



NUNATSIAVUT

katimakvingani

Assembly

Nunatsiavut kavamanga
Nunatsiavut Government

FOURTH ASSEMBLY

OF

NUNATSIAVUT

SPRING SESSION 6th Session 1st- SITTING

kAVAMALIGIJET

KAUJITITSIUTINGA

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

January 21, 2020

In Attendance:

President of Nunatsiavut, Honorable Johannes Lampe

Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Honorable John Andersen

Ordinary Member for Canada Roland Saunders

Ordinary Member for Canada Honorable Edward-Blake Rudkowski

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville Honorable Gerald Asivak

Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville Honorable Marlene Winters-Wheeler

Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Honorable Carlene Palliser

Ordinary Member for Postville, Honorable Tyler Edmunds

Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Honorable Greg Flowers

Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Jim Lyall

Ordinary Member for Nain, Honorable Anthony Andersen

AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Barry Andersen

AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Marjorie Flowers

AngajukKâk for Postville, Glen Sheppard

AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey

AngajukKâk for Nain, Julius Dicker

Chair for Sivunivut, Ms. Maxene Winters

Chair Person for the NunaKâtiget Inuit Community Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak

Deputy Minister of Education and Economic Development, Tim McNeill

Deputy Minister of the Nunatsiavut Secretariat, Secretary to the Executive Council, Isabella Pain

Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Affairs, Darryl Shiwak

Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Jim Goudie

Director of Legal Services, Mark Gillette

Clerk of the Assembly, Mary Sillett

Absent:

Deputy Minister of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, Rexanne Crawford

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Good morning, everybody. I'd like to call to order, the 6th Session of the Fourth Nunatsiavut Assembly and I'm gonna call upon Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser, to say our opening prayer.

[Recites prayer]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Palliser. We'll move on to Item two of the *Orders of the Day*, and at this time, I'd like to call upon the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe to give his opening address. President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, UKatti. (Speaks in Inuttitut.) Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes, we will be asked to choose a new First Minister. This is a very important role, Mr. Speaker, one that is demanding and at times overwhelming, challenging and thankless. It's a job that carries with it, a tremendous amount of responsibility. The First Minister appoints the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, which is entrusted to oversee the implementation of laws, development and bring forward policy, prepare legislation, oversee the administration of the Government and be accountable to the Assembly. I trust that the new First Minister will carry out his or her duties with integrity and honour and in the best interest of this Assembly and indeed, our beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. *UKatti.* I attended the ITK Board of Directors meeting in Ottawa last month where we continue to advance discussions on a number of issues, ranging from implementation of Federal legislation to food security to ITK's strategic plan for the next three years. The Board voted to approve a general funding formula to flow federal budget

investments to Inuit regional organizations on priority areas. This decision was followed by funding allocation decisions for Inuit Post Secondary Education, and to support the ongoing implementation of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy. We also passed a resolution endorsing a United Nations General Assembly Resolution to proclaim 2022 to 2032 as International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The goal of the UN resolution, which was adopted on December 22, 2019, is to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize, and promote Indigenous languages and to take urgent steps at the national and international levels. While in Ottawa, I also had the opportunity, along with other ITK Board members to attend a reception attended by several Federal Cabinet Ministers. Although it was an informal gathering, Mr. Speaker, it was good to network with key Ministers and to set the stage for future bilateral discussions on issues affecting our people and our communities. I will be meeting with some of the same Ministers next month during the Northern Lights Conference. *UKatti*. On another note, as you may already be aware, the Illusuak Cultural Centre has been selected by Azure Magazine as one of the top 10 projects that defined a decade of Canadian architecture. That's something we should really be proud of Mr. Speaker, as the type of exposure will undoubtedly help us in promoting our region as a tourism destination. Illusuak will allow us to celebrate and grow our rich culture identity and share it with the rest of the world. The more information we can get out there about this wonderful facility, the

better. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all Members for their continued hard work and dedication, and I look forward to the rest of this Assembly session. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, President Lampe. With that, we'll move on to Item Three of the *Orders of the Day*, "Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery" and I'm very heartened to see we have an outstanding attendance and thanks to everybody who came. Of course, we have Darryl Shiwak. We have our new Director of Legal Services, Mr. Mark Gillette-, congratulations Mark, on your recent promotion-, Isabella Pain, Martha Winters Abel, and I believe I saw Jodie Lane walk around their somewhere up there, probably behind me. Anyway, I'm sure I saw her somewhere. Welcome, Jodie. Minister Edmunds, I'm sure you'd like to recognize someone in attendance today.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. Seeing how you put me on the spot...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I'm confident you can handle it.

MR. EDMUNDS:

We do have a constituent from my community in the gallery. I've heard many concerns from this constituent over the years. I'd like to think that I did offer answers and solutions to her and I'm very happy that you could be here today and aside from my wife, my daughter is here today here as well, and I'm very happy that she could see our beautiful building and partake in this session too. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, and welcome Gillian and Brooklyn. AngajukKâk Flowers, I believe there's people here you'd like to recognize.

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today, Mr. Curtis Oliver. He's a teacher at ACMS and also the social studies class. They're here to, I guess, see how we run things and I hope one day some of them will be here sitting around this table. So I'd like to welcome them and I hope that they enjoy their time here. They will also, I think, have a book launch later on this evening, which I'm sure you'll be talking about and the book will be used in their-, as a part of their curriculum and the courses they are doing. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Ordinary Member Flowers, go ahead.

MR. FLOWERS:

I'd just like to thank the people from our community that's here today and from outside, and I'd also like to recognize one of our elders in the-, Ms. Martha Winters Able who I know was always interested in what happens in our community. So, I'd just like to thank her for being here. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

And before I proceed, there's a couple of staffers I missed. I believe Rexanne Crawford is here. Pardon me, Rexanne, you're out of my line of sight, so I missed you, and of course, Mr. Bert Pomeroy, our Director of Communications. To the kids who joined us, pardon me, but I don't know your names, so I would ask you that you just stand up, identify yourself, please, one by one. Kendra Winters, McKenzie Frieda, Chloe Dicker, sorry? McKinley Winters Junior? Wilson Onalik. Thank you, everybody. It's-, again, it's heartening to see our gallery so full and it's a welcome change, I must say. With that we'll move-, thank you again, for coming down and thank you to Mr. Oliver for bringing your kids here. On

to Item Four of the *Orders of the Day*, "The Selection of First Minister".
Now during this process, this process is always chaired by the President.
So with that, I'm gonna hand over control of this Assembly and the
chairing of this Assembly to our President, Honourable Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Before we begin, I will ask the Assembly if we could have approval to
invite Mr. Mark Gillette, Director of Legal Services to sit in the Assembly
Chambers for this portion of the Assembly. All those in favour? Any
"Nays"? We have unanimous approval to invite Mr. Mark Gillette as a
witness for the selection of the First Minister. Thank you. We will now
proceed as a Committee of the Whole to seek consensus of selection of
the First Minister. The procedure is outlined in the document that has
been provided by the Clerk to all Members. When the First Minister is
selected, we will reconvene in the Assembly for the formal appointment
and swearing in. Thank you, Mr. Gillette for sitting in on this part of the
procedure. We are now in Committee of the Whole. I now call for
nominations for the position of First Minister. Minister Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Chair. I would like to nominate the Ordinary Member for
Postville, Tyler Edmunds.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Ordinary Member Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this time, I would like to nominate Gerald
Asivak, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville and the Minister of
Health.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Any other nominations? The Assembly-, to be nominated, an Ordinary Member will only need one nominator and must state that they accept the nomination. And I will ask Ordinary Member for Postville, Tyler Edmunds if you accept the nomination.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. President. I do accept that nomination. *Nakummek*.

MR. PRESIDENT: And again, I will ask Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Gerald Asivak, do you accept the nomination?

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you Mr. President. I gladly accept the nomination.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. So we will proceed to secret ballot once the nominees have spoken to the Assembly of why they wish to be selected as a First Minister. And now I will give the nominees the opportunity to speak for a reasonable period of time. Who'd like to go first? Ordinary Member for Postville, Mr. Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. President. I just realized that we're still in the Committee of the Whole. It feels like I should be standing while I'm doing this presentation. But I trust that the message will still be heard in the same way, sitting down. I'm going to give the Assembly just a quick heads-up that I will be delivering the first section of my speech in Inuttitut so if you wanted to put your headset in, feel free to do that, but I will reframe it again afterwards in English. (Speaks in Inuttitut.) I'm unsure if everything translated over okay in your headsets, but obviously, the message that I presented there was one where I have questions whether or not I was going to put my name forward here today. And I

think as the President spoke to in his opening address, there's a lot of considerations that need to be made as someone thinks about this position and whether or not they are ready to accept this responsibility and that was what I wanted to convey today in that opening statement. At the last session, Mr. President, I spoke about self determination and the continual battle for recognition since the formation of the Labrador Inuit Association. If I believe in the capabilities of our Government and our role in implementing self determination, then I feel a need to put my name forward today as an option for our leaders. It has been a challenging 14 years since the formation of Government and I know that the next 14 years will be equally challenging, as we question how best we can defend and utilize our *Land Claims Agreement* for the betterment of our communities and for the betterment of the Labrador Inuit. The next two years will be daunting, Mr. President. The reality of the NHC is on the horizon. Territory for our Government which was unthinkable just years ago. An organization grounded by the *Housing Bill* which received the support of the Assembly, for in it were principles which we strive to achieve in all areas of our Government. The protection and provision of services to our vulnerable populations, while encouraging beneficiaries to be self-sufficient. The authority that the NHC will have, will give your Governments the ability to create diverse housing programs, and as we have heard many times over, help those who fall between the cracks. It seeks to help those who are homeless, inadequately housed, while simultaneously helping young professionals and family stay or move into

