Conference will be held in Makkovik in September or maybe, yeah, probably of this year. Kudos to Mr. Andersen and also to Mr. Evans. I'm sure that the conference will be a success. Mr. Speaker, recently-, I don't know if you've seen it or not, but on Home Depot was selling something that they called an Inukshuk. A monstrosity. Anyway, one of our members, Josh Pamak saw this and wrote them a letter asking that it be taken down and discontinue to sell this item. Mr. Pamak had a reply recently from Home Depot. They have discontinued selling the item and have removed them from the stores. So that monstrosity is no more in Home Depot's store. Mr. Speaker, Deantha Edmunds's talent has earned her recognition as the first Inuk professional classic singer in Canadian history. That also has earned her the distinction of being Canada's trailblazer Inuk singer and honoured as the recipient of the National Indigenous month. In her past achievements, she has

performed for King Charles and Pope Francis. She has embraced her role as a culture ambassador and sings many songs in Inuttitut. Congratulations Deantha Edmunds. Mr. Speaker, within the Canadian Constituency, there are several groups that stand out when it comes to working with Inuit across Canada. Atelihai is one such group. And they are working in the Halifax area and they serve all of, I'd say Maritime Canada because they don't go to Newfoundland. But they're gonna be in the spotlight this month-, next month because the North American Indigenous Games, which Mr. Asivak mentioned, will be held in that area. And this group, they have a drum dancing group, plus throat singers. And they will be performing at two events on July 18th and 19th. So if anyone's out there for swimming or whatever, you can go see them. And also, Mr. Speaker, there are two Nunatsiavut Members that will be representing in Nova Scotia in the games. Young athletes are Jordan Parsons and her brother Owen Parsons, Ben Ponniuk's grandson. I'm sure some people know Benny. We wish him some good times and good games. But also another member that's in question, hopefully she regains her position on the team. In Newfoundland, the group that-, helping the Inuit from Labrador especially in St. John's is First Light. They have lots on the go out there. And they have a lot of employees that work for Atelihai. And of Mr. Andersen's children is working at Luna Inn. So if you ever go to St. John's, there's a wonderful spot. You might be spooked because it's part of an old church, so all is good. In Edmonton, it is the group Inuit Edmontonmiut Community Group. They help out Inuit from all over the North. It makes

no difference what area you're from. The group is made up of so many members from all across Canada that they help everyone and they are also-, we have two Nunatsiavut members on that group, and they are always reaching out for assistance. They plan many gatherings, which I help sponsor quite often-, and events during the years. And they hold fundraisers and they get lots of funding to get country food from the North. But that only goes out to the members that are registered from Iqaluit and other parts. The people from Labrador, they do get some, but very little. It's the other members that get it first. And now those people, they run the committees to help out everyone else and they give freely of their time because there's no such thing as a paid member on one of those groups. I'm thankful for those groups all across Canada that have helped so many Inuit with so many events and tremendous amount of free time that they give freely for the fundraising that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member. I believe the next Members statement will come from the Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. George Gear.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate Ms. Diane Gear for putting herself forward for the new AngajukKâk in Postville and I know that she will do very well. It's like Mr. Glen Sheppard used to always say, "It takes a lot of courage to put yourself forward to something like that." And I know she will do good. And I'd like to thank Mr. Wally Andersen for the kind words he said about Glen. I was very honoured to be Ordinary Member for Postville with him by my side to, to help out. So congratulations to Glen

on his new job in Voisey's Bay, and I know he will do that good too. So congratulations to him. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Before we go to Second Statements, are there any further First Statements from Members? Seeing none, are there any Second Statements around the Table? The first hand I saw was the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen. Go ahead, sir.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, there's so many things to talk about. And again, I'm gonna skip talking about the District that I represent. But Mr. Speaker, I will stand again today and speak on behalf of people from the North Coast of Labrador. Mr. Speaker, in September, it will be 50 years since I moved to Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I left the community of Davis Inlet at that time to take a job in Goose Bay. And the truth of the matter was that my fiancé at that time was a teacher in Davis Inlet and she got transferred to Goose Bay. Well I took the job in Goose Bay. I think it was following my heart. But, Mr. Speaker, after 50 years of living in Goose Bay, I can stand here today and I can say that the North Coast of Labrador was and always will be my home without a shadow of a doubt. And today I wanna speak on a certain group of people. And Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear the First Minister talk of the many buildings that our Government is gonna build and rightly so. But I wanna speak on behalf of a group of people today and Mr. Speaker, a lot these were relocated from their homes by the Provincial and Federal Government. And now they are being relocated again. And I'm talking too, about our people who's gotta move to homes like in Mary's Harbour and these places away from their loved

ones. I'm told by a person who has a family member in Mary's Harbour that it was difficult leaving because when they were leaving, their siblings said to them, "Take me back to Goose Bay with you, and I think I can manage to get back to the North Coast from there." I can remember another family member saying how his brother grabbed him by the arm when he was leaving and he said, "Take me home." Mr. Speaker, a lot of, some people in Mary's Harbour are Inuk. And their ability to speak the English language is difficult. And their place in this home where there's no translation services, which is better. Mr. Speaker, we brought in a Land Claims deal to look after our people, to provide a way of life for them. And Mr. Speaker, I would like to see our Government take it upon themselves to look at putting a place on the North Coast of Labrador where our loved ones won't be forced to leave. I do believe the AngajukKâk from Hopedale can confirm that last year alone, four of our beloved seniors in a matter of four or five months was moved to places like Mary's Harbour and other places, where family members have great difficulty in getting there. And Mr. Speaker, I wonder what this would feel like to be in some cases in the twilight of your life, knowing that we have a Land Claims deal but yet we have to ship our loved ones out. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, for some of them, the only way that they will return home is in a casket. The only way that they will return home is in a casket. And I honestly and truly believe that these people deserve something better because really, after all, I think what I believe is-, and I hear from people in every Coastal community-, I talk to people every day in the airports who are traveling back and forth to

the North Coast, that at the end of the day, our Land Claims deal is about people. And most important of all, providing to our people a better way of life, which I believe in many cases-, a lot of cases we are. But those who are forced to leave, I think we should look-, I know Mr. Speaker, my time is up. But I'll say this again, honestly and truly, I think we can do better for these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Andersen. Are there any other Second Statements? I see AngajukKâk Andersen from Makkovik, when you're ready, sir.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to pass on to the Assembly that six of Makkovik GSRT members, Ground Search and Rescue Team members have been trained in the Human external cargo system for extracting and inserting people into hard-to-reach areas for persons with injuries or worse, by helicopter. This system, like many other systems by air is weather dependent of course. This is just another tool in the toolbox for Ground Search and Rescue within the region. These trained team members are able to assist anywhere within Nunatsiavut should the need arise at this time. We're hoping that maybe we'll get further communities involved. So I'd like to thank the team members for stepping up in the service of their communities for this training. It's not the best feeling in the world to be in their helicopter but those team members now are trained to assist people in distress. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. We will now receive a Members statement from the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Melva Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pass along condolences to the family of Joyce Allen. Joyce passed away just a few weeks ago and I'd like to pass along condolences to her family and friends. I'd also like to pass along congratulations to the two graduates from Northern Lights Academy, Ella Jacque and Jane Wolfrey. They're graduating this year. So it's a good occasion for sure. Also, I'd like to pass along congratulations to students from Rigolet who attended the UKalalautta in Nain in-, last couple of weeks. I'm sure they represented our community admirably. And as well, I'd like to pass along congratulations to Jack and Jane Shiwak. On June 8th, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, a milestone anniversary for sure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other second Members statements? I'm seeing AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale, when you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just forgot to mention another very important event that took place in our community was the book launch of Dr. Tom Gordon. He's wrote a very inspiring book about Moravian music and how instrumental Inuit were in making their own music. And that was a very good event with our local choir joining in and singing Inuttitut hymns. Also I just could not help but mention a congratulations to my two grandsons who will be graduating this year from high school at Eric Brown in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Alexander Michelin in Newfoundland in Manuels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any further second statements? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member George Gear of Postville, when you're ready.

MR. GEAR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate a young man that graduated from Postville this year, Mr. Hanson Jacque graduated high school with honours and he's a very active young man. He goes all over the place playing volleyball and the different sports. And I didn't see him much in the community all year, but he still graduated with honours so-, and a very smart young man. So I know that he'll do good in his future endeavours. So congratulations to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Gear. The next Members statement will come from Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to expand on what Mr. Andersen just spoke about earlier with the people-, with regards to the members that live in Mary's Harbour. I visited that area three times. And I've talked to those people in there. I, I've met them all. And they asked me for assistance with regards to getting some food supplement program, some funding from Nunatsiavut Government food supplement. They're all seniors. They should've qualified. They were denied because they live in private home, which is not true, but they were denied because they get assistance from the Provincial Government. They get miniscule. What they get is the same as any other elder gets. So I just wanted to bring that up is that I did bring it before this Assembly two years ago. And I just wanna expand on what Wally said and thank you for mentioning it.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any further second Members statements around the Table? Seeing none, we're going to be taking a short break, but before

we do, I'd like to ask that we follow in the Chairperson's words and we take a moment to reflect. I think that we need to take a moment to think about the people who are no longer around this Table, the work that we do, the people that we serve and the people that we've lost because there have been a lot of them. So we'll now take a moment.

[Moment of silence]

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. We will now take a break until five minutes to, so about 15 minutes and-, actually, more like 20 minutes, and snacks are here.

Nakummek.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

...started. Thank you, for providing the lunch orders and we're gonna take an hour and a half for lunch and go to the hotel, get some air and take a break for lunch, just to get out of the building for a little bit. We'll now move on to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." Sorry, I'm not getting the Inuttitut in my headset. Can you try again? Okay. We'll just take another minute to get that straightened out before we get started. Is anyone getting it? We'll take a few minutes before we get started. Apologies. *Nakummek.* As I was saying, we're now on to Item Six, "Returns to Oral Questions." I will read the question asked verbatim, and then bring it to the Minister to provide their response. The first question was from AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers at the March sitting and it was asked of First Minister Williams. "We attended the Heritage Forum in Makkovik this last week-, so long ago, I don't know whether it was. 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. My question is, will this take place soon, or do you know anything about it?" I will now call upon First Minister Williams to provide her response.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunatsiavut Affairs issued an RFP to create a Nunatsiavut Ancestry Database for use by the Membership Committees and the Appeal Board. The goal for the database is to be a generally accepted database of Labrador Inuit ancestry. Currently, there are no plans to hire an employee in each Inuit community to assist beneficiaries with filling out family trees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation Chair Kemuksigak, asked Minister Tony Andersen, "I have seen that the LATP has reopened. Would you be able to provide an update on the reopening, how long they have funding for, and what training they will be providing through their organization?" I will now call upon Minister Andersen to provide his response.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I-, in my response I did tell-, respond by saying that although my department works very closely with the Labrador Aboriginal Training Program, partnership, they are quite separate from the Nunatsiavut Government and quite independent. I did, however, thank the Chair of NunaKatiget for her question and at that time I did say that my department would ensure that Members of the Assembly

would get timely updates from the LAMP and I'm pleased at this time to respond to that question by saying that-, and Mr. Speaker, the response itself is provided to me from the LAMP. I should be wearing my glasses though. "The LAMP Agreement will occur between December 2023 and 2027, for five years. The Federal Government contribution is approximately \$19.4 million all cash contribution. Provincial contribution \$5 million all cash. Partners contribution both cash and in-kind approximately \$10.1 million making the total agreement for the five-year period, approximately \$34.5 million. Currently LAMP has nine people hired on and in recruitment mode to fill seven additional positions, Manager of Program Development, Career Counsellors for Nain, Hopedale and Natuashish, Administrative Assistant in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and we will be recruiting for a College Student Support Liaison for our clients as well as an IT person. Job offers for Career Counsellor positions will occur this week. Suspect office in Nain, Hopedale and Natuashish to be open sometime in April. First scheduled underground mining training, 12 clients in Sudbury to occur in mid-June. The majority of these will be NG clients who applied while we were waiting for funding last year. We will also have a few Innu clients. LAMP is currently accepting applications now for safety training as well as for trades related training programs for fall or whenever they are scheduled to begin. I'm trying to reach out to any clients who are in school now but are not sponsored. Community Information and Recruitment sessions to occur over the next three to four months or longer. LAMP is currently accepting applications from employers for wage

subsidy programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I certainly encourage Members to contact the LAMP office themselves directly or they can contact our Education Division and as I said during every Assembly sitting, I will from now on provide updates handed to me by the LAMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Wally Andersen asked Minister Vincent, "I would like to propose to the Minister is that I've asked in the 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 definitive answer on the migratory bird hunt in the Upper Lake Melville area?" I will now call upon Minister Vincent to provide his response.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to Ordinary Member Mr. Andersen for the question. In regards to 12E and migratory birds where the NG is to. As First Minister Williams alluded to in her response, this file falls under the mandate of Affairs. We have provided our comments to Affairs on the file and await direction on next steps. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

NunaKatiget ICC Chair Kemuksigak asked Minister Vincent. "In reference to your written answer regarding the percentage of moose and caribou that was submitted yesterday, I'd like to ask this question, "Would your department consider asking each community to have 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. Sorry, that's clearly to mean from Nunatsiavut not to Nunatsiavut, due to medical reasons. So our number of people using the freezer is increasing. Thank you." I will now call upon Minister Vincent to provide his response.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Chair for NunaKatiget. Our department has reviewed the caribou distribution formula and brought forward options for changes to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for a decision. We have already made the decision, Mr. Speaker and we have been able to get, I think, three to four more boxes for Upper Lake Melville area. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. AngajukKâk Dicker asked Minister Evans, "Would the Nunatsiavut Government 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, the employee would get a travel day?" I will now call upon Minister Tom Evans to provide his response.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to respond to that question, our department will review the suggestion internally for our employees. Our department will-, officials will also discuss with the Department of Health and Social Development if there are any ways Labrador Grenfell Health can complete some appointments virtually or using a same-day travel approach. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation Chair Kemuksigak asked Minister Evans, "I was reading that the Consumer Price Index is now 6.9 percent. As everyone knows, inflation is really bad. Yes, sorry, Mr. Asivak."

MR. ASIVAK: Mr. Speaker, point of order, it's not in the *Orders of the Day*, what you're reading. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: I don't believe it needs to be in the *Orders of the Day*. The Item is under the *Orders of the Day*. It was actually delivered to you via email. Unfortunately, it wasn't printed in time for the binder this morning. Either way, everything being said, and read is verbatim so it's not going to differ from the email. Back to the question from Chair Kemuksigak. "Will the Nunatsiavut Government give the Inuit Community Governments and the Inuit Community Corporations an increase of 6.9 percent in their respective budgets?" I will now call upon Minister Evans for his response.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunatsiavut Government did not budget an increase of 6.9 percent in the *Budget Act 2023* for the Inuit Community Governments and for the Inuit Community Corporations. The Nunatsiavut Government receives funding for the Inuit Community Governments operations under the *Fiscal Financing Agreement*, FFA. The FFA Annual Fiscal Grant is adjusted each year by FDIPI, which is 5.877 percent for the 2023, 2024. This adjustor was applied to the amounts budgeted for the Inuit Community and Corporations. The Inuit Community Corporations are required to submit their budgets to the Nunatsiavut Executive Council for approval. These budgets are then analyzed and the approvals

communicated. It's completed using a zero-based budgeting approach.
Thank you.

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*. Item seven is, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions today? The first question I saw was from Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. And as I spoke this morning in my statement about or seniors being taken out of our communities, has the Executive Council on your department ever had a conversation of putting a home on the North Coast of Labrador?