the Land Claims Communities. This undoubtedly is one of the most ambitious pursuits that our Government has undertaken, Mr. President, however, is an undertaking which is necessary if we desire to continue producing meaningful work towards the housing needs in our communities. Administering our Home Repair program, maintaining the multiplexes and developing sufficient land will continue to be a challenge and when combined with this vision for the NHC, I will stress once more, is a daunting undertaking. But it's an achievable undertaking and we will continue to advocate for funding, continue to support existing programs until we have a system in place whereby, we are confident it will function properly for our beneficiaries. Mr. President, we need to continue pushing for improved infrastructure for transportation and perhaps most importantly, seek alternatives to the services that we were provided within the last year-, alternatives that can be implemented in the near future. The Nain airstrip will continue to be a priority for the Department and the Government and as our largest community with the potential that the community has for long-haul flights, Nain is essential in the conversation of airline services. At the same time, Mr. President, I believe that we need to focus on the airport infrastructure in the rest of the communities as well, to look at the feasibility of accommodating larger aircraft such as the Dash 8 service to ensure that our cargo and transportation needs can be met. It is clear that the marine service has been a failure in the eyes of our beneficiaries and as a government, we have stated our many concerns over vessel capabilities and dock

infrastructure. Continued investment is absolutely vital to improve dock facilities and services. However, we need to focus on the potential of our airline services as well. Climate change, Mr. President is an unfortunate reality that we are facing in our northern communities. And with this force, we have seen weather systems which have devastated our transportation services. Seemingly endless days of spring fog, extreme gale-force winds, and other weather systems will continue to plague our ability to receive cargo on time and they will interfere with travel plans. Even our ice, Mr. President which is intertwined with our culture and our way of living has become unreliable and unpredictable. Our frozen highway, Mr. President, our access to our communities, access to our hunting grounds and wildlife has been jeopardized. We then are at a critical juncture when we talk about our ability to travel, our ability to receive cargo and our ability to fully maintain our way of living, Mr. President. As more pressure and limitations are placed on our modes of transportation, it is our responsibility as a Government to ensure that we exhaust all avenues and solutions until we have a service in place that meets the needs of the beneficiaries. And I will look towards my colleague from Postville as I state that the feasibility of a solid connection between the North Coast and Upper Lake Melville should be a continued item of discussion. However, I'm cognizant of the extreme opposition that this idea has been met with by the powers that be in our Provincial Government. But again, is a necessary part of the conversation on transportation capacity issues and the effects of weather systems on our

air and marine services. As I've already said, Mr. President, my opening statement, the primary theme was one of reluctance. And I will say again, anyone who has taken stock of this position should have some reservations, Mr. Speaker. But my final decision to step forward is one that I'm confident in and I thank the member for Nain for his nomination and I hope that this Assembly in turn, invests their confidence in me. I will ensure that the mandate that is given to me by this Assembly, the NEC, and our beneficiaries are represented to the best of my abilities if I am successful and I will exercise any authority with the dignity and respect that is demanded of this office. And I wanna thank the Minister Asivak for his conversation over the last day or so while we were here in Hopedale, and I know that if the Assembly chooses the Honourable Minister to represent them in this position, I have faith in his abilities and I will respect the decision and will of the Assembly. *Nakummek*, Mr. President and *Nakummek*, fellow Assembly Members.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member for Postville. I will now give the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Minister Asivak the opportunity to speak as to why he would like to be selected as First Minister. Minister Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, President Lampe. Good morning Assembly Members. I accept the nomination of First Minister and thank my nominator, Mr. Saunders. Firstly, I wish my opponent Mr. Edmunds well wishes in this election. He is very capable and a great candidate who has a lot to offer. Let me begin by saying that I love what I do as Minister of Department of

Health and Social Development and hold the position with the highest integrity. I've thought over the break about the current vacancy and decided to accept the nomination as I feel I have more to give and help with our Government in this role. I work well with the Nunatsiavut Executive Council as part of the executive team. I have great input and discussion on issues and matters that are important to our people. I am respectful and considerate of the Assembly that governs our Government. Our beneficiaries are the people that put us here to work for them, whose interests I hold highly, each and every day when I sign the oath of Ordinary Member and Minister of Health and Social Development. I feel that since being sworn in as Minister of Health and Social Development, I've learned so much about our people, policies, financial evolving needs and demands, pressing issues and being accountable. Networking and meeting with Provincial and Federal Government is an area that I feel I would be good at with my professional background as a social worker bringing communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, friendly personality and working in demanding and challenging times. I have held leadership roles as Vice President of NAPE local 2201 for many years, Vice President of Kinsman Club of Goose, Happy Valley, and other roles in both organizations for many years. I was elected in these positions with the trust of the people, showing them that I was able to do the work and strive for better outcomes for all involved. I would bring my experience to the table as First Minister. I'm willing to hold-, uh, sorry-, I'm willing to uphold the

high needs of housing with further implementation of the *Housing Act*, encouraging more infrastructure for important programs and services in our growing communities. Building on the justice portfolio in our legal department, maintaining our more than 7200 membership file and growing. Transportation is a vital link to how we live so it is critical that changes be made and not accept the status from the Provincial Government. When changes need to happen now as they are heard from our Government and our people. I like to learn, and I have learned a lot, quickly, in my current role in the largest department in Nunatsiavut Government. I have dealt with life enhancing and changing issues. Medical transportation with the Skedivac and Medivac non-insured health benefit policy, recommending critical jobs to be filled with food security for our communities that are food insecure, oversee the much-needed emergency shelter in Happy Valley Goose Bay with plans for more on the cost. And I was highly involved in the tuberculosis in Nain. These are a few examples of the important, necessary work that shows I'm capable and interested in the role of First Minister. I have traveled to Utqiagvik, Alaska, Ottawa, Inuvik, Rankin Inlet, and St. John's as part of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council. I'm willing to travel wherever is required for this role and welcome our partners to our communities to build honour relationship-building and continue our work. I am aware of the demands of this portfolio of Nunatsiavut Affairs. I'm ready and willing and able to work closely with the Secretariat's office, the Assembly, our dedicated civil service, Deputy Ministers and staff with

other organizations we work with. In closing, I humbly ask for your support as First Minister. I again, thank the Assembly for the opportunity to put my name forward and wish Mr. Edmunds all the best in this exciting opportunity. There will not be a loser in the outcome. We will both be winners for wanting to advance and step up to help our people. *Nakummek.*

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, to both nominees and I will now adjourn the Committee of the Whole so that the candidates can speak to each other and to the Members and to see if the candidates can, amongst themselves work out the consensus on who should be First Minister. We'll adjourn for half an hour. *Nakummek.*

[Recess.]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Welcome back. Before I return the Chair to President Lampe to continue the process of selection of First Minister, I just wanna correct an oversight of mine. Before we started session, the Speaker typically acknowledges our pages and I neglected to do that. So I apologize to Luke Kemuksigak and Grace Voisey. Thank you for joining us. In our translation booth, of course, we have Gus and Lena Semigak. And Robert Ford is doing our IT services. So thank you to all-, oh, and Peggy Andersen and Sarah Abel from OK Society. So thank you to all and my apologies for the omission. And Jim Goudie too. Sorry. Over there, out of sight. Apparently, that was an issue. So with that I will return the Chair to President Lampe and we can continue the process. President Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now ask the nominees if you have come to a consensus on who should be selected as First Minister. If no consensus, we will now go to the next step of adjourning the Committee and going to the secret ballot and, so the Assembly will go to a secret ballot and vote for First Minister, Ordinary Member for Postville, Tyler Edmunds or the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Gerald Asivak. Okay. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Just for procedural purposes, I think writing the name of the individual you prefer to vote for, on your ballot is fine. The votes will be collected by the clerk of the Assembly and tabulated. Just for clarity, as I'm sure you're all aware, it's not typical for the Speaker to cast a vote in the selection process, however, at this point, I'm not serving as Speaker. I'm purely a Member of the Assembly and exercising my right to cast a ballot in this decision-, just for clarity.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Chair, under the process sheet for appointment of First Minister, the Speaker, number seven on page one says, if there is no consensus as to who should be First Minister, the President will adjourn the Committee of the Whole. Then we go to page two, it says, reconvene the Assembly and conduct a vote as to who should be the First Minister. I would suggest Chair that if we go back into session of the Assembly the Speaker would not be entitled to a vote. Perhaps the legal council could shed some light onto my question?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And you're 100 per cent correct, if we're not-, if we are not in Committee of the Whole then the ballot I hold in my hand, I will graciously put back in my pocket and leave it there.

MR. GILETTE: I would say that under the Constitution, we're under a specific area of the Constitution which allows the President to preside over this proceeding, and so the President is still in control of this proceeding even though the fact that you're into the Assembly for the purposes of conducting the vote. So I would suggest that the-, as the President has the Chair of-, still of this proceeding, even though you're technically in the Assembly for the purposes to vote, that the Speaker, who's not in the chair at the moment, has the ability to vote.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: If I might just make a suggestion, Chair, that perhaps we can just take a five-minute recess in place, just to allow the counting of the ballots.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: As it says, under (b), I am to appoint the clerk and a non-member of the Assembly to count the ballots. So I will ask Ms. Isabella Pain to assist the clerk in counting the ballots. *Nakummek.*

[Voting]

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Coming from the secret ballot, we have results and the final results are for Ordinary Member for Postville, Tyler Edmunds, 13, and Gerald Asivak, 3.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT LAMPE: We will now come back to the Assembly, reconvene Assembly and I will ask Ordinary Member for Postville to come to the podium and to do the Oath of Office.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...swear, affirm that I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut...

MR. EDMUNDS: Swear, affirm that I'll be faithful to Nunatsiavut.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...the Inuit of Labrador and Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. EDMUNDS: ...the Inuit of Labrador and Nunatsiavut Assembly.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: And will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Labrador Inuit Constitution and Inuit Law.

MR. EDMUNDS: I will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Labrador Inuit Constitution and Inuit Law...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...respect the *Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly*...