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Minister to respond.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned during my update, we are developing a strategy for Housing. So we will go forward from there, and whether or not that would be. However, we have-, we know that we've heard the President speak to this in the past, in relation to the fact that a home situated in Nunatsiavut can be very challenging because of the level of care that would be required. We know that Labrador Grenfell Health has already currently challenged in providing services in the communities. So we recognize that this would be a challenging project to develop in Nunatsiavut. But that's not to say that it can't be something that can be considered. Thank you to Ordinary Member Andersen for the question and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Minister Asivak, would you like to add to that?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Minister Williams and Ordinary Member Andersen. I'll briefly add to this because it was asked in the Assembly, I think last year or even in the Fourth Assembly at least twice. And I spoke about it that Level One and Level Two care such as long-term care is under the mandate of the Provincial Government. There's a lot of specialized care needed in Level One and Two, including 24-hour nursing, security, PCA's, LPN's, et cetera. And also, I'll just add to that, that it's not impossible. We are still having talks within different departments within the Executive Council lobbying and bringing this forward continuously at all levels or tables we're at with Labrador Grenfell Health, Gov NL, ITK, ISC, Indigenous Service Canada that the need is great, and that we see and have seen many elders and beneficiaries living in personal care homes such as Mary's Harbour. And I'll just briefly highlight one of our-, the topics that I discussed this morning on the Nunatsiavut Health Priorities for 2023-2024. And it's fitting that the question come up because number six is "Housing and Supports for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities." There are currently no personal care homes in Central Labrador so individuals requiring Level One and Two care must relocate to Mary's Harbour on the South Coast. There is an assisted living model in Happy Valley-Goose Bay operated by the Labrador Friendship Centre which provides personal care for four individuals in a home-like setting, but space is limited and the need is great. There are currently eight beneficiaries in Mary's Harbour and others in homes across the province. Nunatsiavut Government, we're

providing housing and services to seniors and individuals with disabilities within Nunatsiavut close to families, communities, language and culture. So that is part of our health priorities for Nunatsiavut Government. So we are continuing to lobby this to increase services for our seniors within Nunatsiavut with the dream of people staying in our communities or one of our larger areas such as Nain or Hopedale, pending sufficient support, including financing, infrastructure and employment relations around human resources. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, Ministers. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and long answer, which is probably good. But my supplementary would be this, we hear talk of the Provincial Government responsible for certain things, but Mr. Speaker, I think for the treatment that the North Coast of Labrador has got from the Provincial Government, that we could be waiting a long time, far too long. We have our people-, some of them are seniors in these homes and the time comes when they know that they're gonna be called home. And they're there in these homes without any relatives, and their relatives on the North Coast of Labrador, knowing they can't get there in time, when their loved one takes their last breath and are asking for family members.

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Member to ask his question.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Yes, I will. With self-government out there to look after our people, I ask the First Minister or the Minister of Health, would you take a very serious

look at either calling for a request for an RFP or a call for proposals or to look at what it would take to get a home on the North Coast of Labrador for our members who (inaudible)?

MR. WINTERS:

Would the First Minister or Minister of Health and Social Development like to respond? Minister Asivak, when you're ready.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen for the question. DHSD and Nunatsiavut Affairs can have conversations with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Federal Government, Labrador Grenfell Health and to raise this as a major concern. And but then a part is, I noted in number six, however, this will be a big, a very big undertaking and we will share any updates with the Assembly because right now there are mandates within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on administrating established long-term care. And right now there is a transition from four health authorities in the province, to one. Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, so effective April 1st, we did change to one. I can lobby the Director of Health Services and have meetings with my director and the Deputy Minister along with the First Minister and her Deputy as well to have a conversation on this. And, you know, set up a meeting and bring back the results of that meeting relatively soon when we can arrange it. With many people at the table, it might take some time for the meeting. But we will move forward and have that discussion and bring back a report hopefully by the September sitting of that meeting. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Would the Ordinary Member like to ask a follow-up question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, my final supplementary would be this, Mr. Speaker, the need for a home on the North Coast of Labrador is needed and we understand that the Provincial Government, some say is responsible for this. But I would ask Members of the Executive Council in their conversations and their request with the Provincial Government to remind them, it was the Government who relocated our people and now we have to send outside. The provincial Government talks of Truth and Reconciliation. And the onus should be on them. If you're honest in Truth and Reconciliation, then take Provincial Government, take a good look at what you're doing to our seniors by forcing them to travel outside of the Land Claims Area-, outside of Goose Bay. So I would ask the Executive Council, in your talks with Government, to-, when you have that conversation, to lay it on the line. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen. Yes, your notes have been taken and as I said, we will do our best. There's gonna be a lot involved as well, and there'll be many conversations and we'll continue to see what can be done with answers, and we will update in September. *Nakummek*.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question I saw was from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak. When you're ready.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. My question is in relation to the question that Ordinary Member Andersen asked about personal care home in Nunatsiavut. What happened to the \$4 million that the *Tasiujatsoak Trust* gave Nunatsiavut Government to set up a personal care home in Nunatsiavut? I believe it was in 2010. And that was for Level One and Two care so they don't have to have medical staff. It's very similar to what they have in Mary's-, it is the same as what they have in Mary's Harbour. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Would the First Minister like to respond?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Chairperson Kemuksigak. I wasn't aware of this and I will be taking the question under advisement and return to you when I have the answers. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: While the First Minister is taking this under advisement, is there a supplemental question the Chairperson would like to ask? Seeing a, "No," the next question I saw from around the Table is from AngajukKâk Joe Dicker of Nain, when you're ready, sir.

MR. DICKER; Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is to Minister of Health and Social Development, Honourable Gerald Asivak. When will the Nunatsiavut Government sit down and (audio feedback).

MR. WINTERS: Would the Member like to take a minute?

MR. DICKER:

When did the policies change or the health of the Inuit in the Land Claims Area stop being a priority? That's what it's supposed to be. I'm talking about eye care and dental care. We're right back to where we started. The fact is that eye care and dental care are part of the definition of health. They're not separate. And when do we get that back? The people in the Land Claims Area, the Land Claim was for them. I'm not just talking about Nain, issue here. It's talking issue along the coast. We go to the hospital, to say, go for eye care and dental care and they say they can't help us because Nunatsiavut is gonna deny them to get on the plane because they have specialists now that go to the communities. But those specialists from St. John's or wherever they come from is waiting for the number to go up or I don't know what they're waiting for but the-, if they happen to hit a bad weather day, and they can't get into the community, they go back to St. John's and your postponed till the next scheduled community visit which might be six months later. I asked the Minister where in the world does that say that the NIHB has power over the *Land Claims Agreement*, because they can just come in to take care of us. We're going backwards. It's not what the Land Claim was about. I think that maybe you could answer that question first then I have a supplementary.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Dicker. Non-insured health benefits within Nunatsiavut has not gone back. We're not set back. Services are provided by private contractors and we set a schedule with these private contractors, including vision and dental clinics months and months and a

year in advance. Sometimes it's beyond our control or their service provider that they have to change schedules and as soon as-, if there's notification of a change in schedule, we reschedule as soon as possible. If you're concerned about a vision or dental appointment, please contact your community health worker in each community and add your name to a list and this will increase the numbers so we know that we can request if needed, additional service providers in our community, other than the other scheduled times. And they do come regularly, as I have been updating in my Assembly reports every session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. Does AngajukKâk Dicker have a supplemental question?

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they're changing their schedule, they seem to be changing it an awful lot, once or twice a year they're scheduled to come to the communities. I could take, for example, a member in Makkovik was scheduled to see an eye doctor in this fall, or last fall, and they flew over Makkovik and then flew back to St. John's. So he had to wait because he could not get the appointment till this month in June in Makkovik. I take myself as an example. I was scheduled to see the eye doctor and my wife and a whole lot of other people. They canceled out in June and put us back to this fall. You know, I asked you to look into that because it's happening too often where we can't make appointments in Goose Bay or beyond because the doctors won't take it. They say we're not eligible. We're gonna get bumped on the plane. That's, like I said, a step backwards. Same with dental. What agreement do you have with the NIHB to take care of

that? I don't understand why we on the North Coast have to go by the rules of the NIHB when the *Land Claims Agreement* was made just for that kind of situation? We're supposed to be on par with the rest of Canada, not behind.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* AngajukKâk Dicker. Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Dicker. As I stated in the original question, if there is urgency to a referral, it will be fast-tracked through the clinic and non-insured health benefits. I will not be speaking personally to individual matters. If you have concerns, please, as I noted, reach out to your community health office, to the Deputy Minister, to the Director of Health Services or myself. Labrador Grenfell Health client relations is also another avenue which has been proven very successful in feedback and health concerns. We have policies and procedures that we have to follow through First Nations Inuit Health Branch. It is very strict guidelines that we have been following and we continue to follow. Sometimes there might be exceptions based on approval. But this is dealt with accordingly with individuals and not for Assembly discussion as a whole, as a public matter. Private health matters can be emailed or discussed with the appropriate individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DICKER: Yes, maybe I can direct my question to the President. And would he allow...

MR. WINTERS: AngajukKâk, a supplemental question has to be to the...

MR. DICKER: Okay.

MR. WINTERS: ...person. But you do get a question later.

MR. DICKER: Yeah, uh-huh. Would the Minister of Health ask the President if he could allow someone who negotiated the Land Claim, explain the Land Claim to us because a lot of us don't understand it? That's what I ask.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Would Minister Asivak like to respond?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Dicker. I am trying to be very-, Mr. President has heard your question although it's supposedly directed to me, I don't find the question fitting as it's still related to the other two questions. And where I am, the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Development, I feel the questions have been answered thoroughly with your two original questions and even supplemental questions and if you have concerns, like I said, there are many in our department who will-, if it's specific, not general and not vague, we can work with any individual around non-insured health benefits with a specific issue or concern. But we're not going to have a presentation right here in the Assembly on your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Minister. The next question will come from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is from a member-, several members actually, and it's for the Finance Minister. With the many companies created by NG where does the profit made by those companies go?

MR. WINTERS: Sorry, can you repeat who it was directed to? Was it Minister Evans?

MR. SAUNDERS: Minister of Finance.

MR. WINTERS: My apologies. Minister Evans, when you're ready.

MR. EVANS: Okay. Thank you, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency. And I just want to clarify I got the right question now. Your question to me was?

MR. SAUNDERS: Where does the profit from those companies go?

MR. EVANS: Okay. So the company created by NG, where does the...

MR. WINTERS: I'll, I'll repeat. For the many companies created by the NG, where do the profits go?

MR. EVANS: Okay. Where do the profits go? What I could do, is I'll take your question under notice 'cause I don't want to give you information that might not be entirely correct right now. So I'll take your question under notice and provide an answer.

MR. WINTERS: The question is being taken under notice. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. If and when you find this answer, can you also tell me how the funds are distributed from the profits? Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Yes. Certainly, the response to your question will be-, will have the detail that you're requesting for.

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

MR. GEAR: This question is for the First Minister, Ms. Melva Williams. There've been-, it's kinda like a echo again about the police service in our community.

Well I didn't see no police services in there just before the ice went. And just to give you example, I was just for-, like it could be other people in the same boat as I was, trying to get a vulnerable sector check for fingerprints for adoption. And, you know, with adoption, you gotta have the files one step, two step, three step and all in line, and I was waiting five months to get that done because I had to go to Goose Bay to get them done. And you know the price of a plane ticket is not very cheap these days. So when I get to Goose Bay and call them, they used to say, "Okay, I'll check my availability for on Thursday. And I said, "No, I can't wait till Thursday. I gotta have it done today." So the last of it, anyway, I was up there stopped in later and I called down and they said, "Okay, come in, we'll make you an appointment to get you in." So I went down and just a few minutes, like 30 minutes or so I had it all done. And in two weeks I had it back. So waiting all that time for that and where if we had a presence in Postville like they're supposed to do, like everywhere else. Like we're no different. We're still people. We're smaller community but still people. And it all took-, that's all it took.

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Member to get to his question.

MR. GEAR:

So I'm just asking the Minister, the First Minister if she could or asking her does she lobby every chance she gets for our community to get the extra policing in our community? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

First Minister. And I'll just remind all of the Members to lessen the preamble and be more concise in your questions, please and thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member Sheppard *[sic]* for the question. I can confirm that at every opportunity and every table that I attend in relation to justice, that we raise the issue of police presence in Postville. You can rest assured and inform this community that it is indeed happening at every opportunity that I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Would the Ordinary Member like to ask a supplemental question?

MR. GEAR: No, and thank you for your answer.

MR. WINTERS: The next question I saw was from the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague, when you're ready.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sivunivut is committed to fiscal responsibility bound by law to submit an annual audit. It is the same auditor as the Nunatsiavut Government. Adherence to our obligations is 20 percent of Sivunivut's annual budget. In all fairness, the proportion of Sivunivut's budget towards the audit is hampering our efforts to serve our community. My question is to the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Could Sivunivut please get some assistance in our obligations by either increasing Sivunivut's annual budget or assist in the payment to the auditor?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS: Yes, I'd like to thank the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Corporation for his question. So I-, the question regarding the increase in the budget. The

budgets are fixed but in terms of assistance with the audits, I think there-, under assistance with the audits, we have provided assistance to Community Governments you know, like sometimes the Community Corporation or the Community Government has to get their books and whatever in order to be audited. And it could be expensive too when they're using like a independent consultant or firm to ensure that their audits are ready for the actual auditors. So I think we can provide some assistance with that. But-, however, what I will do, I will take your question under notice and get a more detailed response to your question, 'cause it's a good question. And like I mentioned before, I had the opportunity to visit the Community Freezer when I was in Goose Bay with Patricia. She was kind enough to take me around and I apologize I never made it to North West River to see your operation but having said that, I don't want you to feel that you've got to wait till the Assembly to reach out to us for any kind of assistance or whatever. And like as we mentioned before, like our Deputy is always available for any inquiries or questions that you might have and also my office too. Like-, and so I just wanted to let you know that you can contact us any time. We'd like to get the inquiry before the situation becomes more difficult to manage, you know? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would the Chairperson like to ask a supplemental question?

Oh, and the Minister has taken this under advisement.

MR. MONTAGUE:

No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next question I saw was from the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, I think it will be for Minister Tom Evans, the Minister for Finance. Where the hospital flights now have gone from five days flying to three days, I think because of the funds that came from NG is no more. My question is, will this be looked at to increase the amount again so that we can have flights five days instead of three? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers. Would the Minister like to respond?

MR. EVANS: Yes, thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers for your question. So you probably know, was aware, like, with the extra flights that we were putting on, we were able to do that with the additional COVID funds that we had received. Now, the funds are not there. So it went back to three flights or whatever. But having said that, the use of those extra flights has given us the, like, the data to advocate for additional funds. Like the-, obviously, the demand is there, like three flights a week are, you know-, we're grateful for those. But it was proven that the extra flights did provide benefit and it was well used and so what I can do is assure you that we're still looking into that. Right now the flights are only three days a week. So right now we don't have the funds or the money placed to have the additional flights on as of yet.