MR. EDMUNDS: ...respect the *Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly*...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...hold my office as First Minister with honour and dignity.

MR. EDMUNDS: ...hold my office as First Minister with honour and dignity.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Be a true and faithful councillor to the President of Nunatsiavut.

MR. EDMUNDS: Be a true and faithful councillor the President of Nunatsiavut...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...fulfill my responsibilities as a leader in accordance with all applicable, ethical standards and *Codes of Conduct*...

MR. EDMUNDS: ...fulfill my responsibilities as a leader in accordance with all applicable, ethical standards and *Codes of Conduct*...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...and perform the functions of my office, conscientiously, and to the best of my ability...

MR. EDMUNDS: ...and perform the functions of my office, conscientiously, and to the best of my ability...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...so help me, God.

MR. EDMUNDS: ...so help me, God.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Congratulations. I will now bring the Chair back to the Speaker and we would again like to adjourn for a half an hour.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, President Lampe. Just to-, we're now back in regular Assembly, so I've resumed the Chair. I will ask the First Minister, if indeed he wants to take a short recess? First Minister Edmunds, do you-, would you care to have a recess?

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have a brief recess, yes. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: How much time would you require? Just for the Members (inaudible) of our Assembly.

MR. EDMUNDS: Fifteen minutes should be fine. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: We are now in recess for 15 minutes. Thank you.

[Recess]

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome back. I'd like to call us back to order, and call attention to a slight change in the *Orders of the Day*. On the original *Orders of the Day*, we did not have a Section five-, a current Section Five, which is "Selection

of Minister". So, at this time, I'm gonna hand the Chair over to the President. Are you ready to nominate your Ministers, President?

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Thank you, Speaker. I call the Assembly to order and the First Minister, are you now ready to nominate the other Ministers.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable President. There have been some changes within our cabinet. We've moved two Ministers to two different files with anticipation of bringing on a Member from this table into the Cabinet. The Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen will be transitioning once the subordinate legislation is in effect, into the Department of Finance and Mr. Greg Flowers, Ordinary Member for Hopedale will be brought into Lands and Natural Resources. At this point, there's a vacancy within Education and Economic Developments and I would like to nominate Ms. Carlene Palliser, Ordinary Member for Rigolet for the Minister of Education and Economic Development. *Nakummek*, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Thank you, First Minister. I ask the Assembly if there is a consensus on the nominations by the First Minister? And I will now ask the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen if he accepts the position of Minister of Finance.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Chair. Yes, I do.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Thank you, Mr. Andersen. And I also am asking Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Mr. Greg Flowers if he accepts the position of Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

MR. FLOWERS: Yes, President, I accept.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Thank you. And I also ask the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser, if she accepts the position of Minister of Education and Economic Development?

MS. PALLISER: Yes, Mr. President, thank you, I do.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Thank you. And I will now ask the Assembly if they accept the Minister's to the positions of the Departments?

[Pause] Thank you. [Pause] I now call on the Minister of Education and Economic Development to take the Oath of Office. Repeat after me. I, Carlene Palliser...

MS. PALLISER: I, Carlene Palliser...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...swear, solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut and the Inuit of Labrador and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MS. PALLISER: ...swear, solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to Nunatsiavut and the Inuit of Labrador and the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I will obey, respect, and uphold the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*...

MS. PALLISER: I will obey, respect and uphold the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...all Inuit Laws and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MS. PALLISER: ...all Inuit Laws and the Standing Orders of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I will hold my office as Minister with honour and dignity.

MS. PALLISER: I will hold my office as Minister with honour and dignity.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I will be a true and faithful councillor to the President.

MS. PALLISER: I will be a true and faithful councillor to the President.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I will not divulge directly or indirectly, any secret matter entrusted to me.

MS. PALLISER: I will not divulge, directly, or indirectly, any secret matter entrusted to me.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I will fulfill my responsibilities as a leader in accordance with all applicable standards and *Codes of Conduct*.

MS. PALLISER: I will fulfill my responsibilities as a leader in accordance with all applicable standards and *Codes of Conduct*.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: And I will perform the functions of my office conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

MS. PALLISER: And I will perform the functions of my office conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: So help me, God.

MS. PALLISER: So help me, God.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...our new Minister of Education and Economic Development.

[Applause]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: If I might inquire, First Minister, do you-, would you care to swear in the other New Ministers with new portfolios or would you just...

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. We'll be retaining the rest of the cabinet. Those were the only changes that we intended to make. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: My question was, did you want to swear in the new-, we have two Ministers, two NEC Members with changes in portfolios. Would you want to swear then in, to the new portfolios or?

MR. EDMUNDS: That's going to be covered through subordinate legislation from what I understand. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So with that we'll return to the-, I'll reassume the Chair. President Lampe, you're-, I presume you're finished your section?

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Yes, Speaker, I now leave the Chair of this process. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: So with that, we're now onto-, we're back into our schedule and we're back onto Item Six of the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Ministers Statements". But the clock is telling me it's an appropriate time to break for our lunch, so we'll resume here at 1:20. So we're in recess until 1:20.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Welcome back from lunch. So we'll pick up where we left off which is Item Five or the *Orders of the Day* which is "Ministers Statements". Also, there was one more procedural thing that we should announce. We lost our Deputy Speaker to the good folks at the NEC. Congratulations again, Carlene. That did create a vacancy as our Deputy Speaker and Roland Saunders will fill that role going forward. Are there any Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning-, this afternoon, I should say? The Speaker recognizes Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Foster Home Recruitment and Retention Social Worker has visited Nain, Hopedale and Rigolet holding a foster parent appreciation event and a session to recruit new foster parents with great turnouts in all communities. The social workers plan to travel to Postville at the end of January and to Makkovik in early February to hold events in those communities as well. The Federal Government has passed new legislation that supports Indigenous Government in taking responsibility for their own child welfare systems. We have been actively involved in several technical briefing reviewing the new legislation and discussing with the Provincial Government as they now have additional responsibilities in notifying at certain points in a child protection process. There is much work to be done but it is very encouraging.

Mr. Speaker, we are actively working on the recommendations from the Child and Youth Advocate's Report on Inuit Child Welfare. We are reviewing policies and making recommendations for change, as well as looking at developing an Indigenous Social Practice Model. The DHSD submitted a proposal under the Child First Initiative for 14 new positions including a Child and Family Mental Health Specialist, Child Service Support Coordinator, Clinical Psychologist, eight Child Service Support Workers, and three Student Support Workers. The proposal also included additional travel funds for specialist services, speech language, occupational therapy, et cetera. The proposal was accepted, and several positions will be advertised as soon as possible, while others will be funded as of April 1st, 2020. Mr. Speaker, "Lunch to Go", program: Staff in Hopedale work with the school staff to support this program which rolled out in the fall of 2019. The program in Nain resumed the week of January 6, 2020. Funds from the Canadian Feed the Children, was approved again for fiscal year 2020, which helps to support both of these programs. Mr. Speaker, Inuit Health Survey-, content development is moving along well at the national level. The Inuit Health Survey manager will be attending content development meetings in Ottawa the first week of February 2020, to further solidify the content development. A draft version of the survey should be available for review in the near future. Mr. Speaker, "Food Security Policy Analyst". Approval was given to post this position in Upper Lake Melville for a three-year term after three attempts to find a candidate to work in Nunatsiavut. Interviews were completed and a job offer has been made to the candidate. After much consultation and youth input, we have developed a sexual health and wellness resource. The resource will be piloted in Rigolet to obtain feedback before printing and distribution for use in all communities. In closing, Mr. Speaker, the emergency shelter in Happy Valley, Goose Bay has been filled beyond capacity for the last

few months. The shelter is funded for eight beds, but regularly we are providing accommodations for 13 to 15 individuals. There are many more clients who visit during the day for showers, laundry facilities, meals and support. We have been dealing with several tragedies in the recent months that have greatly impacted residents and staff. We also recognize that there are many homeless individuals or those couch surfing in communities and we are looking for ways to address these issues as well. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement this afternoon? The Speaker recognizes Honourable Tony Anderson, Minister of Finance.

MR. ANDERSERN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I had to think about that for a second.

MR. ANDERSEN:

And how good it is, Mr. Speaker. You know, when we get elected, Mr. Speaker, we don't get elected to pick and choose what we wanna do in the Government. We have a responsibility to our communities, to our people and certainly our colleagues to readily accept responsibility and represent people to the best of our ability. And somewhat, a little bit saddened, I totally enjoyed my time with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and certainly I wish my colleague well and I gave him eight pages of notes and I got one from the former Minister, now the First Minister. But certainly, I look forward to the task, Mr. Speaker and I very much-, one of the reasons it made it so easy to accept was, I get to work with the Nunatsiavut Community Inuit Community Government at the Joint Management Committee and I certainly look forward to working with them in that respect. Now then to proceed with my one-pager. Mr. Speaker, active negotiations of the renewal of the fiscal financing agreement and the Implementation Plan are underway. In 2015, the Nunatsiavut Government

submitted a proposal for the renewal of the Implementation Plan for a 10-year period. Then in 2017 the Torngat Secretariat submitted a proposal. The response on those two proposals were not received until December the 31st, 2019 from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. And on January the 2nd, 2020, we received a response from the Government of Canada. The parties met last week to begin active negotiations with additional meetings scheduled for this month. The ultimate goal is to have the new agreement in place by March the 31st, 2020. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report to the Assembly that we're in active negotiations with the *Fiscal Financing Agreement* since mid-December and have a goal of finalizing these negotiations by March of this year. Mr. Speaker, as soon as an agreement is reached between the parties, this information will be communicated to Members of the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Never even got out of breath Mr. Speaker (inaudible).