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

MS. FLOWERS: Yeah. So I just think we need some clarification. What I'm hearing you say is that you don't have the funds yet but your team is looking at finding extra funds? Is that what I'm hearing you say?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS: Okay. So what I'll do is I'll-, to ensure that clarification or whatever, I'll take your question under notice and what I'll do in the meantime is I'll with medical travel is under our Department of Health and Social Development. So I would-, if you don't mind Minister Asivak, I would just, like, if you had anything to add to clarify?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Minister Evans and AngajukKâk Flowers. The health care is provided under the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and that is their contract to provide to Nunatsiavut. COVID-19, the Executive Council approved the extension during the height of the pandemic when we'd seen an increase in cases and the need for it. It is not the responsibility of Nunatsiavut Government now to contribute to the healthcare system for air transportation. That is a Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. We've had some initial conversations, as Minister Evans noted. We've kept track of beneficiaries during a short time of how many were utilizing the extra two days of flights. We know it, and we've been saying to the Provincial Ministers and Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, that we need an increase in this essential service that we rely on. And many others who have health centres that take for granted that they can drive to, such as myself in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I don't have to be concerned about air transportation and with that, accommodations are harder to find in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for the last couple of years. So just to clarify, that is a Provincial Government

mandate to provide air transportation to Nunatsiavut, not Nunatsiavut Government to contribute with *Contribution Agreements*. That was a one-time exception that expired on March 31st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does the AngajukKâk have a second supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my supplemental question is then can your department and the Executive Council lobby on our behalf with the Provincial Government to get some extra flights added up? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Flowers. We have been lobbying as I noted, since the end of this, that we did see how beneficial this is for our beneficiaries. We also-, we have to remind everyone at the table here, this service is Southern Labrador as well. So Nunatsiavut gets three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Southern Labrador gets Tuesday and Thursday. With the limited capacity with the contract provider, Air Borealis, they provide medical transportation, Skedivac commercial flights. So that's just something else to consider. But we will continue to do our best and we have been lobbying. But even before COVID, that we would like to see an increase in flights. It might not be the additional two days that we were providing as a Government but any increase, even an additional day or half a day to see more increased movement for medical passengers. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question that I saw was from the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. Will the Nunatsiavut Government stand with the AngajukKâk in voicing our legitimate concerns for no flight arrangements known as the boat plane? Due to the ferry not running as planned and leaving Goose Bay on June 11th. Last year the ferry had ice breakers assistance. We were told in April that ice breaker assistance would be available again this year. So again, I'd just like to ask, will the Nunatsiavut Government stand with the AngajukKâk, who all in agreement that a strong statement should be put forward to the Province regarding the boat claim and that service to the Nunatsiavut area. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. First Minister Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Andersen for the question. As the AngajukKâk would know, I attended the meeting with Labrador Marine Inc and I can in fact ensure that representation from the AngajukKâk were all included in-, had an opportunity to be present at that meeting. There was some AngajukKâk that weren't invited. So I think that my work with the AngajukKâk around the issues on the ferry stands-, the AngajukKâk is aware. In addition to the question that you're asking now, when we became aware that the boat plane service was being offered to one community, and that the service contract services, it was of great concern for us. We immediately began reaching out to the Provincial Government to meet to discuss this issue and address the issue. It is an issue that our department takes very seriously and we are working

diligently to work with the Province to ensure that those issues in addition to the other issues that were raised, are addressed. Thank you.

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

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Just one, Mr. Speaker. So will the Nunatsiavut Government go public and state clearly in the public media that we are demanding this service? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: First Minister Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, again, AngajukKâk Andersen for the supplemental question. Sorry I lost my train of thought. I was answering the question in my mind when you were asking it. So we are currently-, originally when the issues came up, my intent was to try to reach out to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Transportation and Infrastructure Minister to try to develop a relationship to work out our issues as opposed to going the route of using the public media to get results. Unfortunately, that seems to-, appears to have been unsuccessful in relation to this issue of the boat plane. So we are-, our department is currently in the process of working with Communications to develop a press release in relation to the issue. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* AngajukKâk Andersen, do you have a second follow-up question?

MR. B. ANDERSEN: No, I don't.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other first questions around the Table? Seeing none, at this time, I'll ask my Deputy to take over as Speaker as I ask the question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters, you have questions?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Yes, I saw that the Minister of Health and Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism were both in attendance for the, "A Taste of the Arctic," event on Ottawa. I think we're used to seeing the entire NEC travel for these things or just the President and First Minister. My question is how the decision was made to include these additional Ministers for a celebration and gala? *Nakummek.* Sorry, that question was for the President.

MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, would you like to respond?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti. Nakummek* [speaks in Inuttitut]. Yes thank you, for the question Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency. We, as Government are provided with the invitation to attend to many opportunities whether they are Northern Lights, Expo Labrador or A Taste of the Arctic. And so we have to follow the funding that we budget. And so in saying that, it is the responsibility of each department to budget for any events that are happening. And then, and so-, and at the same time we give out the opportunity to departments or the Ministers, whether they will want to attend such events. And we did that. But at this time, there was just the three of us-, well, four of us, I should say, attending the Taste of the Arctic. And I will take the question also under notice and so to give the Executive the opportunity to discuss the question. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Do you have a supplemental question Mr. Winters?

MR. WINTERS: I do not, and I appreciate the President taking it under advisement.
Nakummek.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you. At that point I will return the chair to the Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Deputy Speaker. Are there any second questions around the Table for the Ministers? At this time we will take a 10-minute recess.
Nakummek.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: ...is well-fed and feeling recharged for our second questions during, "Oral Questions." So before we get started, I do want to point out that Standing Order 32(7) requires a mover and a seconder in order to extend oral questions beyond 60 minutes and we had just reached 60 minutes when we quit for lunch. So I'm wondering if there can be a mover and a seconder to make this motion? Recognizing Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville as the mover and the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency as the seconder. That's Wally Andersen and Roland Saunders. Are there second questions around the Table? Okay. The first hand that I saw was Chairperson Patricia Kemuksigak of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the First Minister as it relates to membership. When a baby is born to a Nunatsiavut beneficiary mother with no father named or sometimes father unknown, why has Nunatsiavut Government decided that means the child is half of what the mother is? Why is this being done with Labrador Inuit but it is not being done in other

Inuit regions? In other Inuit regions if the father is not named, they go the same as the mother. Can you explain why this was determined for the Labrador Inuit?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. First Minister, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to Chairperson Kemuksigak. This is a new topic that's come to my attention as of now. So I will take this question under advisement.

MR. WINTERS: The question has been taken under advisement. Does the Chairperson have a supplemental for the First Minister to research?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for taking it under advisement.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. The next question that I saw was from Jeff Montague, the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, none more than those that live on the North Coast, is the cost of food has risen to startling new levels that show no sign of retreat. Our Community Freezer isn't immune to this new normal, and I have another question for the Minister of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Could Sivunivut please have an increase to its annual budget to help keep pace with the inflation that has affected us all as of late?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, Chairperson. Minister Evans?

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chairperson knows, the budgets are fixed for the Inuit Community Corporations. But I'll certainly look into your request and see if there's anything that we could assist with right now. But

right now I can tell you that the budgets are fixed for the Inuit Community Corporations.

MR. WINTERS: Could the Minister clarify, are you taking it under advisement or are you just stating that the budget is set?

MR. EVANS: Yes, I'm sorry. The budgets are set but I-, and I'm not taking it under advisement but I'm taking your question and hope to follow up with discussion and about budgets in general, you know? Like we all recognize the increase in cost of living, struggles for our various departments and Community Governments and Corporations. So right now the budgets are fixed, okay?

MR. WINTERS: And does the Chairperson have a supplemental question?

MR. MONTAGUE: No, I don't, thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next question that I saw was from the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister or for the Minister of Health. It's somewhat of a personal question but-, and a selfish one. Since becoming elected, I was in the situation on two occasions where CPR and First Aid was required. And unfortunately, there was no one in the room or the place at the time. And I think as elected members, as we do a lot of going around and involved in a lot of meetings and so on, I'm asking that if we could make this probably mandatory for elected officials where we could-,the Government would pay for us to take the course, or if its not mandatory, at least have it out there that anyone who

wishes to take CPR or First Aid could do so and have it covered by our Government.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Would the Minister like to respond?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This is information I wasn't aware of personally. And normally I don't speak to personal matters at the Assembly Table. However, First Aid and CPR are life-saving, and I think it would be a couple of departments that would take the lead on this including the Assembly. Or Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology as we know under offices, Occupational Health and Safety, there is a mandate to have qualified, trained personnel in offices as you know. In Hillcrest we do have an OH and S Board and it lists the person's name who has First Aid and when it does expire. So that's definitely something that we can collaborate with the Assembly, with Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and even DHSD to ensure that all of us around this Table and in our offices have the opportunity to take that essential life-saving course. So I thank you, very much for bringing that forward because I'll gladly participate as well. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, and again, I think if we could get a response as quick as possible and as the Minister alluded as well, we have people who are trained in the office. Both incidents happened away from the office and one was almost out in the middle of nowhere. So again, I ask the Minister

if you could get the answer to that question as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Would the Minister like to respond?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen. That is already added to my list to do today and tomorrow, to send an email to the Speaker and to the Minister of Finance in collaboration to schedule and organize this for Assembly Members as soon as possible. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Is there a second supplemental question? Seeing none, are there other questions around the Table for the Ministers? At this time, I will call upon the Deputy Speaker to take over and I will ask a question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Winters, do you have questions?

MR. WINTERS: Yes. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development, Minister Asivak. I was wondering if you could let me know what the differences are in coverage and procedure for NIHB candidates on the coast of Labrador in the Upper Lake Melville and the Canadian Constituency? *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Minister Asivak, are you willing to answer?

MR. ASIVAK: Sorry, I'm just writing this down. Can you repeat it, please?

MR. WINTERS: Yes, and I don't have a headset on so I apologize to the interpreter. The question was the difference between percentages of coverage, procedure between the ULM, Canadian Constituency and the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Area. I hope that's clear. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Acting Speaker and Ordinary Member Winters. As we know, Health Services are not covered within Labrador Inuit Settlement Area with large tertiary health care centres and pharmacies and specialized services, including vision and dental. So within Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, it's a hundred percent coverage for those benefits and services as per non-insured health benefits. Upper Lake Melville is 80 percent and Canadian Constituency as well, 80 percent and we are the funder of last resort. So for example, as Nunatsiavut Assembly Members, we would use our private Sun Life Insurance first and then Nunatsiavut Non-Insured Health Benefits. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you Mr. Asivak. Do you have a supplemental question Mr. Winters?

MR. WINTERS: I do. A regular request that Ordinary Member Saunders and I receive from our constituents, is if there is any maneuverability in terms of percentages covered and annual coverages for certain medications? Rising costs are really hurting our Canadian Constituency and things like hearing aid batteries running out and not being resupplied is causing a lot of difficulty. So is there any opportunity for negotiating extensions of higher percentages or additional coverage within the NIHB? *Nakummek*.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Winters. Mr. Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member. Our budgets are set as you know, a year in advance, and we budgeted \$59 million for DHSD for this year. We have what's called a drug formulary that we follow through

First Nations Inuit Health Branch. So all the DINS or drug identification numbers are listed, what's covered and the percentages. Sometimes when medications are not covered, it would go back to the family doctor to change a script or a prescription to ensure that, that medication can be covered. Also with the hearing aids, sometimes there are warranties and although batteries sometimes are not included, we can follow up on that with individuals and explain and see what is included in their benefit. Negotiating, we do negotiate regularly. And sometimes we get increases from First Nations Inuit Health Branch or IFC will notification that some drugs are now covered that were not covered before-, or we might see a small increase in our budgets and we'll reflect that in the benefits for individuals. So sometimes if you're receiving a benefit or a service or a medication, we can then notify Kermit the Frog, that, yes your prescription is now covered, or that there has been an increase of four percent. So then it's less coming out of that individual's pocket. And as for budgets, they're very strict within Health Canada, Indigenous Service Canada, they have very large budgets and we are one of many Inuit and First Nations across Canada. So when we do see increases, we're appreciative. We can shoot for the moon and the stars. However, budgets are usually year to year and we do request when needed. And with-, the other thing too, if we change any of our own budget within DHSD, it'll affect many other things. So if we take away from, for example, medication, it might lessen the opportunity for medical supplies and equipment-, or mobility aids or such and such. So we work closely with Finance on our budgeting and we know some of our

major expenses and how we operate and it's been working well. So we don't really try to mess with what works. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Minister Asivak. Ordinary Member Winters, do you have a second supplemental?

MR. WINTERS:

Firstly, I did not know that Kermit the Frog was a beneficiary of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. You learn something new every day. I'm wondering if the Minister will commit to his staff providing a streamlined process for adding direct billing to different service providers in the Canadian Constituency as well as the Upper Lake Melville, if they don't exist already? *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Winters. Minister Asivak, would you like to answer?

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member Winters. With direct billing, it is up to the individual organizations or businesses to come onboard. We can welcome the opportunity through Non-Insured Health Benefits to set them up along with finance for direct payment. And I know how important and easier it is on everyone, especially us in Upper Lake Melville. For example, some of our pharmacies have direct billing. So-, but I appreciate it. I know there are some in St. John's as well. (Audio feedback.) So in short, it is up to-, and where there are so many pharmacies, suppliers, specialists, it would be a full-time job in itself to come up with every location where our beneficiaries live in Canada, right from A to Z to go through and find out through registry to say, "You know, there's X number of people in Toronto," or whatever, however-, it can be

looked into but we also need to look through our track records as well through Non-Insured Health Benefits and Finance to say, okay, we know that for example-, I don't know, but Toronto, if there are 45 people using a consistent pharmacy for medication, then we can have a larger input to say, okay, maybe we can set up a contract if the private pharmacy is willing to do it. Not all pharmacies and businesses are onboard with it. Some wanna be paid immediately because our payments sometimes are not immediate, you know? We might wait for a batch. We might say, okay, from March 1st to March 31st it could be a batch. And then they get their payment then. Even though a lot of funds now are EFT, but that is something considerable but that would be more research into, like I said, NIHB to see where the larger centers are, because some-, and largely it's up to the supplier if they wanna be onboard. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Asivak. Are there-, would you like to resume the Chair, Mr. Speaker?

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, everyone for your patience. Seeing no other second questions around the Table-, oh, yes, AngajukKâk Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Williams, the First Minister. I'm wondering if the position for Director of Housing has been replaced yet from Brenna Jarrar?

MR. WINTERS: First Minister Williams, when you're ready?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. Currently, the ad hasn't gone out for this position. We are waiting for translation of the job ad. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: Yes, I don't know if this is a supplemental question, but I just wanted to know how the Housing Commission is working since formation?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you AngajukKâk Flowers. I think that is a different question as opposed to a supplemental question but the answer is that we have maintained the Director of Housing, Brenna Jarrar, who was operating until we have somebody to transition to-, the position to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* And my apologies, yes, AngajukKâk Flowers, the supplemental should be directly related to the first question. Do you have a second supplemental question?

MS. FLOWERS: No. What I meant was if the position is not filled, how is the Housing Commission working? But Minister already responded to my question there, so thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Thank you, both for the clarification. Are there any further second questions around the Table? Seeing none, that's the end of oral questions. We're now moving to, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Seeing none, we will move on to Item Nine. Item Nine is "Returns to Written Questions." There is one return to written

questions. At our March sitting, Ordinary Member Roland Saunders asked President Lampe, if he would commit to a full review of the COVID Support Program. President Lampe's detailed response can be found in your binder. This can be provided to your constituents when they have questions about this. *Nakummek*. Moving 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. We will move on to Item 12. There are no, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees," today. We will move on to Item 13. "Tabling of Documents." I would like to recognize the Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tom Evans, when you're ready, sir.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As required by the *Nakummek Assembly Act*, I'm pleased to table the report to the Nunatsiavut Legislative Assembly Section 1.1.1

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Member. The Tabled document will be numbered as 03-5(3). There are no more documents to be tabled today. So we will move on to Item 14. There are no, "Notices of Motions," today. So I will move on to Item 15, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." I recognize again, the Minister of Finance and Nunatsiavut Treasurer, there Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

I give notice that on Wednesday, June 14th, I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, the Honourable Terry Vincent, that Bill 2023-02, the *Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*, be introduced and read for the first time. And Mr. Speaker I'm seeking the unanimous

consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 37(1) to proceed to first reading of the Bill today.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Evans. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with this motion today. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" Seeing none, Honourable Minister, you have consent to bring your motion today at the appropriate time. Item 16 is, "Motions." There are no motions today. Moving on to Item 17, "First reading of Bills," the first reading of Bill 2023-02, "*Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," I would like to recognize again, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I move, seconded by the First Minister, that Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," now be introduced and read for the first time.

MR. WINTERS:

Would you like to introduce the Bill?

MR. EVANS:

Yes.

MR. WINTERS:

The motion is in order. Does anyone wish to-, sorry, go ahead and speak to the Bill.