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

I can see that your new portfolio is serving you well. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement today? The Speaker recognizes The Minister of Education and Economic Development, The Honourable Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to report on the Economic Development Division today. "Financial Literacy Training" We are completing Phase Two of training, working with each one, teacher one facilitator. Last fall, we completed financial literacy training with junior high and high school students and the public in Nain and Rigolet. Tentative dates are, Upper Lake Melville, February 10th to 14; Postville and Makkovik, February 28th to March 2nd; Hopedale, March 28 to 31st. Once confirmed, information will be shared immediately. "Policy Development". We have begun the process of research and recommendations for policy options related to our procurement process with an

investment of \$80,000. These policy recommendations will formulate our Inuit Business Registry processes and support our procurement delivery. These recommendations will be complete and brought to the NEC in the coming months. "Economic Assessments". We have engaged MUN Harris Centre to expand on the pilot economic assessment template for Rigolet. While contract negotiations continue, the project is expected to resume late January. The project will develop a community specific economic assessment of our remaining four Inuit communities and a Nunatsiavut Regional Assessment. Once complete, all community and regional assessments will be public and available online.

Service Canada. NG has confirmed Service Canada will expand its office hours, staff services in Nain in the new fiscal year. The position details are being finalized and will be advertised in the coming month. Rigolet gas station: The Rigolet Gas Station continues interim operations while we evaluate long-term options. We have facilitated the development of a final draft of the RFP. Further document details are being finalized by the RICG. Once confirmed and issued, the RFP process will be advertised, review applications and select a possible successful provider by early March 2020. Business support: We are investing in Inuit Businesses, development and industry participation. We bi-annually support Inuit businesses to attend the Northern Lights Conference which will be held in Ottawa February 5th to the 8th this year. We are pleased to support four businesses to attend this event. It offers professional development, industry updates, networking, partnership discussions and marketing opportunities.

"Mealy Mountains Entrepreneurship Program". We are near ready to release our RFP for the development of an entrepreneurship support program in relation to the Mealy Mountains National Park. The program, once structured, will operate for two years, 2020 -2022, focus on how to increase service and providers in the neighbouring Inuit communities of the park. This program will

assist current and possible business owners to overcome start-up and diversification barriers and provide continued support services for their success. "Community Economic Development program". We currently have funds available within our CEDP Program. Funding is available to a continuation of the ICG Development Officer positions for this current fiscal year. Applications previously supported by the program include restoration and maintenance, equipment purchases, traditional skills development and transmission, et cetera. Applications are available and funding proposals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. You can submit your community development project to take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Palliser. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Greg Flowers, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the Minister of Finance for another portfolio that he had reluctantly let go. Mr. Speaker, if there is another cabinet shuffle and they want to give me finance, I will sit as an Ordinary Member. I will not be seeking anymore of your portfolios. Mr. Speaker, I just-, I'm glad that we have two days to be able to do Ministers Statements because he had, I think a seven or eight-page for the Lands and Resources and I'm very new to the file and-, although I listen very carefully when all our other Ministers are doing their speeches, there's a lot for me to catch up on, and I'd like to-, I will certainly be doing some of them today and a few tomorrow, just to get myself caught up with my Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, "Renewable Resource Division". Mr. Speaker, this year the NAFO Science Council has approved an increase of the Canadian total allowable catch of Greenland halibut in 2020. Currently we harvest 3.8 per cent of the halibut catch. I have requested that of that Canada offer 144 tonnes of Greenland Halibut quota

increase in Area Two, 3KLMNO to the Nunatsiavut Government. So Mr. Speaker, like I said, I will certainly know more about what's happening as we move forward. Mr. Speaker, the preparations for the upcoming fishing season, we expect an annual Science and Management meeting will soon be starting and the Department will be active participants in that meeting. Wildlife, Mr. Speaker: 2019, 2020, the moose hunting season opened on September 16th. We have a total of 39 licences to offer, of which 29 are available to beneficiary draw. To date, eight licence have been filled. Mr. Speaker, we're finally getting some of the moose to put in our communities and to our freezers and also for beneficiaries who do their hunt for themselves. The 2020 polar bear hunting season will open on February 3rd and we have 12 licences for our beneficiaries. The Torngat Wildlife and Plan co-management board are conducting aerial surveys for moose and Torngat Caribou this winter with ongoing support from our department. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources once again has accessed 29 non-profit moose licence in Gros Morne this fall. All moose harvests should now be distributed to the community freezer. So as far as I know Mr. Speaker, the-, all our communities and our people has been having fresh moose from Gros Morne. Also, Mr. Speaker, from the Resource Division, Mr. Speaker, Labrador Gold Ground Truth Exploration is planning a community presentation in the first week of February in Hopedale on the Udjutok Project. The company has been exploring for gold mineralization in the Florence Lake, greenstone belt during the last two summers. The company will update the residents of Hopedale on their results from the summer program in the Planning Committee presentations. Also, Mr. Speaker, the Geological Survey of Canada is planning to present the results of their survey and research activities and their geomaps for NG Mineral program. That took place near Hopedale in the past few-, past summer. They will be holding engagement sessions during the week

of February 17th in Hopedale, Natuashish and Nain. IBA update, Mr. Speaker:
Mr. Speaker, the Voisey's Bay IBA Implementation is going well. Winter shipping information sessions were held in Nain and Hopedale on January 14th and 15th. Representatives with a few members of the public attending the sessions in each community. Also, Mr. Speaker, *Tasijautsoak Trust* Committee meeting was held in Nain, on January 14th with updates on the employment status, shipping and major contractor that are to be awarded. The Vale Inuit Employment coordinator Trent Pottle, will be spending more time in our communities to assist people with job applications and this should be starting this week, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm gonna leave it there for now and I will be giving the rest of my update tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement today? Seeing none, we'll move on to the next *Item of the Day*, "Members Statements". Are there any Members wishing to make a statement today? The Speaker recognizes The Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll give an update, a quick update on our programming. Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer: Traditional food items go very fast when providing food for 160 to 181 families. The 15 boxes of char which equal 600 pounds, given to us by Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Education and Economic Development in late October were gone around the middle of December. In addition, the 2000 pounds of corned cod we purchased late September was gone by January 2nd. We purchased one box of char from Torngat fisheries last Monday and it was gone by Thursday and that's all that Torngat had left, was one box. Land and Natural Resources will be giving us more char very soon and we're very thankful for that. We received four-, seven

boxes of moose and one box of moose sausage from Lands and Natural Resources through the Gros Morne hunt. To date, we have two meals left. NunaKatiget received shrimp from Nunatsiavut Group of Companies and we have some partridges, but they all went in two weeks. We have very little left in our Community Freezer. Mr. Speaker, on a bright note, we do have someone who will be getting our moose from our NG moose licence and we are hoping we may get another moose licence later in the winter from the Nunatsiavut Government. We have so much gratitude to the Lands and Natural Resources department for providing the traditional food items and the Nunatsiavut Government moose licence, as it is-, the need is so great. *Nakummek*, Mr. Flowers. We still have fresh vegetables we received from Nature's Best Farm. We anticipate we will have fresh vegetables until March which will help in the coming winter months when it is a struggle for elders on fixed incomes. Food insecurity is a major issue with many of our elders. Mr. Speaker, NunaKatiget received \$250 from Nunatsiavut Group of Companies for our community freezer which we are very grateful. Headland Senior Apartment visits are going very well. We partner with DHSD and visits happen every Thursday afternoon. We usually have five to seven residents show up. They have a snack and play bingo or have yarns. We held a Christmas dinner on December 12th along with DHSD and I would like to thank your two board members, Ruby Best and Barb Proffer(ph) for helping. And the reason we go to Headland is they were very lonely and no one came to visit them. Like, like if you're in long-term care you have more visits, but in Headland Apartments it's-, there was none, except for their family. We held two evening courses of seal skin ornament making, November 25th and 27th. And the second embroidery course finished late November. Upcoming courses: Partnering with DHSD to offer Kamutik Lashing course asking beneficiaries in Mud Lake what kind of courses they would like

offered to them in Mud Lake; slipper making and intermediate embroidering. Mealy Mountain Collegiate: As part of the Labrador Inuit Society and Culture course being offered in Mealy Mountain, NunaKatiget will be offering basic Inuttitut and traditional skills with an elder. And it's really good that the book launch is happening tonight. Doug Saunders will be instructing the cooking course and they will learn how to pick clean and cook partridges, char and other traditional foods. First, they have to complete the Newfoundland and Labrador English school board volunteer information forms and vulnerable sector checks. Once these documents are complete, the instructors can start. Mr. Speaker, NunaKatiget will be partnering with the Mokami Status of Women during their supportive living program to offer programming to the Inuit women that stay there. Selma Jararuse will be teaching Inuttitut starting February 3rd, twice a week for five weeks. And we will also be offering traditional cooking to women. We received funding from the Department of Education and Economic Development for the supplies for the net making-mending course. *Nakummek* Ms. Palliser-, Minister Palliser, I mean. Tomorrow I will give a rundown on the activities of the Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer for 2019. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rigolet, like all the other communities had many annual traditional things happening around Christmas, and we had our annual Christmas feast which is sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Development, along with a lot of input from local organizations and this is held every year for I don't know how many years, but it's been for a long while. And, you know, we have in excess of 200 people coming out to, to those kinds of things. And I want

to acknowledge the work that DHSD-, our local DHSD staff puts into this. It takes a lot of coordination and planning and I wanna thank you all. It was a wonderful gathering of our community and Rigolet also has other things that happens, like, for example, I'm not sure if other communities does this, but on Christmas Eve, Santa Clause comes to the hall in Rigolet and gives a gift and a goodie bag to every child. And nowadays, this is sponsored by Rigolet Inuit Community Government Recreation Department, but this was happening as long as I can remember, and I don't know who started it or what. But when I was a little girl it was happening. So, you know, that's something we're really proud of. At one time Santa used to ride up in a sleigh that was hand-made painted red and all that stuff. I don't know where our sleigh is but, he don't come like that anymore. But the children are always excited, and again, it's a community gathering where we come together to celebrated the season and to honour our past, and to keep the traditions alive. There's also many other things like the Christmas lighting and really too many more to mention but I want to again, thank everyone for the hard work and for volunteering and ensuring that the children get to experience this fun, and it's something that they can remember and carry forward and hopefully to their children like I'm doing it now for-, with my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren. So it's really something to see. And Mr. Speaker, Rigolet has recently had their maintenance man of 27 years retire. Congratulations and thank you to Ralph Shiwak and I really wanna publicly thank Ralph for the service that he has given our town. And your commitment and easy-going attitude will certainly be missed. Enjoy your retirement Ralph, but please turn on your ringer. We still need your advice. Again, Rigolet has recruitment issues and I heard the new Minister of Finance talking about FFA. I hope FFA, the negotiations realize that we gotta get more money to pay our people so that they'll come and take our jobs. We don't have enough money to

put the big bucks there that's necessary to get the, you know, to get more people interested. So I hope you hear that loud and clear. I'm trying to be loud. I can't be too loud but-, or clear, but I hope you hear it. You know, Rigolet, you know, we've advertised for a CAO again, third or fourth time, no takers. And now we have the job out for Fire Chief Maintenance. Anyway, yeah, so-, and this fall, Rigolet had some major repairs and cleanup of our lift station. There were lots of issues over the years and we thought with the new pumps and all that work and all that money that was spent, we would be worry-free. But unfortunately, we do-, we're having some issues again that we're trying to deal with-, you know, not a very good topic for here, but I want you to know that there's still issues with our-, and now our maintenance man of 27 years with all that expertise, is gone. And the cold weather and no snow has contributed to people's water freezing up and stuff like that, so we're dealing with some of those issues. Our groomer operator is hired and the operator assistant are hired, and we're gonna be going up on the trails shortly. They've been doing some maintenance work, but there's a shortage of snow in Rigolet, so I hope it snows soon in St. John's. So I wish St. John's could dump their snow on us. We've also been trying to recruit new engineers. That's-, you know, there's a-, there was an RFP out. We looked at some proposals and I think an offer has been made and Municipal Affairs works with us on that. The Community Freezer in Rigolet is run by Rigolet Inuit Community Government. We like Patricia Kemuksigak, thanks the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for the meat and the fish that they give us. And Rigolet also has a food security coordinator. That position is ended in March because Food First Newfoundland and Labrador is saying they don't have the funding, but I'm hoping that, that service is not ended. There's not only Rigolet. I think some other communities has food security coordinators from Food First. I think that's a program that we

need to really look at and try to continue. And Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to offer sincere condolences to the families of the Late Ralph Tooktoshina Delphine Shiwak and just recently, Hilda Mugford. They all originated from our community, from our area and they have many extended family members still living there. So on behalf of our community, we send you prayers and hope for peace and healing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It'll be a very brief (inaudible) statement. On behalf of the Makkovik Inuit Community Government, I'd like to thank Kate Mitchell for her commitment to the Nunatsiavut Government during her last two terms. Her passion for the best interests of the people of Makkovik and Nunatsiavut as a whole was quite evident in her term she served here at the Nunatsiavut Government. So right now, I'd just like to wish Kate Mitchell all the best in her future endeavours and we're hoping that she will come on with us at the NICG level. And it's looking good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen, and that's a great reminder and it was an oversight on my part that we did not acknowledge-, and that's entirely on me, that I did not acknowledge the contribution that Kate Mitchell has made to this Assembly since the time she was elected, I believe in 2014, but she was a valued Member of this Chamber and it was my oversight and my apologies to her that was not recognized at an earlier juncture today. The Speaker recognizes Mr. Glenn Sheppard, AngajukKâk for Postville.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, first of all, I'd like to wish everybody a happy new year and that goes to the community of Hopedale, capital of Nunatsiavut. It's been a, I guess, I'm gonna call it a thrilling morning, Mr. Speaker as I watched

a cabinet shuffle within our Assembly. I look around the table, I see Ministers have been moved around to different portfolios, Mr. Speaker. I have to say publicly, Tyler, First Minister, I'm proud of you. The first half of your statement, all my thoughts was on your grandmother, thinking, if she could only hear you speak in your mother tongue language. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to mention before I forget this afternoon-, and I've been only reminded of it this past Thursday night at a regular ICG meeting we held, and a request came into the ICG from a lady by the name of Alana Edmunds and another lady by the name of Gillian Edmunds. I think she's sitting here today. Yep, she is. And she happens to be my niece, and with her beautiful daughter. But the request came into the ICG, it was touching. Not one Member in the ICG hesitated to give a yes or a no answer. That request, Mr. Speaker was requesting space for those two young ladies to teach Inuttitut in our community which is very important. I heard it preached Mr. Speaker over this-, around this table, how important it is and the ICG fully agreed that we're gonna support them by providing the space for those two ladies to do so. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I have some notes here and I'm gonna be eyeing the time because I know I've already took a minute or two, but Mr. Speaker, as Barry mentioned, from Makkovik, I realized that the resignation of former First Minister Kate Mitchell happened some time ago, however, I would like to pass on my best wishes to her and wish her all the best in her spare time and future ahead. It was no problem to know when Kate was around us in the hotel, you could hear her laugh a mile away. So anyway, my best wishes to Kate in the future. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned at our November sitting, I would have more detailed information at our January sitting relating to our Interpretation Centre in hopes that we would have it official opened. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Interpretation Centre will not be officially opened until further notice in 2020 and it's basically due to material being late arriving. We're

still waiting for some freight to arrive. I will have further updates to this project as 2020 progresses. Mr. Speaker, as of January the 2nd, the Postville Inuit Community Government submitted an online application to Vale through its Community Investment Application process grant money. Mr. Speaker, this application is for the purpose of a tow-behind snowmobile drag for grooming when snow and ice conditions don't permit our big piece of machinery to operate. If successful, this piece of equipment will not only benefit Postville, but many other travellers to and from the North Coast. We are hoping that we will be approved or seriously considered on this proposal and we did submit it early, as it is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the *T. Trust*, today for providing funds for a wood project again for the 2020 season. We have a total of \$10,000 for the purpose and I can assure you, that will be dollars well spent. Mr. Speaker, it's a normal practice for us all to complain about whether it be healthcare, air transportation, marine transportation, and I'm no stranger to this. Mr. Speaker, having said that, today I wanna thank, officially, Air Borealis for the great job that they have done in moving a large number of people for the purpose of attending a funeral for the late John Edmunds of Postville who passed away early January, Mr. Speaker-, a very sad time for the family and friends, a way to start off 2020 with a sudden loss of a loved one. Again, condolences to the family. Mr. Speaker, since our last sitting in November, Nunatsiavut have been through some testing times with the loss of loved ones and some have to spend the holidays in or near a hospital. Mr. Speaker, let us remind ourselves that we are very fortunate to have our health so that we can represent our constituents communities, on a daily basis. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close my Members Statement today with a quote out of our *Constitution*, Chapter one, part 1.1.3 state one of our principals, "Acknowledgement that that Labrador Inuit have a special responsibility to use

and enjoy Nunatsiavut, and its renewable and non-renewable resources with care and respect, without greed and waste, and as stewards for future generations". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. The Speaker recognizes Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Ordinary Member of Upper Lake Melville.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by congratulating our First Minister Edmunds on his new role, and I look forward to working with you in your new role as well as the NEC, and congratulations to Minister Palliser. We are all here for the betterment of our people and we need to keep focused and moving forward with the issues and challenges that we face. I would also like to wish everybody a very happy new year and I trust you enjoyed your time with your families. It's a great time to reflect and relax as we move into a new decade. I'd also like to welcome back our Clerk, Mary. It's always great to have you back, Mary with your expertise and your little guidance that we need. My colleague and I, Ordinary Member Asivak, had a busy Christmas season attending and assisting at various Christmas events. It's always a great time to get out and talk to our beneficiaries at these events and assist our staff and community partners as we serve the beneficiaries of Upper Lake Melville. We had a wonderful time at various DHSD events in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, North West River and Mud Lake. And the staff of these offices should be commended for their work and dedication to ensuring our beneficiaries, especially our elders that they have wonderful times at these events. We also, before Christmas, visited the beneficiaries of the Labrador Correctional Centre before Christmas to discuss various issues they face while in the facility and issues they may face when they return to their family and friends. One request they had was to have access to country food, and with special thanks to Sivunivut Inuit Corporation,

those beneficiaries received some char and salmon. So I'd like to thank them for that. I know they were quite appreciative. And we were as well, that we could kinda help with that. I would also like to welcome our pages, Grace Voisey, who I knew was very, very eager to come, and for the very last-minute addition, thank you to Luke Kemuksigak for being able to attend on such short notice. Thank you. And I know, Patricia, our colleague is quite proud to have him here with her. We're excited and pleased to have them here and I truly hope you enjoy your experience here. Thank you to Debbie Shiwak for 25 plus years of service to LIA and the Nunatsiavut Government. She recently left for other employment, and we wish her nothing but the best, and thank her for her years of service. *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement today? The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville-, the other Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Mr. Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy New Year to all Assembly Members and their families, to the residents of Nunatsiavut, Upper Lake Melville and Canada. I wish you all the best for 2020. I wanna send condolences to the families of the late Mr. Gordon Spencer Goudie, Mr. Zacharias Tuttuak, Ms. Delphine Shiwak, Mr. Ralph Tooktoshina, and Miss Hilda Mugford. Thoughts and prayers with you all on the passing of your loved ones. I had the pleasure to attend Christmas parties in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and North West River hosted by DHSD for the seniors. Attendance was great, the food was excellent and the company was the best. Thanks DHSD for inviting me and my colleague Ms. Wheeler. We enjoyed helping and look forward to next year. I also helped Sivunivut Chairperson, Ms. Winters deliver fruit baskets to some seniors in North West River. I know