MR. EVANS:

Sorry. I'd like to go ahead and introduce. I stand here today, Mr. Speaker to introduce the second money Bill in my tenure as Treasurer of the Nunatsiavut Government. This Bill is required to be introduced here today as the power to set revenue rates for Nunatsiavut Assembly and Nunatsiavut Government is vested with the Nunatsiavut Assembly. Mr. Speaker, this Bill, if approved, will provide legislative authority and

oversight with respect to the collection of access fees from fishers. The Nunatsiavut Government has a Commercial Fisheries Policy under which the Nunatsiavut Government allocates fishing designations to fish quotas under Nunatsiavut Government held commercial fishing licences to eligible persons or enterprises. This policy prior to its approval and implementation, had extensive consultation with fishers and other interested parties, Mr. Speaker. The Nunatsiavut Government had previously instituted the requirement of designates to pay an access fee to Nunatsiavut Government based on the amount of fish resources landed under the designations. The monies collected from the access fees are allocated to the Nunatsiavut Commercial Fisheries Fund, which was established to hold funds for the purpose of growing and promoting the commercial fishery in Nunatsiavut. Mr. Speaker, this Bill, if enacted, will among other things, generally, provide legislative authority and oversight, with respect to the collection of access fees, give the Minister responsible the power to make regulations, setting the level of access fees within defined limits, specify when fees become due and permit the development of regulations and agreements concerning the remittance of access fees, outline application of penalties for late or non-payment of access fees, grant the Minister the ability to demand and expect records to ensure compliance, and require the Minister to report to the Assembly on access fees collected on an annual basis. There's been a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to bring this Bill in front of you today. I want to personally take the time to thank Minister Vincent and the staff under the

Department of Lands and Natural Resources and also to Legal Services.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The motion is in order. Does anyone else wish to speak to the principal of the Bill? Ordinary Member Wally Andersen of the Upper Lake Melville.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and I'm assuming when you ask if anyone wants to speak to the Bill is that we can ask questions of the Bill?

MR. WINTERS: Yes.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Okay. I would like to ask the Minister, with this fee, how will it enhance our fishery? And at the same time, we have fishermen who run into severe trouble. We encourage them to get their own boats and some of them have and have ran into financial difficulty. Will that fund be used in any way to assist fishermen who are in trouble?

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Minister Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN: With all due respect to the Member and a very fine question, I find that his question is not to the principal of the Bill. And therefore Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Member from Upper Lake Melville is out of order.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, for that Point of Order. And it has been clarified through the Standing Orders that, that is not a question pertaining to the principal and that can be a discussion that happens tomorrow with the rest of this discussion of the Bill. The principal of the Bill is what's been provided and beyond that is where the conversation begins if that helps.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and certainly, if I'm out of order, but I just wanted to know that when the time comes, will we be allowed to ask questions on the Bill itself?

MR. WINTERS: Yes, 100 percent. Is there anyone else around the Table that would like to speak to the principle of the Bill? Yes, Mr. Roland Saunders, Ordinary Member Canadian Constituency.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, in the past, has there been any fees collected from the fishermen with regards to this Bill or any other Bill?

MR. WINTERS: I believe that this also needs to be a part of tomorrow's discussion as opposed to being related to the principal of the Bill. Does any other Member around the Table like to speak to the principal of the Bill? If no other Members wish to speak, does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. EVANS: Yes, I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, Minister. That concludes debate on first reading. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2023-02 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," has had first reading. I would like to again 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 the Standing Order 54(1)(d) to have the

Assembly proceed to Second Reading of Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," tomorrow.

MR. WINTERS:

We're gonna take about five minutes and then I will ask for the Table to give unanimous consent. But we will take a five-minute recess until quarter past the hour. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Thanks, everyone. I apologize for the recess. The President had been out of the room when we went to the vote and unanimous consent, so I wanted to make sure it was unanimous around the Table. I also want to thank the Minister for pointing out that it was a point of order and when it comes to the principal of the Bill, you can find this information in your explanatory note in your binder. And that is what we can debate at this time. But debate has been closed. We can discuss it more tomorrow. Is the Assembly in favour of approving Bill 2023-02 on first reading? All those in favour? All those opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried, and accordingly, Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," has had first reading. I would like to again recognize the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Tom Evans. The Minister is looking for unanimous consent.

MR. EVANS:

I apologize Mr. Speaker. So I'm looking for unanimous consent and...

MR. WINTERS:

It's what you read just a moment ago.

MR. EVANS:

Yeah, so you want...

MR. WINTERS:

...in order to waive Standing Order 54(1)(d).

MR. EVANS:

So I read again what I just read? Okay, that's-, sorry but I just thought there was something else I was supposed to read. Just bear with me. Okay. Honourable Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 54(3), I seek unanimous consent to waive Standing Order 54.1(d) to have the Assembly proceed to second reading of Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," tomorrow.

MR. WINTERS:

And again, I apologize for the procedural confusion. 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 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act 2023*," tomorrow. All those in favour? Are there any, "Nays?" There are none. Minister you have unanimous consent, so the Bill can proceed to second reading tomorrow. Item 18 is, "Second Reading of Bills." There are no Bills for second reading today. Item 19 is, "Assent to Bills." There are no Bills for assent today. Item 20 brings us to, "Adjournment." Before we adjourn for the day, it has been asked of me that we recognize the complicated situation that AngajukKâk Joe Dicker and his family are dealing with right now and I want him and his family to know that we're all thinking of him at this very difficult time. The Assembly is now adjourned until tomorrow morning, Wednesday, June 14th, 2023. *Nakummek*.

Day 2 June 14, 2023

MR. WINTERS:

Ullâkut welcome to Day 2 of the June sitting. Please note that AngajukKâk Joe Dicker has been excused for today's sitting. I would also like to welcome Minister Roxanne Barbour to the Assembly. Thank you, to everyone listening to our audio feed. And I would like to recognize Mark Gillette, our Director of Legal Services, in the gallery. We'll move on to Item Two. Item Two is "Ministers Statements." I was about to ask for Ministers Statements, but I already see a round of arms. Would Minister Gerald Asivak of the Department of Health and Social Development like to give his statement?

MR. ASIVAK:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I'll briefly update this morning on mental wellness and healing. Child and youth mental health: Jessica Lyall, Child and Youth Clinical Lead was in Rigolet May 15th to the 19th with Bachelor Social Worker student Kelly-Anne Blake and held the following: Community engagement session, Sensory Play group, Professional Development training for the daycare staff, which has also been opened up to other DHSD staff. The turnout was great for these events. The Child and Youth Team is currently planning a Nain visit similar to Rigolet. Trauma and Addictions: Team member Sharon Edmunds Program Planning Support was on tour with Twin Flames May 15th to the 19th and they visited all Nunatsiavut communities. The week went well, with high attendance in all five communities. Trauma and Addictions were

just in Nain and delivered a Self-Compassion workshop from May 22nd to the 29th. Mental Health and Addictions, regular programming and health promotion events continue in each community. We continue to navigate some challenges around land-based programming. We just posted our Peer Support work position for the Harm Reduction Hub that we received funding for in Nain. We are waiting the Coordinator position to be posted and planning to pilot this for a year. Upwards to 30 DHSD program staff, including mental health and addiction staff are being trained this week in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Dialectal Behaviour Therapy. Mr. Speaker, Community Justice Program: The Community Justice Program has funded for approximately 60 employees to take part in the Lateral Violence training which occurred in two separate cohorts. The final session took place last week.

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask that the Minister slow down a bit for the interpreter.

MR. ASIVAK:

There was great feedback on this training. We have developed a new two-year community justice worker position to assist with service navigation and case management, as we are seeing a significant need in this area for support. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Youth Programs: Youth outreach and a youth administrator are working on planning a trip to the Torngats to take place mid to late August. We have secured partial funding from the Urban Partnership Program to extend the shed programs in Hopedale, Nain and Rigolet for another two years. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The next hand that I saw was the First Minister, the Honourable Melva Williams, when you're ready.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I'm gonna continue my report from yesterday and I'm picking up with long-term infrastructure planning. Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut, "Create Nunatsiavut," infrastructure project is still advancing. The project team has issued a total of seven RFPs. These are Economic Development Strategy of the Construction Sector, Alternative Lands for Housing Facilities Feasibility Study, Torngat Mountains Base Camp Infrastructure Action Plan, Aggregate Resource and Quarry Development, Nunatsiavut Heritage Repository Feasibility Study, Infrastructure Data Management Mapping Development, Infrastructure Engagement Portal Development. We will be issuing three more larger strategic planning projects in the upcoming weeks looking at the following: Climate Change impacts on infrastructure in Nunatsiavut, Community Growth Areas and Residential Land Concept Plans, Waste Management Strategic Plan for all communities. These projects will provide the foundation of Pingutitsinik Nunatsiavut with the objective to create a long-term infrastructure strategic plan, which focuses on developing a long-term strategic vision for infrastructure, grounded upon shared ambitions from stakeholders, that aims to enhance the economic, cultural, natural and social impacts which underpins well-being, sustainable and inclusive growth competitiveness and public service delivery. Designing a clear and coherent long-term strategic plan is challenging, yet the integration of some pivotal processes can help Nunatsiavut communities towards quality infrastructure and removing infrastructure barriers. Nain Airport Feasibility Study: Feasibility studies relating to the proposed new Nain airport are still advancing. Ten

of 12 projects are in progress or are completed at this point. R12 Environmental Impact Assessment has commenced to start data collection and other minor field activities throughout the summer. This summer the project team will be conducting an extensive archaeological investigation of identified high potential areas along the alignment of the access road and airstrip. Environmental Impact Land Use Study will be starting in fall 2023 which will involve extensive consultations with the public in Nain, and mapping activities to identify areas that are used for hunting, gathering and other cultural activities. I have a list of the assessments if people wanted to touch base with me afterwards. I'm on-, we're there too.

Housing, NHC: Mr. Speaker, the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission received 165 applications for housing repairs. These repairs will be completed in the summer/fall of 2024. Inspections for repairs has begun in Nain. There were over 50 inspections completed this year. Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program. The RFP is posted for the 2022 Affordable Warmth and Home Repair Program. This RFP closes on June 23rd, 2023. A project manager will oversee the project which is due to commence on July 2nd and be complete by December 31, 2023.

Housing Construction: There are 22 units scheduled to be constructed for the housing in Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik. These include 12 seniors units and 10 social housing units. The deadline to have these substantially completed is December 31, 2023.

Transportation: Mr. Speaker, I attended a meeting with Labrador Marine Inc. on April 18th, 2023 regarding the 2023 Kamutik W. service. Due to the number of stakeholders on the call, I

requested that Labrador Marine Inc. set up another call with just Nunatsiavut participants. LMI agreed to do that. On April 25th, 2023, that second meeting with myself and the AngajukKâk took place. Issues raised include air passenger service, service directly to the island, WiFi onboard the vessel, schedule to accommodate tourists in all Nunatsiavut communities, among other issues. I also reached out to Minister Loveless responsible for Transportation and Infrastructure and met with the Minister on June 8th, 2023. I raised these important issues with the Minister, most importantly the need for air service for those passengers from Makkovik to Nain who had planned to travel on the Kamutik W. now that the first trip to these communities is delayed by a week. I also raised the issue that Nain and Rigolet are unable to promote Tourism to tourists who travel on the vessel due to the time the vessel is in each of those communities. If Tourism is to be a priority for the Government, then it needs to be reflected in an appropriate schedule. I'm coming to the end of my statement but I would like to pass along my thanks and appreciation to the staff in the Department of Nunatsiavut Affairs. Their dedication and hard work is unprecedented. The busy season ahead, we know all staff will continue to do a tremendous job and I'd like to thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. The next Ministers Statement will be coming from the Honourable Tom Evans, the Minister of Human Resources, Information Technology and Finance. *Nakummek*.

MR. EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just have a brief statement, an update from the last Assembly and then I'll just mention again, like, a lot of what goes through our Department, Finance, HR and IT, is you'll see a lot of that in the reports from the other departments. Mr. Speaker, on March 31st, 2023 we received notice from the Finance Canada that we will be receiving a one-time adjustment related to personal income tax, PIT. CRA, Canada Revenue Agency completed the Residency Audit so personal income taxes for the 2020 year. Based on the audit, Mr. Speaker, it was determined that there were more taxes collected that remitted to the Nunatsiavut Government in the 2020 calendar year. As such, there's 1.9 million sent to the Nunatsiavut Government. Finance Canada also communicated that based on historical data, they will increase the annual remittance for personal income tax from 5.0 million to 5.775 million. And before I close this brief statement, Mr. Speaker, I wanna thank the Finance staff for their dedication and efforts over the last month and into the next six weeks as we prepared for and now respond to many requests from the auditors. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Ministers Statement will come from the Honourable Roxanne Barbour, Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, when you're ready. I'm sorry, say that again?

MS. BARBOUR:

I'll just go ask him if Tabea brought him a statement from me.

MR. WINTERS:

Sorry. As a note, for all Ministers, and I think you have already, it is excellent if you can provide an additional copy to our translator just to

make things easier. They are printed after all. *Nakummek*. When you're ready, Minister Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKattik. There's some staff changes within our department since the last Assembly. Belinda Webb, Pijakijaukuk as Deputy Minister on May 26 after being in the position for a little over five years. We would like to thank her for her dedication to all the files within our department. She has worked extremely hard and we wish her all the best in her next chapter. And Chantelle Evans is currently on maternity leave and we wish her all the best. Our Tourism staff is visiting all of our communities this summer to meet with our community partners. Staff will-, they started in Makkovik and invited the community to see and experience their home through a visitor's lens and will follow up with partners to help turn ideas into tourism experiences. Square dance lessons began in Rigolet. And we have a vacancy for the Torngat Mountains Activities Planner position. The Base Camp and Research Station will be open to visitors from July 19 to September 6, and the Youth Leadership Program is happening in the base camp July 19 to 26. We are in the process of drafting a new RFP for a five-year operator at the base camp. The Hebron Ambassador Program planning is underway. Staff will begin working at the-, in the beginning of July and will spend a week in Nain to prepare for the season before heading up to Hebron. The National Indigenous Peoples Day online auction will run from June 19 to 25. We are partnered with Winnipeg Art Gallery on their annual Craft It event taking place in November and includes a fashion show and craft sales. The application is shared online and if people are

interested, they can reach out to Inez Shiwak, the Arts Program Coordinator. In Language and Culture, Kajait are being sent out to each Nunatsiavut community and are being sent to DHSD staff for future programming. We had a successful launch of Tusaalanga in May and it's a great Inuttitut resource for Nunatsiavummiut all across the country to access. The Inuttitut Blitz is underway. There are lots of activities and launches are taking place with resources made available to all Nunatsiavummiut. Community Consultations for the Aullâsimavet program, will happen in Postville and Rigolet once we hire the Cultural Program Coordinator. We're on year two of-, activities from the Language Strategy is on year two. We hope to have the Language Nest Manager position filled in the next week or so. The Guardian Program planning has begun. And this is a partnership with Parks Makivik and it will allow Inuit with connections to the park to visit each year through an application process. And we're still finalizing the dates, but this year the Guardian Program will happen in August. In Archaeology, we're hiring a summer student, hopefully, later this month. The RFP for the Nunatsiavut Repository Feasibility Study has closed, and a contractor has been selected. The RFP for a Departmental Strategic Plan has just closed. We hope to hire a consultant to develop a refreshed strategic plan for the 2024 to 2029 fiscal years. Land Use and Mineral Exploration applications continued to be reviewed by our archaeological team. We have three permits so far for this season, two internal, from our team, and one external researcher from Memorial University who plan to conclude the

excavations at Double Mer Point near Rigolet. The archaeologists hired by Octant for the airport archaeological assessment is also in the process of submitting their permit application. Our archaeological staff will be doing survey work in Rigolet area and there's some work that will happen there this summer as well to visit some other archaeological sites in the area. Diedre and Lena are currently in Germany with five other Nunatsiavummiumiut and three researchers visiting two museums in Dresden and Herrnhut. There are Inuit human remains there and Inuit artifacts. The purpose of this is to see the old collections and understand the care of Inuit artifacts currently held in collections internationally. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister Barbour. The next hand that I saw was Minister Terry Vincent, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, when you're ready, sir.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue one from where I left yesterday, non-renewable resources. Since the last Assembly meeting, Non-Renewable Resources division has been engaged in the following files: Mr. Speaker, Vale has been approved to conduct mineral exploration on Labrador Inuit lands under mineral licences adjacent to the mine. This year's work includes drilling, prospecting and ground geophysics. On May 29th, Vale has also completed a community consultation in Nain on the upcoming program. Mr. Speaker, Labrador Uranium completed a two-phase geophysical survey at their Mustang Lake Property located on Labrador Inuit Lands. Between February 24th and May 5th, work included 85 land kilometers of ground gravity and 342 kilometers of UAV drone magnetics.