Christmas Day I attended the annual Nalujut Night in Happy Valley Goose Bay hosted by DHSD. It was an excellent turnout of 137 people. In closing, Mr. Speaker, congrats and welcome to the pages, Grace Voisey, and Luke Kemuksigak from Happy Valley, Goose Bay. Thanks for being here in Hopedale. I hope you enjoy the experience and meeting Assembly Members. This will be great on your resume, a great learning memory and something to brag about with your family and friends. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Asivak. The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, UKatti. On behalf of HICG, I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with everyone and the challenges we may face this year. To work through each one with clear vision, integrity, positivity and the determination to make our Government work for the betterment of all our people. I would like to welcome back Mary Sillett and I wish you good health from here on in. I also want to acknowledge Kate Mitchell, former Ordinary Member for Makkovik and First Minister for Nunatsiavut Government. Even though she has resigned, I want to thank her for her many years of service with this Government. This work is not always easy, and Kate put her all into the positions she held. I wish her all the best in her endeavours. Mr. Speaker, HICG purchased several pallets of wood, just before Christmas which were delivered to our seniors and low-income population. We hope to continue with the wood programming, as our funding allows. We are nearing completion of the Team Building and Management and Coaching training by Mr. Gilles Picard's Consulting Company. It is invaluable training and a great asset to our staff. The mechanic training and coaching will finish up in February. This too has proven to be an invaluable investment for HICG. Very few callouts were received over the

past couple of months due to water freeze-ups. I believe the large amount of work completed on our water lines contributed to fewer calls as well as earlier on in the year, we had much milder temperatures. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we are now, with the exception of a Town Clerk, fully staffed in all our positions. I commend all staff for the hard work and dedication they are putting in their jobs. All Christmas events and activities in our community turned out very well, and again, I commend all staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make our Christmas brighter. Mr. Speaker, over the Christmas holiday, our town was shocked with the tragic passing of Jolyn Pijogge. Jolyn spent much of her career working with Nunatsiavut Government. She was a summer student with then LIHC after she graduated from High School. She was secretary for DHSD and secretary for Nunatsiavut Assembly as well as Child Youth and Family Services. Jolyn also worked as a Town Clerk at HICG and then accepted a position with DHSD as coordinator for the Aboriginal Head Start Program. Jolyn had a brilliant mind. She could master any task she applied herself to. Her beautiful smile, soft-spoken voice and words of encouragement to all she came in contact with, will be sorely missed. To her son Draven, parents, Allan and Hulda Pijogge, sister, Connie, brothers Wayne Piercy and Sonny Pijogge and her large extended family and friends, we extend our deepest condolences. Mr. Speaker, I also extend our deepest condolences and prayers to Amos and Nikolena Jararuse family and friends, on the passing of their son, Amos Tuglavina who passed away in Happy Valley, Goose Bay on January 1. The Jararuse family moved to Happy Valley, Goose Bay. The Jararuse family moved to Happy Valley, Goose Bay a few years ago but are originally from Hopedale. The Jararuse family returned to Hopedale and laid Amos to rest here. Our towns are small, Mr. Speaker and when one hurts, the whole community hurt with them. I'd also like to extend our condolences to John Edmunds family who is the

nephew of Mary, and relative of Tyler. Also, to the communities of Rigolet and to Nain, in the passing of Chas Webb who I'm sure will be missed sorely.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement this afternoon? The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. December seemed to fly by, probably because there were a number of community events that kept everyone busy. Northern Lights Academy, businesses and organizations were busy preparing for and holding events throughout the month. It was great to see families out making wreaths or participating in parades, enjoying a treat at Tim Hortons at the annual tree lighting ceremony. Taking in a yearly Christmas concert and enjoying the Christmas supper prepared by the Department of Health and Social Development. All those mentioned, and it's just a few of what was happening. The arrival of Santa at the hall on Christmas Eve is an event that has become a part of our tradition many years ago. Families head to the Community hall and children of all ages wait patiently for Santa to arrive to be ready to hear their name announced to receive a gift. Traditions during the holidays are always great to celebrate, but it's also a time to keep in mind that it can be a time of year that can also be very difficult for many. The costs of goods at the store tends to be expensive throughout the year, and I understand, as I'm sure that all you do, when families want the traditional meal of either goose or turkey and ham for Christmas day, the cost to hunt for geese is far most costly than it was in the past with the price of gasoline, ammunition, groceries and mode of transportation to get there. It is disturbing to know that the cost of a ham right now at Northern Store is \$60. I'm very grateful that residents are able to avail of

the services of the Community Freezer program throughout the year, St. Timothy's food bank and a hamper program during the Christmas season. With prices of meats at the store, it is great to know that the Good Food Box program run by Food First NL is still active in our community. The price range of ham that you could order through the program is far cheaper than that at the grocery store. And it gives residents, no matter their income a choice to order cheaper priced meats. Unfortunately, this programs funding is to expire in March. Therefore, the program's coordinator position is due to end. I feel that it's important for all organizations to network together to enhance the lives or our people by ensuring programs that work are not lost. I feel that is important for us to ensure that this important program continues in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Palliser. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement this afternoon? The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Hopedale, Mr. Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also Mr. Speaker, would like to send my condolences to Amos and Nikolena Jararuse who lose their son just after New years, I think it was, and also to Allan and Hilda Pijogge who lost their-, like Marjorie described, you know, Jolyn who was also a great up and coming and young woman. And also to you, Mary, for the loss of your brother and congratulations to you, after your surgery, to be back here so soon. Congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Flowers. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement? The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Canada, Mr. Roland Saunders.

MR. SAUNDERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker, family members, guests and staff. Welcome back Mary and thank you for everything, and also, thank you to Tabea for filling in

while Mary was away. She did a great job. At the end of December in Edmonton, we had a gathering, and we called it the Winter Gathering. It was last meeting for Inuit within Edmonton that are members of Inuit Edomtonmiut sponsored by the Canadian constituency, Nunavut. And we also had visitors from Northern Canada, especially from Iqaluit, we had a lot of people in Edmonton from Iqaluit. In total, we had 62 people, 16 of which are from here in Labrador, related to a lot of people here. Some of them were even from Hopedale. We had an elder give the opening prayer. She lit the Kudlik and blessed the crowd. Then we were all fed from all kinds of potluck food. Everybody brought different things. We supplied turkeys, ham, mashed potatoes, coffee, tea-, all the goodies. And we even had some donated food and lots of country food from Nunavut, including caribou, char, seal meat, muktuk, dried fish, boiled seal, baked seal, and we even had some fish heads. It was a good meal. It was loads and loads of sweets after that. Then we had all kinds of games after that, especially northern games were there, that were introduced mainly from the people from Iqaluit and the north, where they-, different games then what we've ha around here I'm sure. But then it was a great time. And all intensive work, were very happy with what we had done, and they were looking forward to the spring one which we plan on doing and hopefully Nain constituency will once again be involved. Getting away from that, a relative of mine just turned 90 years old in December, Donald Saunders, originally from Davis Inlet. I wished him a happy birthday and he's living in Oromocto, just outside of Oromocto Boarder on New Brunswick, living with his son, Edward and he's in good health and always-, I keep in contact with him and he always asks how the people are. And I keep telling him lies and saying everyone's good, so all is good with that. And on the sad note, we had a Canadian constituency member pass away. He was-, grew up in Happy Valley, but he's lived the last 10

years Cartwright. That would be Joe Broomfield, quite a sports figure, quite a man within the community and he will be sadly missed by his family and friends .
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Saunders. Any other Members statements for today? Seeing none, we'll move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, "Returns to Oral Questions". Are there any returns to oral questions today? Seeing none, on to Item eight of the *Orders of the Day* "Oral Questions". Are there any oral questions this afternoon? The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, UKatti. My question is to the new First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. In your statement you made this morning, Mr. Edmunds, you mentioned the Nain airstrip and the possibility of upgrading the other strips afterwards. My question to you is, with the study that was done this past season for the feasibility of looking at a new airstrip in the vicinity of Nain, can you give us an update on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. First Minister Edmunds, are you in a position-, I know you're new to the portfolio. Are you in a position to answer that question today?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I will get a more detailed response back to the Member on the status of the Octant report. I don't have exact answer on the status of it right now, but-, as to where it sits, I'll get that information back to the AngajukKâk within a reasonable amount of time. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. AngajukKâk Dicker. Do you have a supplementary question?

MR. DICKER: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to the present airstrip we have, Minister Edmunds, can you give us a-, when you do come back with the report, could you give us an update, also, on what they're planning on doing with the strip in Nain? There was supposed to be some emergency repairs and maintenance done to the strip. But to my knowledge not one piece of soil was turned. I'd like an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Dicker. The Speaker recognizes the First Minister, Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker and AngajukKâk does raise a very important issue. I will get all the details around the current status of the existing strip as well, and where that sits. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable First Minister. AngajukKâk Dicker, do you have a second and final supplementary question? Are there any other oral questions today? The Speaker recognizes The AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Lands and Resources, Honourable Member Greg Flowers. This question, I was asked to bring forward and are there any regulations for the fishing and hunting lodges, particularly, Hunt's River Lodge, on when they can fish and hunt? And, if so, how much fish can be taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Flowers. The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Gregory Flowers, Minister of L and R.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you AngajukKâk for the question. It's something that I certainly don't have quite the answer for, but I know that it's been a concern for the people of Hopedale for many years and I did, in NEC bring

some of this up to former Lands and Resource, just for general discussion, that around the Big Bay area, the people are seeing the fish stocks being depleted and also the fall hunt, the goose hunt in particular, that we don't-, we see a lot of difference in that area. For the direct question, I will have to find out and get back to the AngajukKâk on what the regulations are. I don't know but I don't know if and perhaps I could throw this out, that the Former Minister might be, if he's entitled to or want to give an update on that or to even know the question better than I do, Mr. Speaker, so I will leave that up to the discretion of you and the past Minister. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable Minister Flowers. Minister Andersen, would you be in a position to answer that question?

MR. ANDERSEN:

I can be a little bit helpful, but I don't have a complete answer because there are-, the first part of her question which speaks of time, when they can, I don't know if you call it harvest, when they can fish, whatever-, there is a time. There is a timeframe and it's a Provincial Regulation and also the numbers that they can take, it's also regulated. The dates for the season and the numbers that they can take, I don't know. But I'm sure that the new Minister can provide that in a fairly short order. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek for the clarification Honourable Minister Andersen. AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have supplementary question?

MS. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to know with the guests staying at the Hunt's River Lodge, how far can they go from the lodge? I've heard that people are going into Harp Lake. Guests are going in there to fish and hunt and my question is, are they allowed to do that? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. I'll let the two Honourable Ministers decide amongst themselves, who is best equipped to answer the question.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's, like again, Mr. Speaker, I would not-, what I would be saying wouldn't be correct, but I don't know that these guests have been also flying as far as our Torngat National Park, Mr. Speaker. So I don't know what regulations are around that, but, again, Mr. Speaker, it's certainly great questions and I certainly don't know again, if our former Minister might be able to shed more light on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. Minister Andersen, would you be able to provide some guidance on this question?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, I can't-, for that question, a little bit more needs to, I think-, it's a good question, a good, fair question that I haven't heard before, and I'm sure that again, the new Minister will be able to answer in a short time.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a second and final supplementary question?

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

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions today? The Speaker recognizes the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Minister Asivak. Would you consider creating an additional Deputy Minister position for your department? It is the largest department and is growing very fast in the social area, with such programs as you mentioned, assisted living, children in care, recruitment of foster parents, working on the recommendations of the Child and Youth Advocate Report, homeless shelter, and expansion et cetera. With all the existing workload and now more social programming coming on with what you mentioned with Children First, I believe there should be two deputies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. It is a huge department and it is growing. I think some discussion is warranted. When we change the senior management structure, it means changing the organizational order-, doable, but a process. Making a new Deputy Minister position creates additional cost. A new department would mean extra cost, Minister and Deputy. I honestly don't know what process would be needed. I think the response is that our department is big, constantly evolving and we are monitoring. There may be a need for increased senior management but one of the biggest challenges is filling management and policy positions within Nunatsiavut. When positions are vacant, it increases the workload of others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: I just wanted clarification. I didn't mention about two departments, but I thought there should be one Deputy Minister for Health and one Deputy Minister for social because it's such a heavy workload for one Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Just a reminder that during question period, any-, while statements are welcome in other avenues, at this juncture any queries I ask that be directed in the form of a question, much like our friends at Jeopardy. Do you have a supplementary question? Are there any other oral questions, today? AngajukKâk Dicker, I'm gonna survey the room first to make sure everyone has had a go-around, then I'll revert to you. The Speaker recognizes Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for our new Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Minister Flowers. It's-, I've been talking with beneficiaries in our region, and there's a concern and a request for signage specifying when visitors that are visiting the Rigolet, Double Mer area, that they are approaching and entering Labrador Inuit lands. Is that something that we can look at erecting signage to-, reminding visitors of where they are entering and to follow the rules regarding hunting and fishing. *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Wheeler. The Speaker recognizes, Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question. I can't see any issue around that. I will certainly talk to my Deputy Minister on it, but I think that's a great idea to let people know where they are, and also while you said the question, I certainly even would look at when they take the trail to Postville and onwards, to remind people of where they are and what, you know, and we do have conservation officers now in our communities, that they should be checking. So, to answer your question, I certainly will be looking into it and I-, right now I can't see an issue with doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

No, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other oral questions today? The Speaker recognizes Mr. Glenn Sheppard, AngajukKâk for Postville.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable President today. And my question, Mr. Speaker is, I guess we all realize that we went into self-governments in 2005 and it's been some discussion at the very beginning of

relocation of departmental offices out of Upper Lake Melville to Nunatsiavut or in the *Land Claim* area. My question would be, has there been any discussions in relation to the movement of departmental offices out into Nunatsiavut in the *Land Claim* area recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. The Speaker recognizes the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe.

PRESIDENT LAMPE:

Nakummek, Ukatti. Thank you, AngajukKâk for Postville for the question. Yes, the Nunatsiavut Executive Council are discussing, having discussions on the transition of Nunatsiavut Departments into the Nunatsiavut Region. And this issue is a very challenging and certainly something that we need a lot of help with, but slowly, we are starting to see staff and departments and divisions being set up in the Nunatsiavut region. And it's a very slow process and or difficult, but we are continuing to do what we can to move the departments to the Nunatsiavut Region. And like I say, it will take time and most certainly as we start to see our younger Inuit within the region take on these responsibilities or positions, the process, I believe will start to move forward. *Nakummek UKatti*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, President Lampe. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question? Are there any other oral questions today? Did you have another-, I'm just gonna, again, survey the room one more time. Are there any other oral questions? And Chairperson Kemuksigak, I believe AngajukKâk Dicker had first stab at the second round. The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to, once again, the First Minister in your portfolio as the housing. When we passed the *Nunatsiavut Housing Act*, last year, one of the things that was gonna be done first, was to hire a Housing Director so that the transition from Torngat Housing into Nunatsiavut Housing, I

guess, was supposed to take place. But there was supposed to be negotiations and that done with the Housing Director, that-, who was supposed to be in place. Where are you with that hiring of that position, so that talks can start. They're Torngat Housing now has-, this is 2020. They're funding ends in 2021. I'd like to see a smooth transition, not a rushed one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, *Uhalitik*. With respect to where the hiring of the Director of Commission lies, that is one of the first tasks that have been given to the Steering Committee. At the last Assembly there was an update given to the Assembly Members as to the fact that we have created this steering committee. So I will give the AngajukKâk the assurance that this is one of the first objectives of the Steering committee and we have been having conversations around TRHA and the transition that will take place in the next couple of years. I understand that we may be having talks with them quite shortly but again, the director is one of the first priorities of this steering committee. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to that director, is that position gonna be advertised or is it gonna be appointed by the Minister? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. As to the process, I would imagine that it will be advertised. I'm not 100 per cent at this particular point. I haven't been too involved in where the steering committee sits right now and their discussions

around the position, but I'll have a solid answer for the AngajukKâk if that is okay with the Speaker. *Nakummek*. I'll put that in a return.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: AngajukKâk Dicker, do you have a second and final supplementary question?

MR. DICKER: No, Mr. Speaker. I'll wait for the return on them. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Minister Flowers, the new Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. Could you explain the percentage breakdown for the moose allocations for the Nunatsiavut Government hunt at Gros Morne, 'cause I was told we get 4.5 per cent, so I was just wanting to know if you could explain the per centage breakdown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm, Mr. Speaker, not quite sure and I did not discuss this with the very short notice that I had with talks with my new Deputy Minister, Mr. Speaker. So, I would like to take this question written out and I should be able to have that answer tomorrow, if that's okay with the Chair of NunaKatiget for Goose Bay-, or Upper Lake Melville. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister Flowers. Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm gonna give a little bit of background before I ask my question. Is that okay?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I would prefer that the background be brief. This is a question period but go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY: First of all, Rigolet lost its Municipal Operating Grant of \$70,000 for 2017. We're gonna lose another \$70,000 for 2018 and we got until June the 30th 2019 to get our audit for 2019-, I mean 2020, to get our audit for 2019 in order, and, you know, prepared or we're gonna lose that \$70,000. And I wanna know, is there a process that we can follow to change our auditors? I think our auditors were-, we had good auditors before. We had our bank statements and our financial statements ready for when they had to be ready. But anyway, you know, we-, I wanna know, is there a process that we can follow to change our auditors or do we have to keep on going like we're going and with the same auditors who don't have time for our little small firm, and who say our bookkeeping is not in order, and things like that?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: AngajukKâk Wolfrey, who's your-, who are you directing your question towards?

MS. WOLFREY: Minister of Finance. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I believe that's the Honourable Tony Andersen. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank the AngajukKâk for the question. I'm not gonna even try to answer that today because I can't. But I certainly will in short order, by tomorrow bring back their answer to her question which is a good question and a fair question. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. AngajukKâk Wolfrey, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WOLFREY: I do. That's why I didn't put up my hand first. I knew you couldn't answer. But anyway, I wanna know if you can look and see if there's any kind of special help that we can get to try to get our bookkeeping up to what the auditors are requesting so that they can come in and do our audit. Is there any special help that we can get, any special money? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. The Speaker recognizes Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm so happy that the AngajukKâk from Rigolet appreciates bluntness. She waited until I became the Minister to ask that question and I certainly, again, will in a short time provide a good answer for her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Andersen. AngajukKâk Wolfrey, do you have a second and final supplementary question?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Jim Lyall and it's in relation to the official opening of the Illusuak back in November, when there was supposed to have been representatives from Rigolet, Makkovik, Postville also attend, but due to weather, it couldn't happen. I'd like to ask the Minister today if we have a confirmed date to get those individuals in to view the Illusuak Cultural Centre as promised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Jim Lyall.