Labrador Uranium plans to continue exploration in the Central Mineral Belt. The program includes a large regional airborne, radiometric gravity and magnetic geophysical survey. Labrador Uranium has also announced that their program work for this summer has been postponed, with the focus on the airborne geophysics. The information will play an integral part in their machine learning and will help guide exploration targeting for the future.

MR. WINTERS:

I'll ask the Minister to pause where he is. We've now reached 35 minutes. So as per Standing Order 29.3, I'm looking for approval to extend the Ministers Statement period. Seeing it, Minister, you may continue.
Nakummek.

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prospector Wayne Guinchard has been approved to explore his mineral licences in the Voisey Bay area.

MR. WINTERS:

Hold one moment, sir. We are now going to take a five-minute recess so our translator can step out. We'll be back soon.

[Recess]

MR. VINCENT:

Thank you. This program consists of basic boots on the ground prospecting and sampling. This short program will be based out of Nain. Mr. Speaker, Meridian Metals plans to continue exploration on the Wolverine property. And Flowers Bay River Rare Earth Complex located in LISA. Their approved work plan includes prospecting, airborne geophysics, a flight camp and drilling. Recently the company confirmed that they will use a backpack trail. Work includes eight shallow holes, about five metres in depth. Mr.

Speaker, ArcPacific Resources, a new company to the region has applied to explore the Tasisuak Lake, Fraser Lake area for nickel, copper and cobalt. Their licences are located on LISA. The workplan includes prospecting, hand panning, channel sampling and ground geophysics. ArcPacific has also recently submitted a drilling work plan to the Province. Application is currently still under review. Mr. Speaker, Torngat Metals has been actively communicating with the Division with their plans for road and mine development. Torngat Metals, formerly Quest Rare Metals, is proposing to develop the Strange Lake deposit located in Quebec. Torngat Metals is also proposing to develop a seasonal road from the deposit that connects to Vale's Port at Edward's Cove. Torngat Metals has planned a drill program for the Quebec side of the deposit with no drilling on Labrador Inuit lands. Discussions with LNR are in the very early stages. And the Division continues to be engaged. Mr. Speaker, Aurora Energy has submitted a work plan for the Michelin Project located on LIL. The work includes prospecting, geological mapping, geochemical sampling, rehabilitation of the discovery site, and a fuel drum recycling program. The proposed work plan is currently under review. Mr. Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada has completed public engagement sessions in Nunatsiavut on their upcoming summer research program. The Gem Geo North and Newfoundland Geological Survey Program will include airborne radiometric survey, geological mapping, surficial mapping, and geochemical sampling. That will be based out of Hopedale. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the ICG's of Nain, Postville and Rigolet has resubmitted their

Quarry Work Plan applications for renewal. These ICG's have active quarry permits located on Labrador Inuit Lands that requires annual work plan approval. These applications are currently under review. And lastly, with our Environment Division. Mr. Speaker, the Environment Division in partnership with Renewable Resources hosted a wildlife research workshop in Hopedale May 23rd to 26th. The workshop included participants from all Nunatsiavut communities and Upper Lake Melville, as well as participants from the Torngat Secretariat, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Memorial University. The workshop included presentations from participants on a variety of different wildlife research topics that they are currently working on, and provided opportunities for discussion with community members on their issues, concerns or ideas. The main topics of discussion were caribou, polar bear, moose and birds. In May, the Environment Division hosted members from Environment Canada and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in Nain to get an understanding of the Nunatsiavut region and to discuss climate change. The intention was to do a trip out on the ice but due to quickly melting ice we were not able to go out, for safety reasons. Meetings took place with relevant NG staff and they gained a good understanding of Nunatsiavut, and implications of climate change here, as well as an understanding of the ongoing initiatives of the Nunatsiavut Government. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Minister. We will now hear from the Minister of Education and Economic Development, the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I gave a brief update from the Education Division, today from our Economic Development Division. Our Inuk Business Registry currently has over 230 business promoted online. We continue to promote our businesses for contracts with Vale and Voisey's Bay as well with the Federal, Provincial and Nunatsiavut Governments. We have recently had our staff in training to help our business understand how to register, apply for Federal contracts. And we hope to offer assistance to those businesses that are interested in those opportunities. Mr. Speaker, our focus on new business development and business growth has been showing success. We currently assist 14 businesses, seven in business start-up and seven in business growth. Mr. Speaker, both our Community Economic Development Fund and *Fiscal Financing Agreement* programs remain open. With this funding available we encourage communities to apply for Community Economic Development positions and have some projects and community building initiatives. Self Employment Benefits Program: We're supporting three clients at this time. All are in the Arts and Crafts sector. This program operates on a continuous intake and evaluation process and start-ups are encouraged to contact the department to learn about and apply for this program. Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with Service Canada to have a full-time position located in Nain. The selection process is currently ongoing, and I know that it is taking forever. Once this candidate is selected and the office set up in Nain, we'll provide further details to the Assembly and the public. As I speak, Mr. Speaker, our Economic

Development staff is currently in Rigolet from June the 14th to 15th to deliver the small business tour. The tour involves Community Engagement Session, presentation of what we do in the Division, feedback from the community, and we offer prizes and refreshments. The tour also includes high school engagement called, "Business 101." Our staff also welcomes walk-in appointments for one-on-one appointments to talk about business, business start-up or whatever interest might be from individuals within the community. Mr. Speaker, our staff recently delivered a bookkeeping, "Quick Books," training program from April the 24th to April the 28th. Ten people were trained, four from Hopedale and six from Nain. We did not get any applications from any of the other three communities. The success of this training, Mr. Speaker, I wanna assure the other communities to keep their eyes open because we will most likely do another round of Quick Bookkeeping and Quick Books training. Our Division is offering funding assistance to cover the costs and travel and registration to Inuit Businesses across our registry to be able to attend Expo Labrador that is happening in Happy Valley, Goose Bay during the last week of June. Now that's my update for this time Mr. Speaker. Thank you, very much.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. I'd like to thank the Ministers for their statements, and we will move on to Item Three. Item Three is, "Members Statements." Are there any Members Statements around the Table? Okay. The first one that I saw was the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak. When you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Condolences to the family of the late Mr. Joseph Tuglavina of Happy Valley- Goose Bay, to the family of the late Ms. Priscilla Tooktoshina of Happy Valley- Goose Bay. Well wishes for a healthy and fun summer to all students finishing school next week. Ordinary Member Andersen and I attended a few events over the spring. The...

MR. WINTERS: One moment, Minister. Sorry, Ordinary Member. I'll ask you to pause while we sort out the feedback. If I could get the IT staff in here please. We'll take five minutes.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Nakummek. Apologies for the delays today, folks. We're having IT, tech and A/C issues. So thank you for bearing with us. Back to Ordinary Member Gerald Asivak of the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready, sir.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ordinary Member Andersen and I attended a few events over the spring. We attended events with NunaKatiget Patricia and Debbie in May. We went to Headland Apartments, shared a delicious meal, great conversation followed by a few fun games of Bingo. We look forward to partnering again over the summer. Residents are appreciative of us attending and we enjoy it as well. We also delivered caribou n Happy Valley, Goose Bay to elders. They were very appreciative and brought a smile to their faces. Good job Lands and Natural Resources for doing this for our beneficiaries. We also hosted an open house in Happy Valley, Goose Bay in May. We had a great turnout with a lot of discussion, mainly around membership, COVID-19 programs and benefits and services not

eligible in our area. We plan to host another one in the fall with NunaKatiget. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we'll be attending National Indigenous Peoples Day events. Mr. Andersen will attend in North West River and I will attend in Happy Valley, Goose Bay. We will both attend Labrador Correctional Centre on June 22nd in the morning with NunaKatiget Patricia Kemuksigak who graciously donated char for this event, along with DHSD employee Julia O'Brien who does great work with the people at the Labrador Correctional Centre. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members Statement will be coming from AngajukKâk Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale. When you're ready.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to acknowledge and pay tribute to the late Rosie Lucy. Rosie Charlotte Lucy, nee Edmunds was the daughter of Thomas and Rhoda Edmunds. Rhoda's name, when she was a little girl, before she had a Christian name was Ooloota Napatshe. She was born here in Hopedale. Rosie dedicated 44 years of her life to the people of Hopedale as a Public Health Aide. She had a strong connection for those she cared for. Mr. Speaker, 44 years of Rosie's life as a Public Health Aide is a long time to work in the public eye. She was instrumental in helping new nurses coming into the community. Rosie also had artistic talent that was passed onto her. She created crafts using beads, sealskin and moose hide. She would sew passionately and create beautiful beaded slippers, boots, and mittens. Rosie was also a foster mom. And over the years, she took in over 40 children. Thank you, Rosie for your many years of service to Hopedale. I extend my deepest condolences to her husband, John, her

children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the community of Hopedale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* We will now hear from the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I just-, I'm gonna be brief, but I would like to thank Minister Evans who came to visit our Community Freezer last month and I would like to welcome all the NEC Members who visit, to visit our freezer if they're in our area. It really means a lot. I wish to send congratulations to the Mealy Mountain Collegiate.

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask the Member so slow down for the interpreter?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Oh, sorry.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Sorry, Gus. I want to send congratulations to the graduation class of 2023 at Mealy Mountain Collegiate. All the best in your future endeavours.
Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* The next Members statement will be coming from Mr. Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again in this Honourable House to speak on personal homecare. I spoke on it yesterday and there was words said that medical staff needed. Mr. Speaker, in a personal homecare facility like Mary's Harbour, Level One and Two care is provided. And the only medical personnel is what's required is probably CPR and First Aid. All other special medical needs are met by the clinic in that community. Mr.

Speaker, I learned again last night that one of our seniors from the community of Hopedale who's living in Goose Bay will now be sent to the personal homecare unit in Mary's Harbour. An Inuk person, Mr. Speaker, (audio feedback) and from my understanding that we have several Inuk people at the facility in Mary's Harbour and their ability to speak the English language is limited. There are no interpretation available for these people. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this year alone, that the infrastructure in putting up buildings on the North Coast will probably equal in excess of \$40 million. And Mr. Speaker-, and rightly so. But Mr. Speaker, these are our people in the last years of their life, forced to live away from their loved ones where families can visit. The last years of their life they have to live away from family, children, grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday that the North Coast of Labrador is my heart and my home. And I've spent a lifetime trying to help the people on the North Coast to the best of my ability. And today, Mr. Speaker, again, I'm speaking out for our loved ones in particular, our elders, who in the twilight of their lives are forced to move away.

MR. WINTERS:

The Member can continue his statement in the second part.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member we'll hear from is the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Mr. Chesley Sheppard.

MR. C. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to send my congratulations to 2023 graduation class, Shane Wolfrey and Ella Jaque. And I'd also like to

congratulate our Women's League Division B who went to Goose Bay and won regionals. This is a great accomplishment for a small town. I'd like to send my condolences to the late Joyce Allen and to her family. We recently had a by-election for counsellors and we've got one, which is kinda sad, but it's our situation where NG employees is mostly that's running our town and they cannot run, which is a big loss to our council. And some of the projects that are coming up this summer in our community-, we just started our town clean-up. We're gonna start a new rink project in July. And new lift station is gonna be starting this summer. We have a Salmon Festival coming up August 3rd to the 5th which all is welcome to attend. And that's it. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. The next Member we will hear a Members Statement from is the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with a brief statement this morning. I'd like to congratulate the graduated classes for JCEM School in Makkovik from K to 12. They're celebrating their graduations next week on the 24th of June in our community. And I'd also like to pass on condolences to the Edmunds, Lucy family that live in Makkovik, the late Rosie Edmunds who passed away recently. As my fellow AngajukKâk had mentioned, Rosie was a great contributor to the Inuit, not just in Hopedale but other communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Member we will hear from is the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm gonna sound like a broken record. Once again I'm asking for equality within the Canadian Constituency. We seem to be left out of a lot of programs, a lot of everything, really. All we want is to be treated equally, not better than, just equal to. For instance, I just found out yesterday through Minister Vincent that there was food over and above the Food Supplement Program given to all of the communities including Upper Lake Melville-, probably a couple hundred thousand dollars. We never got anything, not even a Food Supplement Program for that. If you could find it in your heart to include the Canadian Constituency and just give us one third of what you spend on the extra food for the poor people-, and there are poor people in the Canadian Constituency, it would go a long way for moral support. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. The next Members Statement will be coming from Mr. Jeff Montague, Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation.

MR. MONTAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is very brief. I'd just like to congratulate the graduating class of Lake Melville School and wish them the best of luck. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

That's brief. Are there any other Members statements? Yes, recognizing Ordinary Member for Nain, Roxanne Barbour.

MS. BARBOUR:

Nakummek, UKatti. On behalf of the AngajukKâk in Nain who couldn't be with us, he would've liked to extend his congratulations to the graduating glass of JHMS. I also just wanted to say *Nakummek*, Illonasi for being patient with our interpreter translator in stating that [speaks in Inuttitut].

We have to try to do our best [speaks in Inuttitut]. And I hope everybody after today take it upon themselves to do their best to try as well.
Nakummek.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there other first Members Statements around the Table? Seeing none, are there any second Members Statements around the Table? Recognizing Wally Andersen, Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And unfortunately, this will be my fourth Members Statement at this Sitting and I need to speak a bit on the Upper Lake Melville area. But prior to that again, I would like for every Member to consider what I spoke about earlier of looking after our people, the most treasured possessions we have, our seniors. Mr. Speaker, representing the largest number of Inuit people in a given area, myself and the Minister and Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville that it's pretty hectic. The Minister mentioned that we're splitting duties on Aboriginal Day, a holiday, but also that morning, we're attending the Changing of the Guards at 5 Wing Goose Bay where many of our beneficiaries hold high jobs. I also believe that there's a function, Minister Asivak's, at noon. And Mr. Speaker, we find that more and more people, like from the coast, some young people, are moving to the Upper Lake Melville area. And the Members, I think the number of beneficiaries are increasing. It's an honour to represent the people in the Upper Lake Melville area and the concerns are great, Membership-, living outside the Claim Area is a challenge. But we deal with it. And the requests that we get to attend functions within

the communities are-, they're pretty demanding. But that's what we are elected for and that's what we do. When we're called upon by an organization to attend as elected Members, we're more than glad to do it and we do it because we want to because it's our job. Mr. Speaker, at times we get calls for some people from the North Coast who are stuck in Goose Bay at the hospital. Like while they can get transportation to and from the drugstore, you know, sometimes they call us for a little need that they have to pick something up and we're more than glad to do it. But Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work hard on behalf of their behalf and while circumstances again are different being outside the Claim Area. We also take the time-, I know I do-, to speak on the concerns that face the beneficiaries in Nunatsiavut. And that's the reason why I speak so much about providing a place for our people on the North Coast in the twilight of their lives. It's an honour to serve, Mr. Speaker. The greatest thing you can do in public life is to serve your people and those who are in need and I'm sure that the Minister, my colleague and the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, can tell that sometimes we get more than an earful but it's part of our job and we try to speak to people with respect, kindness and to act on their behalf. Summer's coming up. I wish everyone a safe summer. Enjoy it, and most important of all, take time to spend with your family because believe you me, when the time comes, you lose a family member, that the-, it hurts. So take the time. And then if you have a mother or father, take the time to tell them you love them. Talk to your children. Spend time with them. I know your schedule is busy but that's

the greatest aspect that anyone can do. Again, I wish you all a good summer and see you back here-, and please, God, all of us will be back here again this fall to gather around this Table to discuss the issues of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Are there any other second Members Statements around the Table? Seeing none, we will take a break. Snacks are here. And we'll return at five after the hour. We will also have the menu going around. Make sure you make your selections for lunch. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

We'll now move on to Item Four, "Returns to Oral Questions." And there are no returns to oral questions today. So we will continue with Item Five. Item Five is, "Oral Questions." Are there any oral questions? The first hand that I saw is the Ordinary Member for the Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Wally Andersen, when you're ready.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my question is for the First Minister and certainly, I know that it's a question that you would have to take under advisement. But has our Government given any thought to trying to get the Community Constables reinstated? It was a program that was brought in by the Government which I was a part of when we introduced full-time policing in Makkovik and Rigolet. Has the Minister-, has our Government given any thought of looking at ways of maybe bringing the program back?

MR. WINTERS:

First Minister?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Ordinary Member for the question. I know that the program, the Community Constable Program was a very valuable program for our community. We've heard that a number of times. And I think that it could be valuable to explore, whether or not that can be reinstated, especially for communities such as Postville who currently doesn't have a police service whatsoever. So in order to ensure that I provide you with a full answer to this question, I will take it under advisement to see what work has been done previously. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, First Minister. And thank you for taking it under advisement. Does the Ordinary Member have a supplemental in case she can add to that response?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. And thank you. Also with regard to the Community Constable Program, we do have some very difficult issues in the Upper Lake Melville area as well, you know, that affect our people and certainly an Aboriginal policing presence in the Upper Lake Melville area, I think would go a long way in helping the RCMP. But most important of all, having our own local constables, I think would certainly be an asset to help some of our people who need help. So again, Minister, again, under advisement and I look forward to a response down the road. And thank you again for taking the time, thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Does the Member have a question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Yes, the question was quite clear, I think to include the Upper Lake Melville area in the Community Constable Program as well.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Thank you for the clarification.

MS. WILLIAMS: Again, I can take this under advisement. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: And just as a reminder to the Members of the Assembly, the Oral Questions exist to ask questions that you anticipate the Minister will have a response to. We have the function of written questions for more complicated questions that might require research from the department. So just a reminder for everyone around the Table. The next hand that I saw with a question was the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. My question is for the Honourable Member, First Minister, Ms. Melva Williams. And it's regarding housing. If a house is condemned and a member is denied repairs, what, if anything, can be done to help that family with the home repairs if they're living in a condemned home and we're not approving repairs for the home? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: First Minister Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. This topic is currently being discussed within Nunatsiavut Affairs. We're exploring what potential options could be and we're looking at the policies and what will allow-, how we will be within regulations, allowed to proceed. And as it stands, it's currently being worked on right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek,* First Minister. Does the AngajukKâk have a supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS: When you-, after the investigation is done, is it possible that you could let us know what, if anything, can be done with that?

MR. WINTERS: I will ask the Members to speak up as well. But yes, First Minister, can you respond?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I will-, once we have made decisions and the path forward has been decided, then that information will be relayed.

MR. WINTERS: Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a second follow-up question? Saying no. The next question will come from the Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Mr. Jeff Montague.

MR. MONTAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question for the Minister of Finance and it's with regards to budgeting and the budget to the Community Corporation. What does zero-based budgeting approach mean? I wonder if we could get a bit of an explanation as to what that is? Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Thank you Minister-, Ordinary Member for Inuit Community Corporation. So zero budget basing, it's like a, like zero-, the budget is what it is. But what I'll do is I'll get you a detailed explanation just to clarify, just to ensure. But like it's based on that the budget, is what it is, like or whatever. But anyway, I'll ensure that you get a detailed explanation. I'll send you something, okay?

MR. WINTERS: It sounds as though the Minister is taking it under advisement. Is that clear, sir?

MR. EVANS: Yes, that's what I'll do. I'll take it under notice and get back.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Does the Chairperson have a follow-up question? Shaking the head, no. The next question will come from the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders, when you're ready.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Language, Culture and Minister Barbour. Will your department have a Master and Apprenticeship for the Canadian Constituency in the next round of Master and Apprentice system? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Barbour, Language, Culture and Tourism, when you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR: *Nakummek, UKattik and Nakummek,* Member for your question. I'll take it under advisement.

MR. WINTERS: Does the Ordinary Member have a follow-up question? Are there any other questions around the Table? Yes, recognizing the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. As the homeless shelter in Happy Valley, Goose Bay is for anyone in need of housing or homeless, not just Nunatsiavut beneficiaries, has there been any discussion on giving it up and having and having another organization run it, especially when it expands in the next year or so to that really big shelter with lots of homes? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* First Minister, when you're ready. Oh, my apologies. Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. A few years back the Nunatsiavut Executive Council agreed to operate the Housing Hub in

Happy Valley, Goose Bay, so this was by consensus that the Executive approved that DHSD or NG would operate it on behalf of Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Housing NL. As you may have heard the purpose built facility just recently announced this past week or last week, that it is put on hold requiring more community consultations in Happy Valley, Goose Bay from stakeholders, community members, businesses and the people who use the shelter, Mental Health, Labrador Grenfell Health-, many others. As of now, NG plans to continue to operate the new purpose-built facility in the future whenever it is developed. We are in consultations with them. They have had community consultations. We don't have anything to do with the site or the buildings or the tenders other than to provide input into design based on current usage and needs. Many of the users are beneficiaries from Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. We feel with our proven experience that we can operate this type of facility and until otherwise issued by the Executive Council, we plan to continue operation in the future. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Does the Chairperson have a follow-up question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware of when we decided to take on the Housing Hub and the supportive living units because Newman's had closed down and it was at a crisis situation and there was no other organization ready to take it on. But as the years go by and there's more and more flack and issues, has there-, will there be given any thought of maybe looking at like in the Province, you know, maybe someone else should take it over. I don't know. But I know we had to in the beginning 'cause we were the only ones

with capacity but now there might be more. I don't know. Sorry. But my question is, would you look at it in the future?

MR. WINTERS: Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, for the supplementary question. It is very similar to the first, so I'm not gonna expand much on it. It's almost duplicate of the first, actual, Mr. Speaker. But I will say, unless either party, Nunatsiavut Government or Government of Newfoundland and Labrador decides to cancel the contract or rescind the contract with ample given notice within the contract, we do not plan to stop unless the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador puts out an official tender or request for proposals, we plan to continue, like I said, until given direction by the Executive Council to withdraw our services. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Does the Chairperson have a second follow-up question?

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

MR. WINTERS: Are there any other first questions around the Table? Seeing none, at this point I will step away from the Chair and my Deputy will take over while I ask a question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Winters, you have questions or one question?

MR. WINTERS: Yes. Thank you. This question is for the First Minister. And it's a question about membership and it's a question about how you ensure that there is consistency among the Community Membership Boards as well as the Appeals Board so that they're all operating by the same metrics of

determining membership, and that those Membership Boards are free of discrimination? That's it for now.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Was it for the First Minister?

MR. WINTERS: Yes, First Minister.

MR. SAUNDERS: Okay, thank you. First Minister Williams, would you like to respond?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member for your question. The Membership Committees and Appeal Boards have detailed regulations that they have to follow in order to complete the work that's required of their boards, their-, the Membership Committees. I'm slightly taken aback in relation to the question of-, I'm not sure how you termed it, is that there would be bias to anyone. I know by review of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* as well as the regulations of the Membership Committees that there is strict criteria that they have to follow and I have complete confidence in the Registrar's office, the committees as well as the Appeal Board. Thank you for the question.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you First Minister Williams. Ordinary Member Winters, do you have a supplemental question?

MR. WINTERS: Yes. Has there been any conversation regarding membership with your colleagues in other regions about people of mixed ascent, Inuit who come from different regions, not just Nunatsiavut, and how those Inuit can be taken care of and covered in terms of our rights and our benefits?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. First Minister Williams? Oh...

MR. EVANS: Just a point of order here if I could? Was there a question and what-, just a suggestion from, for Oral Questions if the Ministers could, as a courtesy share maybe prior to the Oral Question to the Minister so they have like an opportunity to ensure that they don't have to take it under notice? Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you for your point of order, Minister Evans. Okay, Ordinary Member Winters will you make sure that your question is pertinent to the first question please.

MR. WINTERS: Yeah. And it is still about Membership and coverage and the question was, have you had conversations with your contemporaries. Sorry if that was muddled. My apologies.

MR. SAUNDERS: And that was directed toward the First Minister? First Minister Williams would you like to respond?

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member. Since I have accepted this position, I have not had that conversation. That's not to say the conversation hasn't been had prior to my assignment in the role. So I will take that question under advisement and go back to see if there has been those discussions with our contemporaries across Inuit Nunangat. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, First Minister Williams. Ordinary Member Winters do you have your second supplemental?

MR. WINTERS: I do not. Thank you. *Nakummek* for your responses.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you. With that I'll return you to your Chair.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there second questions around the Table? Yeah, the first hand that I saw was the Chairperson for the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: My question is to the President and again I might sound like a broken record. Providing assistance to help our vulnerable beneficiaries with the Food Subsidy Program is badly needed, due to the high cost of food. Access to food is a right. Food insecurity among the Labrador Inuit is very high. Has there been any discussions on this very important program to help our people in need, to implement something? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Mr. President, when you're ready, sir.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: *Nakummek, UKatti, Nakummek* [speaks in Inuttitut]. Yes, at our last sitting in March, we did say that the Food and Home Heating programs would end at the end of March, March 31 and April 1st. So that is as it is. We have nothing at this point. But at that sitting, I did say that we, as a Government will get together and find ways of finding funding to support those who are experiencing food insecurity. And it has been discussed at the Executive level. But we have still not come to a decision on what next steps will be. But certainly, I will say that we will continue to discuss this very important issue and know that Labrador Inuit are hungry, wherever they may live. And so we, as Government will certainly look at this issue and do something about it. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS: Does the Chairperson have a follow-up question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

No, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, President Lampe.

MR. WINTERS:

The next hand that I saw was from the Upper Lake Melville Ordinary Member, Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the First Minister or maybe to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Will the Executive Council look into the possibilities of what it might take to get a personal homecare Level One and Two facility on the North Coast for our members?

MR. WINTERS:

Recognizing Minister Asivak, Department of Health and Social Development.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ordinary Member Andersen. It is very similar to the question that was asked yesterday and we've already had very brief preliminary conversations, myself and the First Minister around this. And as I noted yesterday, personal care homes are privately operated business ventures. It's not meant for any Government level, Nunatsiavut Government, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, to erect or provide this service. There could be community consultation with private businesses. They can ask different departments within our Government for assistance in consultation such as Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology or Department of Education and Economic Development. Or there are private ventures in your communities that, you know, who could operate these facilities, such as in Hopedale, we know, and other communities who have extensive experience in business. So this would not be an Executive Council decision to operate personal care

homes in Nunatsiavut, as I clearly stated yesterday. This is private business. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Does Ordinary Member Andersen have a follow-up question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the rules of any Parliament is that if you ask a question and if you're not satisfied with the response that you were given, any member has any right to ask the question again.

MR. WINTERS: Is this a question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: So again, my final supplementary is this: Will our Government at least look into the possibility of what it would take to operate a Level One and Two personal homecare in the Claim Area for our beneficiaries who so badly need it?

MR. WINTERS: Can you please identify how that question differs from your first question? Can you please explain how that question is different from your first question?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: I guess the question-, the answer was that the question was raised yesterday. And I do believe I am in order by asking basically the same question but with a little more added to it, and that's exactly what I did. I asked if they would once again at least look into the possibility with different agencies or whatever it is to-, is there any way possible that we can build such a facility on the North Coast for our beneficiaries?

MR. WINTERS: That's the same question as the first question that you asked. The supplemental does have to be different, but about the same issue. So we'll disregard that question at this time. The next question that I saw was from

the Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This next question is once again for Language Culture and Tourism, Roxanne Barbour. You mentioned this morning that there's a group over in Germany right now looking at repatriating some remains. Do you think that those remains will be repatriated back to Labrador?

MR. WINTERS:

Minister Barbour, whenever you're ready.

MS. BARBOUR:

So there are two doctors, Lisa Rankin and sorry I forget the other woman's name. They applied for some funds through a different organization to look into this. I think they're working on their thesis. And a part of that was to include Nunatsiavummumiut so that they can get the idea and understand how they feel about repatriation. We're hoping in-, repatriation happened before, you know, so it's not impossible. But adding to that, I will take it under advisement and provide you with a proper answer. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS:

Does the Ordinary Member have a follow-up question?

MR. SAUNDERS:

No, thank you. Thank you, Minister.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other second questions around the table? Yes, recognizing AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you. My question I think would be for the Honourable Melva Williams, First Minister. I hear in your report that there's senior's apartments being built in Hopedale. My question is, will the seniors that

are at the personal care home be able to be back home and utilize those apartments? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk. First Minister Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Flowers for the question. As you know, Minister and others around the Table, Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is now in operation and they do allocations around units. So I do-, Nunatsiavut Executive Council does not make allocation to units, so I would have to go back to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission to see what the criteria is around the allocation and eligibility of those units. Thank you, for the question.

MR. WINTERS:

Does AngajukKâk Flowers have a supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Yes, thank you. My supplemental question is if they can, will they be able to avail of the services through Department of Health and Social Development for home support and homecare? Thank you.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Does the First Minister wish to respond?

MS. WILLIAMS:

I'm sorry, but I didn't hear the question. Can you repeat it please?

MS. FLOWERS:

My question is, if they can avail of the apartments, the senior's apartments, would they be able to-, would the Department of Health and Social Development be able to take on some of their care, like home-, through home support and other services that the Department of Health and Social Development provides?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, and I will actually hand the mic over to the Minister for the Department of Health and Social Development to answer in full. However,

we wanna reiterate that the Housing units for the seniors are for those who have the ability to care for themselves. There isn't a Level One, Level Two care offered with those units. It's for seniors who are able to look after themselves. But I will defer to Minister Asivak to answer the DHSD question.

MR. WINTERS: Minister Asivak?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Minister Williams and AngajukKâk Flowers. Home support is available to any individual within our communities of Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. A Home Needs Assessment would be completed for the individual with a Registered Nurse. It's a intensive assessment and they ensure that there is eligibility for the services that we provide for home support. In saying that, though, there is criteria for the Housing Selection Committee so that will be part of the answer as well, if the individual meets that criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. FLOWERS: No, I don't and I thank you for your answer.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any other second questions around the Table at this time? Seeing none, I will step away from the Chair and my Deputy Speaker will take over.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ordinary Member Winters, do you have a question? I'm sorry there. You are ordinary but that's okay.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, I have a question. I guess this question is for the President. I was excited to hear about the strat plan for the Department of Language

Culture and Tourism. I'm wondering if other departments-, can you not hear me? My apologies. Is everyone picking this up or no? So Mr. President, what I was saying is, I'm excited to hear about the strategic plan for Language Culture and Tourism and I'm wondering if the other departments have strategic plans or will be creating them in the near future?

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Mr. President, would you like to respond?

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

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I noticed that Minister Asivak would like to make a statement as well.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Department of Health and Social Development has strategic plans. We have a five-year. Also as I shared with the Assembly, we have a annual Health Priorities that was sent out via email yesterday. So that is a public document for our Assembly and for people of our priorities. We also have annual community health plans in our communities within Nunatsiavut and Upper Lake Melville. And some of this is mandated through our funding agreements with *Fiscal Financing Agreement* and First Nations Inuit Health Branch and we do follow the regulations for the benefit of our beneficiaries. *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Asivak. I noticed that First Minister Williams, would you like to make a statement as well?

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you Deputy Speaker and Ordinary Member. I'd like to add to the comments made by the President and by Minister Asivak. I have risen before in the House and advised the Assembly of-, lower or slower? Slower, okay. Sorry-, of strategic planning work that's being conducted by Nunatsiavut Affairs in relation to infrastructure and housing. We recognize that we have-, in order to ensure that we do responsible, reliable work in Nunatsiavut, that those pieces are required and that's pieces of work that's currently ongoing within Nunatsiavut Affairs. And as well, Minister Barbour just advised that on the Share Point, there-, those plans are also documented on there as well and any Member can access those there. Thank you.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, First Minister. Ordinary Member Winters, do you have a supplemental question?

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Yes, I have one. The question was really about the strategic plan but it became about language. The response became about language. I know that the Inuttitut Blitz is scheduled to end in August and there's a strategic plan. Is the Government at this point, willing to acknowledge a language crisis in Nunatsiavut and put the necessary resources into the Department of Language Culture and Tourism to bring this back?

MR. A. ANDERSEN:

Point of order. And I recognize your question was on the strategic plan and I do felt, that you did not get an answer to your question. However, Mr. Speaker, the supplementary is in no way connected to the original question. That is my point.

MR. SAUNDERS: Point noted. Thank you. Okay, Ordinary Member Winters, do you have a supplementary question related to the first question?

MR. WINTERS: Does the strategic plan within the Department of Language Culture and Tourism include a large injection of funds and resources in order to best reclaim our language and culture? *Nakummek.*

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. Mr. President, would you like to respond or pass it to someone else?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Thank you, Ordinary Member for the Canadian Constituency Winters. Yes, the strategic plan has been discussed and we'll certainly, in terms of Language, Culture and Tourism and this file is at this point quite busy and we are finding it challenging at this point without a Deputy Minister and so we will still continue to support the department. And certainly where the department is responsible for language, culture and tourism. These work plans will go ahead. But we will have to work harder to make sure that the department is well in hand. And certainly, the Executive is in full support of the Language, Culture and Tourism and in whatever ways that each department can provide that support. I believe that Minister Barbour can say more to the question. *Nakummek*, Deputy Speaker.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Minister Barbour, would you like to add to that?

MS. BARBOUR: [Speaks in Inuttitut] When having discussions at the Executive level about language and culture, it was very evident that I have support from the other Ministers. So moving forward, our very dedicated, passionate and

hard-working staff. You know, they're working hard all the time to ensure that we're trying to be inclusive as possible as well as providing strategic ways forward, not just for this generation but for the generations to come. And we, again, I have support from the Executive moving forward.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Minister Barbour. Ordinary Member Winters do you have a second supplemental question relating to the first question?

MR. WINTERS: Out of fear of point of orders, no.

MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Ordinary Member Winters. I now return the Chair to you.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*, and thank you, Assembly Members. Are there any more second questions around the Table? Seeing none, we will break for lunch. We'll return at the top of the hour. *Nakummek*.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: We'll move on to Item Six, "Written Questions." Are there any written questions today? Yes, seeing one, Patricia Kemuksigak, Chairperson of NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: (No audio.)

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*. Are there any other written questions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to...

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WINTERS: Go ahead.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I-, during question period when I asked my first supplementary, I was ruled out of order which I accept. However, Hansard

will surely clearly show that I was not asked or given the chance to ask my second supplementary.

MR. WINTERS:

You were given the opportunity to ask your initial supplementary question, twice more after your first time, and you continued to repeat yourself. At that time, you could've asked a supplementary question. No, that's the issue discussed. That's it. That's the conversation. *Nakummek*. Under, "Returns to Written Questions, Item Seven, there are no returns to written questions today. So we will move on to Item Eight. Item Eight is, "Petitions." There are no petitions today so we will move on to Item Nine. Item Nine is, "Responses to Petitions." There are no responses today. We will move on to Item 10. Item 10 is, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees." There are no reports of standing in special committees today, so we'll move on to Item 11. Item 11 is the, "Tabling of Documents." There are no documents to be tabled today so we will move on to Item 12. Item 12 is, "Notices of Motions." There are no notices of motions today. So we'll move on to Item 13. Item 13-, sorry, I missed my place there folks. Item 13 is, "Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills." There are no notices of motions for first reading of Bills today. Item 14 is, "Motions." There are no motions today, so we will move on to Item 15. Item 15 is, "First reading of Bills." There are no Bills for first reading today so we will move on to Item 16. Item 16, "Second reading of Bills." Second reading of Bill 2023-02, "*Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act.*" I would like to recognize the Minister of Finances, Human Resources and Information Technology, the Honourable Tom Evans for the Second Reading of Bills.

MR. EVANS: I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Hopedale, the Honourable Terry Vincent that Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fee Act*," be moved into Committee of the Whole with Ms. Rexanne Crawford, Mr. Todd Pottle and Mr. Mark Gillette as witnesses and that the said Bill be read for the second time.

MR. WINTERS: Just for clarification on names, I heard you say, "Todd Pottle." I believe it's Todd Broomfield. Is this correct?

MR. EVANS: My apologies. I just spoke with Todd Pottle earlier. He must've been on my mind. I apologize, Todd Broomfield.

MR. WINTERS: I've called you Tom Andersen. It's okay. The motion is to move into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill. All those in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion is carried. We will now take, let's say five minutes for the witnesses to join us in the Committee of the Whole.

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS: Now that the witnesses have joined us and as the Members are aware, the procedure for second reading debate will be a page-by-page and clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Before doing so, I'll invite any of our witnesses to make remarks if they wish. Oh, apologies. One second. As we are in the Committee of the Whole, that can be part of our discussion. *Nakummek*. So witnesses, would you like to make remarks on this Bill?

MR. BROOMFIELD: I'd just like to give an opening comment. Last year we had a new Commercial Fishery Designation Policy in place, and in that policy the access fees of three and five percent for designates. We had quite a few

concerns regarding the fee that was in place last year and it did place a bit of financial hardship on the designates. So we had committed to review that portion of our policy and the process of doing that brought us where we are today in the Assembly. So I'd just like to make comment that we did have concerns about the fees from last year's fishery.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* And for listeners to the audio feed, that was Todd Broomfield. Would the other two witnesses like to make comments before we begin?

MR. GILLETTE: Good afternoon to the Committee of the Whole. So just by way of background, the purpose of the Bill is outlined in...

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask the witness to slow.

MR. GILLETTE: Slow down? Yeah.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.*

MR. GILLETTE: The purpose of the Bill is essentially stated on page one of the document, called the Explanatory Note. I'm not going to go through that because I assume that you've taken that in already. But just as an overview, for some time now, the Nunatsiavut Government has had a Commercial Fisheries Designation Policy in place and what that is about is, the Government holds a number of commercial fishing licences. And it allows people or beneficiaries to apply for and be able to fish under those licences. So the Government has had a policy about how to implement that and how to administer that for a number of years. As part of that, there was-, after, what I understand, was a considerable amount of consultation with both the Inuit Communities and fishers, there was a decision to ask or require

that people who fish under these licenced designations, to pay a fee to the Government for that benefit, 'cause they're getting the benefit of using a NG licence. And so that was-, I believe it started off a number of years ago as two cents per pound. When they fish, and when they come and weigh their catch, they would pay a fee to the Government based on two cents a pound. The policy was reviewed, I guess a number of times, sometime over the last number of years with some professional expertise from the fishing industry. And it was determined a couple years ago to move to a different model which is what Mr. Broomfield referred to earlier as a percentage of the catch. And more recently, the Government decided, or the department had decided it was actually going to reduce the amount of the fee based on some comments about the level of the fee and whatnot. So that was really the impetus for bringing the Bill here at this time because really, the Assembly under the *Constitution*, under Inuit Law, should be at a high level overseeing things that involve revenue coming into the Government, okay? The Government-, the Assembly has been aware there has been a Commercial Designation Policy for a number of years and that the Government has been taking in revenue from that for a number of years because it's been included in the financial plans and the budgets that have need past over the number of years. This is not new information, right? But this is a Bill that specifically talks about, at a very high level, how these fees or the authority for the department for setting the fees and giving some additional rules about how they can go about setting the fees, which are explained in more detail in the sections. But generally, it-, the

Bill would give the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, based on the expertise that's in the Department and also based on information from the fishing industry and fishers, to be able to set the rates and be able to adjust the rates as necessary and appropriate over time-, and to do that by way of regulation so it's not necessary to come back to the Assembly every time. 'Cause sometimes these things are set annually. Sometimes these things are fluctuate from time to time. So it generally gives the Minister the ability to make those types of regulations, regarding the setting of the fee. It would regard-, it could give the Minister-, or it would give the Minister the ability to exclude certain types of designations from paying a fee at all, either for certain species or things like that, of fish, or species that are caught. It would essentially set some parameters around making sure that people who are subject to paying the fee keep the appropriate records and things like that so they can be examined to make sure that they are complying with the process. And it also requires the Minister of the department to report annually to the Assembly on the access fees that are collected every year. So that would be a separate report other than what the Assembly would get in the budget every year or in the financial reports or whatever every year about how much money is taken-, it would create a separate obligation on the Minister responsible for this Act to report separately to the Assembly. Slow down. So that's just some initial comments from myself.

MR. BROOMFIELD:

I'd just like to make another comment that when we did our community consultations prior to the policy being implemented, all of the

communities wanted to see an access fee and they never gave any direction on what the fees should be.

MR. WINTERS: Witness, I'll ask you to slow. Thank you.

MR. BROOMFIELD: The communities never gave any direction on what amount should be charged for accessing NG quotas. And they left that discretion with the department. So I just wanted to add that background information.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there any more remarks from the witnesses? Seeing none, we will now go to the Bill itself. In reviewing the Bill we will begin by voting on the substantive sections first, starting with Section Two. And then once the substantive sections are finished, we will go back to the beginning to consider the preamble and title of the Bill. Starting on Page Two, does everyone have it in front of them? Clause Two, on Page Two, questions? Is everyone agreed? Yes. Seeing some hands. Oh, you're voting in the affirmative, I see. Sorry, can I see hands? Yes? Question?

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Question.

MR. WINTERS: Okay. Go ahead, Barry. Your mic, AngajukKâk.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Oh, sorry-, 2(d) with the fish in parenthesis-, no, I'm seeing quotations, includes shellfish, crustaceans and marine mammals-, would that include fin fish as well? Like...

MR. WINTERS: Witness?

MR. GILLETTE: Yeah, so this is a definition that makes writing the law easier. It just means when you see the word fish it not only means fish, like fin fish, it also would

include things like shellfish or crustaceans or sea mammals. It's a similar definition that's used in the Federal Fisheries Act as well.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: Thank you for your clarification.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any more questions or are we all agreed? Yes, Mr. Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Under Section F it says, "Means the funds established by the Nunatsiavut Government to hold is reserved for development of the Commercial Fishery in Nunatsiavut." If someone who is developing their own entity with their own boats, yet they run into trouble, Mr. Broomfield, will this fund be used for assistance, for help?

MS. CRAWFORD: I'll start and then turn it over to Todd to complete the answer. So the Nunatsiavut Commercial Fisheries Fund as you note during the budget in March we budget all the amounts that are in the Commercial Fisheries Fund as a revenue, as an expense, so that It can be used during the fiscal year. We also remarked that there was a policy for the Commercial Fisheries and it would be used at this time for fishing opportunities such as the purchasing of licences, et cetera. At this time I'm not aware that there are any programs developed for enterprises and for assistance to fishers. But I believe those will become part of it. So I will turn over to Todd to talk about the future of the fund.

MR. BROOMFIELD: Yeah, thank you. So right now we do have a draft policy within the department. It's not approved or finalized yet. It's still in draft form. And once the policy is finalized by the department and approved by Executive Council as policy-, it's normally approved by the Executive-, that is being

considered in the draft policy. So that's covered in the draft policy document. But like I said, we're maybe a year out from getting the draft to a formal policy and brought forward from the department to Executive for approval.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions? Yes, Ms. Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'd like to point out in Section 2(a) there is a typo in the word Minister. It says, "Minster." And as well it also says that in 2(e).

MR. WINTERS: I thought you were saying singular versus plural, Minster versus Minister. Thank you. That will be edited. Are there further questions around the table on Point Two? Are we agreed? *Nakummek*. Page Three, Clause Three. Do we have questions? Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Broomfield. Under Section one-, or sorry, Section Two, it says, "Not less than two cents per pound and not more than five cents per pound. Mr. Broomfield, we encourage people to get in their own boats and get their own boats as to leasing. Those who get their own boats has a far bigger responsibility with insurance and all that kind of stuff, as to some who just leased. So where we encourage our people to get in their boats, like...

MR. WINTERS: I'll ask you to slow for the interpreter.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Okay, sure.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek*.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: If we were-, if you were going to charge, let's say for example, three cents a pound, would you consider charging a boat owner, say 1.5 cents a pound

and someone who is just leasing to charge them three cents a pound to give more initiative to our fishers to go out and get their own boats?

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Broomfield, witnesses? Would you like to respond?

MR. BROOMFIELD:

So the discretion with the fees is left with the Minister and the department will give our best advice to our Minister when the fee schedules are set. If you look at the-, what I would say is the regular commercial fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador, commercial fishermen who own their own enterprise and renew their own licences, will generally pay in the range of three cents per pound to DFO to renew their licence annually. That's their own fishing licences. So what we're considering here, the minimum would be two cents and the maximum would be five. And it would be set annually by the Minister and we feel that these fees are less onerous to a designate who's planning to move forward and yet is a recognition of the great amount of work that goes into managing a communal fishery. And it's like more of a, I would consider, a token payment to the NG rather than being a substantial payment, I guess, for managing the fishery. It's not intended that way. It's what I would consider to be a token fee as a designate to fish and...

MR. WINTERS:

Mr. Broomfield, I'll ask all of the witnesses and Members at this point to remember to slow...

MR. BROOMFIELD:

Okay.

MR. WINTERS:

...for the translation.

MR. BROOMFIELD:

Yes.

MR. WINTERS: So I'd like to not say it again but I understand. Thank you. Go ahead when you're ready.

MR. BROOMFIELD: Yes. So that discretion is left with the Minister and the department will give our best advice annually to the Minister on that matter.

MS. CRAWFORD: And just to add to it, I'll point out that Clause 3.4 and 3.5 do allow the Minister to set different access fees by different categories of designates and for different fisheries and for one or more different species of fish. So those are captured under 3.4 and 3.6, Mr. Andersen.

MR. WINTERS: I'm going to ask us to just hold on for a moment. We have the Pages retrieving headsets for our witnesses. It might give you a better idea of the pacing we're asking for in the room. Yeah, for the translator. (Audio pauses.) Thank you, everyone for your patience. Still under Clause Three. Are there any further questions? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Hello. Under Section Four in making regulations under Subsection Two, the Minister may set different access fees for different categories of designates or different fisheries, and also Six is similar. Does that mean it might be less for people that own their own boat as opposed to leasing because it's more of an incentive for people to purchase boats?

MR. GILLETTE: Yes, it allows the Minister to have discretion to take different categories of fishers. When we say different categories of fishers, I think the policy currently considers boat owners versus boat leasers versus things like that, right? So it gives the discretion to the Minister to set different levels, essentially, within the parameters that are in Number Two.

MR. BROOMFIELD:

To add to that in Section Six, we traditionally exclude Icelandic Scallop, and Arctic Char from designates being charged an access fee because those fisheries are lower value fisheries than say crab or shrimp. And for that reason, we traditionally do not charge a fee for designates to fish char or scallop. And, you know, having this written the way it is gives our Minister the discretion to continue excluding those species from the access fees for that reason on the advice from the department.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any other-, yes, Mr. Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

When he responded to Ms. Kemuksigak, the access fee, but it has to be within the parameters of less than .02 cents and more than point 0. Those are the parameters, right? Now I-, so that's fine. That's good, but however in Todd's answer, when he spoke to the char and scallop fishery, and I didn't see that there's an exemption in this Bill regarding that because in 3.2 it says, "The Minister must follow regulations set the rates of access fees on the basis of amount of fish per pound landed, but the rate must not be." So I read that as all fisheries, and I don't see an exemption for scallop and char within the Bill.

MR. GILLETTE:

I'll address that. So what 3.2 sets a rule and then 3.6 sets an exception to the rule. So basically-, letting the interpreter catch up-, what 3.2 says is, "If there is going to be an access fee, it will be between two and five cents and the normal rule is that there would be an access fee of between two and five cents. But what six says is, despite that, notwithstanding that, the Minister could say that there are certain species that will pay no fee.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Are there further questions on Clause Three at this time? Yes, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Just for clarity, going forward in the future, maybe under Section Six it could add an example, excluding scallops and char or something.

MR. GILLETTE: Legislation is not the place where you would normally put an example, but the way it's drafted, it's wide enough that it could be the things that the department has normally excluded and it could include other things as time goes on. So...

MR. WINTERS: Are there more questions? Seeing none, are we agreed upon Clause Three? Seeing approval, we'll move on to Clause Four. Any questions on Clause Four? Yes, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: I'm not sure this is the correct place or not, but in the past you have collected fees from fishers and where did that-, did those funds go into this fund or is it a separate fund?

MS. CRAWFORD: All the fees collected from fishers have gone into this fund and they've been disclosed at-, under the-, when we do the financial statements review on the audits, they're a separate line item on the Audited Financial Statements and they're also a separate line item on the Budget.

MR. WINTERS: Yes, Ms. Barbour?

MS. BARBOUR: It's not a question bur more so a comment additional to yours. Remember when we was doing the budget, the NCFE is identified as Own Source Revenue, Illai. Yeah, so just wanted to remind you too.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions on Clause Four? Yes, Mr. Broomfield, you wanted to add to that.

MR. BROOMFIELD: I'd just like to add some clarification that when a designate fisher enters into an agreement with the Nunatsiavut Government, we send the copy of the agreement to the plant where they will be landing. So, for example, if they're landing in Charlottetown in Southern Labrador, we send a copy of the agreement to the company so that when they make payroll, they deduct the access fee from every payroll. So that's normally how we collect the fee and it's taken out from the designate's landing, every time they make a landing. It works very well.

MR. WINTERS: Are there more questions? Yes, Mr. Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS: So would that also include the Island of Newfoundland if there's a fisher from Labrador fishing and selling his fish on the Island, that will be collected and sent to the department then as well?

MR. BROOMFIELD: Yes, that is correct. They identify-, a designate identifies to us where they will be landing their crab or turbot or shrimp and we send a copy of their agreement to the processor for them to make the access fee deduction to the Nunatsiavut Government. So it's deducted on each landing and we know where they're selling their product because they're required to let us know.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions on Clause Four? Seeing none, are we agreed? On to Clause Five. This is the, "Time and Manner of Access Fee Payment."

Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Please turn to Page Four. Clause Six. Are there any questions? Mr. Andersen.

MR. T. ANDERSEN:

Roll this around in my head though that I'm trying to find a way to ask. I almost don't know how to ask the question. It's just that there was not a lot there in Section Six, 'cause I know that the department is already dealing with this where-, I suppose I'm wondering, I'll call him

Mr. Broomfield. Sorry, Chair, when a designate receives like a quota, okay, and doesn't land that quota though, but you're only collecting fees on the amount that's landed, not on the amount-, like if you give someone a thousand pounds and they only catch 500, you only-, that's my question. Todd, I'm trying to see what the fairness was here for fishermen who through no fault of their own, through breakdowns or whatever, failed. I was trying to ask the question. I hope that Mr. Broomfield understands what I was asking.

MS. CRAWFORD:

So back on Clause Four, the access fee is only due when the time the designate lands the fish. So they actually have to fish.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there any further questions related to Clause Six? Yes, Mr. Broomfield, you'd like to add something.

MR. BROOMFIELD:

I'd just like to add to the Members comments that we also have fisherwomen, not just fishermen. So that's an important, I guess, clarification to be correct nowadays. We do have a number of fisherwomen in our system and the access fee is only based on what is landed. If you're allocated, say, a hundred thousand pounds of shrimp,

you land 50,000 then your access fee is just based on what you land, not what you're allocated.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions? Yes, Ms. Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: So if the person, fisherperson I'll say, male or female don't land and they have that-, they have their full quota, what happens to the rest?

MS. CRAWFORD: It's a really good question. It's not within the parameters of this Bill so we can address it outside and kinda focus on the next sections about the access fees and payments. If they don't land the fish, there's no access fee due. And I think that's the important part to take for this particular Bill on Access Fees. But we will take your question and address it afterwards, outside of the Bill. *Nakummek.*

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions? Yes, Mr. Gear.

MR. GEAR: Yes, I guess the best thing for us to say would be-, when we reference the fish, or fishers, would be, say fishers or harvesters rather than fishermen or women. Thank you.

MR. WINTERS: Yes. Are there further questions or comments? Yeah, Mr. Andersen, Wally.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Just a question to Ms. Crawford. You said that you could make changes after. I'm just wondering that if we pass the Bill, when you responded to the AngajukKâk from Hopedale you said you could make changes after. I'm just wondering once we pass the Bill it would be almost impossible to make changes. Or maybe I misunderstood.

MS. CRAWFORD: So the question that Ms. Flowers asked was not in relation to this Bill. This Bill is focused on the access fee. So her question is a really good question but it's not in this Bill. *Nakku*.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions on this Clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? For Clause Seven just beneath, are there any questions? Mr. Wally Andersen.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you. Just a question for the penalty for late remittances. Like Todd, I'm sorry, Mr. Broomfield, like I'm just wondering...

MR. WINTERS: Mr. Andersen, the translator isn't able to hear you. If you could maybe direct the mic towards yourself.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Sure.

MR. WINTERS: And speak up.

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Okay. Mr. Broomfield, under Section Seven it says a penalty for late remittance. But didn't you just say that you made arrangements with all the plants that as soon as the product has landed, then the money is taken out. So if the money is taken out immediately, like, how could there be a penalty by the designate for late remittance?

MS. CRAWFORD: That's the current practice. And so we have to build an Inuit law that contemplates where there may be fish landed, a fish plant where there's not able to have that type of arrangement. So this Bill puts into place things that could be considered in the future, rather than have to come back and amend the Bill. So there may be a penalty if there is a late remittance. We don't expect, based on the way the procedures are to date, to have any

late remittances. So there would be no penalties or interest to be charged. However, we don't know what the future brings. And so it's just to be, I guess, full-, I don't know what the word is I'm looking for.

MR. BROOMFIELD: Proactive.

MS. CRAWFORD: Proactive. There it goes.

MR. GILLETTE: If I could just add to that. Sorry. My train of thought has left the station. The responsibility to pay the fee is on the fishers. Like it's their responsibility to pay the fee even if there is an arrangements through the fish plants to collect the fee. So the Bill recognizes that it's the individual fisher's responsibility to make sure that their fee is paid, okay? So...

MR. BROOMFIELD: It hasn't been a problem to date and we don't anticipate to be any problem moving forward. As Rexanne mentioned, it's built in there as part of standard process. It hasn't been a problem and we don't anticipate it to be a problem.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions on this clause? Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was just thinking, if a fisher who purchased a boat have issues with their gear or their engine or whatever, and they might need to use that access fee to help repair the boat, can that happen or no?

MS. CRAWFORD: I suggest to kinda go back to how the Bill is laid out. So once a commercial fisher is designated to fisher quota, they sign on and say they're going to pay this access fee. When they go to the fish plant and they land their fish, the fish plant will only give them the cash of what they're owed, less the fee. So they don't ever have that access fee in cash in their hand. So I think

that if there are business issues with their fishery or with their business, those are separate from what's in this Bill.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you and I understand now.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions on this clause?

MR. BROOMFIELD: I'd like to add to that, that the fee is agreed to by designate and it comes off the top for every landing. Before anybody is paid, the access fee comes off of the amount that's landed. So it's never an issue to collect it. And what's built into the business plan for a designate, if they break down or have a mechanical issue, you know, they have sufficient quotas in order to accommodate those types of matters. So it's built into the designation process in general.

MR. WINTERS: Is that clear? Are there further questions to the clause? Are we agreed? We will now move on to Clause Eight, "Interest." Are there questions around the Table?

MR. GILLETTE: If I could, Mr. Chair just to interject here.

MR. WINTERS: Go ahead.

MR. GILLETTE: Yeah, so Sections Seven and Section Eight are really just tools to ensure that people comply with the scheme, with the process. So just 'cause somebody might ask the same questions. If we still have the process we have now where the fees are collected by the fish plants when the catch is landed, then people won't have a problem with late remittance, and they won't have a problem with owing any interest, right? But this-, these are just tools that in the event you have a designate at some point in the future

who didn't have an agreement or the Nunatsiavut Government couldn't get an agreement with a particular fish plant to administer this, then it just recognizes again that the fishers have this obligation to pay the fee and these are just tools to ensure that people will understand that they need to pay the fee or there'll be some monetary consequence to them. So that's really-, just wanted to overarching comment there.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further questions on Clause Eight, "Interest"? Seeing none, as there is an absence in the room right now, we will hold on a moment. Actually, let's take-, yeah, let's take a break until 25 after when we will return to the Committee of the Whole. This is a very brief break folks. Let's get through this. *Nakummek.*

[Recess]

MR. WINTERS:

Members. Member Kemuksigak, we're getting back into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you. So we're still looking at Clause Eight. Are there any further questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Excellent. Thank you. We're on to Clause Nine. Are there any questions on Clause Nine? Going twice? Are there any questions on Clause Nine? Seeing none, are we agreed? Please turn over to Page Five, and address Clause 10, "Amounts Recoverable as Debts." Are there any questions on Clause 10? Yes, Chairperson Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

I might be playing devil's advocate here, but would there be any situation where the fish plant doesn't pay the Nunatsiavut Government the access fees? Like that can't happen, can it?

MS. CRAWFORD: We don't anticipate, but if the fees were collected by the fish plant and were not remitted to the fish plant then we would take action on the fish plant to get the funds.

MR. WINTERS: Are there any further questions? Oh, yes, Mr. Broomfield.

MR. BROOMFIELD: I'd just like to further clarify that the access fee is deducted off the top of the quota before anybody is paid. So a vessel, when they're fishing a NG designated quota, they're not on their own licence anymore. Their licence is banked, and they're fishing for the Nunatsiavut Government. The access fee, as I said comes first thing that's paid is the NG, then the crew and the vessel owner. So it's not an issue and we do not anticipate it to be an issue and it hasn't been an issue to date.

MR. WINTERS: Thank you, for that clarification. Mr. Wally Andersen?

MR. W. ANDERSEN: Thank you, and just for the record that if it do come-, the-, with regard to the question that the Ms. Kemuksigak asked, if like when they land at the plant, if our people pay their access fee, and for some reason there is a problem getting money from the plant, that no action will be held against our fisherpersons?

MR. GILLETTE: No, that's correct. If we're satisfied that the issue is on the plant side of things and not on the fisher side of things, then yes, we deal with the plant.

MR. WINTERS: Are there further questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We're now looking at Section 11, sorry, Clause 11, "Waiver or Cancellation of Penalties or Interest." Are there questions?

MR. GILLETTE:

If I could add-, sorry, Mr. Chair-, just some explanation here of what this means. So under the Nunatsiavut's existing *Financial Administration Act*, there are provisions of that law that talk about where the Government could essentially cancel or write off debts that are owed to it. So all this says basically is that those provisions apply to these types of debts as well. It's possible under certain circumstances for the Government to consider whether or not a certain debt on the basis of an access fee could be written off or canceled by the Government. That's really all it means.

MR. WINTERS:

Are there further questions? Seeing none, on Clause 11, are we agreed? Clause 12, "Records." Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? Under Clause 13, "Inspection and Audit," are there questions? Yes, Ms. Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, I'd like just to point out there's a typo in this section as well, 13(b), it says, "Demand that any other person produce any records held by the person related to fisheries executed by one or more designates and any, and any." I think there's-, "and any," has been duplicated there.

MR. WINTERS:

One, "any" should do it. Thank you. That will be amended. Are there further questions related to this clause or any errors to point out? Seeing none, are we agreed? *Nakummek*. On Section 14, "Regulations." Sorry, Clause 14, "Regulations." Ms. Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS:

I think there appears to be another typo in this section, 14(a), "Prescribing forms and records that may be required," I think that should be, "To be completed by designates as," and I think the to is, "T-O" is missing there.

MR. WINTERS: *Nakummek.* Any other questions or comments? Clause 14, "Regulations." Seeing none, are we agreed? Please turn to Page Six and look at Clause 15. Are there questions or comments? Seeing none, are we agreed? Clause 16, "Minister Must Report to Assembly," are there questions? Witness? Oh, Ms. Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I was just wondering, what kind of examples will the access fees be used for that's collected. Is it, like, to buy more fish quota, or?

MR. WINTERS: Witnesses?

MS. CRAWFORD: I know it's not really within the parameters of this Bill, but if you recall at the beginning of the discussion, was talking about the Nunatsiavut Commercial Fisheries Fund? And during the Budget presentation in March, we discussed that these have been used and will be used for purchasing of fishing opportunities such as licences. And Mr. Broomfield spoke about today, a Commercial Fisheries Policy which is probably about one year out, which will look at other types of programs that these funds can be used for.

MR. WINTERS: Further questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? We will now move on to Clause 17, "2023 Access Fees have Retroactive Effect." Are there any questions or comments on this clause? Mr. Broomfield.

MR. BROOMFIELD: Thank you. I'd like to add that the department felt it was very important to have the Bill retroactive to May 15th. Right now we have two designate beneficiary fishers harvesting crab in Area 2J South in Southern Labrador. The 2J South Crab Fishery opened on the 1st of June. And if you look at

the prices for crab for this year, they're quite low and expenses are high. And we felt that, you know a three or a five percent access fee in addition to the regular expenses to maintain and operate a vessel would be a bit onerous on our vessel owners. So the retroactive clause is built into the Bill for that purpose and, you know, there may be a turbot fishery before the Bill is approved. So the retroactive section was meant to cover fisheries that are already started this year.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, for that clarification. Are there further questions or comments on this clause? Seeing none, are we agreed? We will now move to Clause 18, "Coming into Force." Are there any questions? Seeing none, are we agreed? *Nakummek*. Let's go back to Page Two. Clause One, Short Title. Are we agreed? The preamble, which are the whereas clauses, are there any questions? Seeing no questions, are we agreed? Sorry, Mr. Broomfield, go ahead.

MR. BROOMFIELD:

I don't have a question but I'd like to add some further information on our commercial fisheries. They are communal commercial, meaning that under one licence, for example, our shrimp licence, we can designate up to 20 beneficiaries. So we do have a relatively small number of licence, but because they are classed as communal commercial, we can designate multiple beneficiaries under a single licence. So I just wanted to add that bit of information.

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Broomfield. Are there any questions on the, "Whereas clauses?" Seeing none, are we agreed? *Nakummek*. Finally, the Long Title of the Bill. Are there any questions? Last chance. Seeing none, are we

agreed? That concludes our page-by-page, clause-by-clause review of the Bill. Does the Minister wish to conclude the debate?

MR. EVANS: Yes, I wish to conclude debate.

MR. WINTERS: That concludes the debate. Thank you. So that also concludes the Committee of the Whole. So I'll now thank the witnesses and allow them to leave the room. Thank you. *Nakummek*. We're now back in the Assembly. I would also like to point out that you now have in front of you the Inuttitut translation of the Bill. Does anyone not have a copy at this time? Ms. Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS: I'm just wondering. So we had made some typo-, we had identified those. Will we be provided a copy of a clean Bill that doesn't have the typos in? We do now have the Inuttitut version but we still have the version with typos.

MR. WINTERS: It's the clean copy that's going to be approved, that's going to be voted on now. And then you will receive a clean copy, yeah. The changes that were identified have been made. All those in favour of the Second Reading of Bill 2023-02, *"The Commercial Fisheries Designations Fee Act."* All those in favour? And are there any opposed? AngajukKâk Andersen.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: So we are back in session?

MR. WINTERS: We are back in the Assembly.

MR. B. ANDERSEN: I had my hand up.

MR. WINTERS: So all those in favour? Any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 2023-02, *"The Commercial Fisheries Designations Fee*

Act," has had second reading. I would like to thank the Minister and we'll move on to Item 17. Item 17 is, "Assent to Bills." Honourable President the Assembly has given Second Reading to Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designations Fee Act*," and wish to present it for assent.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. Honourable Speaker and Members, as President of Nunatsiavut, I wish to assent to Bill 2023-02, "*The Commercial Fisheries Designation Fees Act*," and hereby sign it into law. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. WINTERS:

Nakummek. Thank you, Honourable President. We will now move on to Item 18. Item 18 is, "Adjournment." *Nakummek.* Thank you, everyone. Item 18 is, "Adjournment." I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to this sitting of the Assembly. Nakumesuak to Gus Semigak, our translator, to our pages, Kiera and Tabea Jr, Damien Pottle, our IT support, and Sarah Abel, our OKâlaKatiget Society staff. The Assembly is now adjourned until September. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer, and I wish you all a happy National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st. Thank you, again, for your work. *Nakummek.* Take care.