MR. LYALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question, AngajukKâk for Postville. It was very sad that we didn't get all the people that we had planned to get into Nain for the opening of Illusuak. I know that Postville was one of the three communities that we never got all our people in. I can guarantee you right now that some time between now and the end of the fiscal year, that those people will have the opportunity to visit Nain and the Illusuak. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Lyall. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. LYALL: No, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions today? Are there any other, again, I'll ask, any other oral questions? Seeing none, we'll take a short recess. There are snacks available, and then we'll resume in 15 minutes.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And we're back from break. So we'll move on to-, we left off at Item Eight, "Oral Questions" and we'll resume with Item Nine on the *Orders of the Day*, "Written Questions". Are there any written questions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 10, "Returns to Written Questions", and there are no returns to written questions. Item 11, "Petitions". Are there any petitions this afternoon? Seeing none, onto Item 12, "Responses to Petitions" and there'll be no responses today. Item 13, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees". There are none. We'll move onto Item 14, "Tabling of Documents". I'd like to Recognize the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2016, 2017 Annual Report of the Nunatsiavut Government. Each Member should have a copy of that along with the rest of their documentation. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek.* That document will be tabled as Tabled Document 1-4(6) and there are no more documents to be tabled today, and we can move onto-, AngajukKâk Flowers?

MS. FLOWERS: I believe it's number 15 is "Tabling of Documents", not 14?

FEMALE: Look at the numbers on the *Orders of the Day*, right here. See what happened is the *Orders of the Day* were amended. The Speakers, the other procedures. I didn't have a chance to do it as you wanted, selection of the Ministers added, so the numbers are...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Oh, it took me a while to see what was going on there. So now we're on to Item 16 of the *Orders of the Day*. My apologies, and "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills". I'd like to recognize the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020, that I will move, seconded by Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser, that the moderator who possesses the unique skill of speaking Inuttitut and the ability to manage the presidential debate be paid \$500 per day with four per cent vacation pay, and be it further resolved that the Member Services Committee hereby be directed to review the remuneration of the moderator every four years prior to a presidential debate for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek.* I'd like to recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek,* Mr. Speaker. Just a point of clarification, I think you said, "Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills". I think these are just regular motions.
Nakummek.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The Speaker would like to recognize the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. Uhalitik. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020, that I will move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, that the Assembly break into the Committee of the Whole to consider the resumes of the individuals recommended by the Speaker in order for the Assembly to appoint an Inuttitut moderator for the 2020 Presidential Debate. *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. Again, I'd like to recognize the Honourable First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020, I will once again move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, Mr. Tony Andersen that after our discussions in the Committee of the Whole and consideration that individual be appointed as a moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. There are no more notices of motion today so we'll move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills", but just previous, before we go into that, we've spent some time since December looking at the issue of the Moderator, and the appointment of the Moderator is really the first step in the process of electing a new President or electing a President at the next-, in the May election. So this really begins the process of that going forward. Next Item. "Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills". There are no notices for the first reading of bills. We'll move on to Item 17, "Motions". No motions today. On to Item 18, "First Reading of Bills" and there are no first reading of bills. On to Item 19, "Second Reading of Bills" and there are no second reading of bills today. Move on to Item

20, item 20 being "Assent to Bills". There are no assent to bills today and we'll move on to Item 21. Item 21 is "Adjournment". Before we adjourn, just a quick reminder of the book launch tonight at the school at 6:30. We'll arrange transportation from the hotel up to the school for those wishing to attend. I had anticipated that copies of the book would be provided at the conclusion of our Assembly but it looks like someone's beat us to the punch and we have copies at our disposal as of now. So again, we're now adjourned until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning-, no, actually, 9:30 tomorrow morning. We will have joining us at tomorrow's session, the newly elected Ordinary Member for Makkovik, Mr. John Andersen. He will be coming up on the Sked flight tomorrow, so we'll start a little bit later, 9:30 to accommodate Mr. Andersen's arrival and he can join us for the entire of tomorrow's proceedings. And with that, we're adjourned. Thank you.

MR. SHEPPARD: [Recites prayer]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Sheppard, and at this point, I'd like to call upon the President of Nunatsiavut, the Honourable Johannes Lampe and he will administer the Oath of Office.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: Repeat after me. In the presence of everyone assembled here...

MR. ANDERSEN: In the presence of everyone assembled here...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...and in full realization of the high calling I assume as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly...

MR. ANDERSEN: ...and in full realization of the high calling I assume as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...and that the powers entrusted to me are for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit.

MR. ANDERSEN: ...and that the powers entrusted in me are for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: I, John Andersen...

MR. ANDERSEN: I, John Andersen...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...swear...

MR. ANDERSEN: ...swear...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...solemnly affirm...

MR. ANDERSEN: ...solemnly affirm...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...that I will be faithful to the Inuit and to Nunatsiavut and will obey...

MR. ANDERSEN: ...that I will be faithful to Inuit and to Nunatsiavut and will obey...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...respect and uphold the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and all Inuit laws.

MR. ANDERSEN: ...respect and uphold the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and all Inuit laws.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: And I solemnly promise to fulfill my responsibilities as a leader and to perform my functions as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to the best of my ability...

MR. ANDERSEN: And I solemnly promise to fulfill my responsibilities as a leader and to perform my functions as a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to the best of my ability...

PRESIDENT LAMPE: ...so help me, God.

MR. ANDERSEN: ...so help me, God.

PRESIDENT LAMPE: **[Audio cut out]** forward and a Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.
Congratulations, John.

[Applause]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Again, congratulations, and welcome. On to Item Three on the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Recognition of visitors in our gallery". I see Fran Williams has been kind enough to join us again and Martha Winters-Abel, Jodie Lane, Isabella Pain, Darryl Shiwak and we have Mark Gillette and I'm not sure if there's someone behind me out of my line of sight. Oh, Jim Goudie, up there-, oh, Tim McNeil, my apologies, Tim McNeil, sorry. I don't have-, contrary to opinion, I do not have eyes on the back of my head. Anyway, so, welcome to everybody. On to Item Four of the *Orders of the Day*, is our "Ministers Statements". Are there any Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two "Assist, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training", training sessions were held, January 9th and 10th and 13th and 14th in Goose Bay. Many DHSD staff attended, including community health workers, social workers, supported living staff, mental health and addiction staff, et cetera. FASCETS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Consultation, Education and Training Services workshop is scheduled in Goose Bay and Hopedale January 21st to the 23rd and 27th to the 29th with staff

travelling to attend. This workshop provides information about fetal alcohol, neurobehavioral conditions and the affects of alcohol and other drugs and the brains and behaviour of children, adolescents and adults. FANB are brain-based neurobehavioral conditions with behavioural symptoms. The workshop will educate on best practice approach for increasing understanding of FANB, reducing frustration and expanding options. Case examples of successful accommodations are central to this training. Mr. Speaker, the mental health, trauma and addictions staff and other social workers and support staff have been very busy in the last couple of months responding to sudden deaths including those in Her Majesty's Penitentiary, Happy Valley Goose Bay, Voisey's Bay, Postville and Hopedale. Supporting families impacted in all Nunatsiavut communities. Assistance was also provided to the community of Sheshatshui when they requested support following several deaths. A big thank you, to staff members who have travelled at short notice, worked on holidays and put in many extra hours providing support. The Nain Shed Coordinator job is closed, interviews completed, and an offer anticipated soon. The estimated for additional funding for the Rigolet and Hopedale sheds to continue programming beyond March 2020. Nain already is funded to 2022. Planning has started for the Regional Youth Symposium this spring. Planning is underway for a gathering which will bring youth and elders together to plan the delivery of enhanced language and culture programs for youth. Mr. Speaker, the job ad for the Survivor Support Coordinator, Residential Schools closed and the

interviews are scheduled. This individual will ensure the delivery of programs and services identified by Residential School Survivors included, but not limited to Land based programming for healing and wellness; individual and group counselling and healing services; support and social groups and gatherings including arts and crafts; community and, or regional gatherings or conferences; culture and language programs for survivors, development of written material, memorabilia, example, a year book or newsletter; home visits and outreach, particularly to elders; educate others on residential schools and their impacts. Mr. Speaker, a funding formula for National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy was approved by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. We are in planning for a submission for these funds, building upon the work we have done so far. Several staff attended the Provincial Recovery Forum in St. John's in December. Staff are involved in many provincial work groups towards recovery, a vision for a new Mental Health and Addiction Services for Newfoundland and Labrador which was released in 2017. We are pleased with some of the steps forward thus far, including the design plans for new six psychiatric beds at Labrador Grenfell Health in which we have been actively engaged. Several DHSD staff are planning to attend a third Child Sexual Abuse forum in Ottawa co-hosted by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Pauktuutit. This year the focus will be on Justice Service. In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Mental Health and Wellness and Healing Division is planning a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning workshop, followed by Development of Logic Models for each program area. This is an initial

step towards enhancing monitoring and evaluation activities within the Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Asivak. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to report on the Education Department. Inuit Post Secondary Education Steering Committee, there was no update from them. They still waiting on funding to be released. New Federal monies are forthcoming from 2019 budget for Inuit Post Secondary education. Meetings are ongoing to finalize information requested by Indigenous Services Canada so that the contribution agreements with each region can be signed and money can start to flow. In the 2019 Federal Budget, 125.1 million over 10 years with 21.8 million ongoing, was announced for Inuit Post Secondary education. The funding allocation model is currently with the ITK Board to confirm each region's percentage of the annual funds. These funds are to be spent each year on four components: Direct student support, 75 per cent; indirect student support, 15 per cent; community engagement five per cent, and national coordination, five per cent. The Nunatsiavut Government has confirmed that we will be the recipient and administrator for these funds and we will be able to set out the policies and procedures for support. Forgive me if I don't pronounce the book launch proper. InukKutivut IlukKusivut textbook entitled "InukKutivut IlukKusivut - Our People, Our Culture", is finally ready. The book launch will take place here in Hopedale on January 21st-, that was last night. This book for the

Labrador, Inuit Society and Culture Course, was offered in high school. Students in Nunatsiavut has been taking the course for the past five years, but the textbook is just now available. All students in Nunatsiavut that take the course, will be able to keep the book. Copies will be available for purchase. K to 12 Inuttitut Evaluation: K to 12 Inuttitut Evaluation is complete and a draft report is being reviewed by our department. A final report will be ready by the end of March. Director of Education: The position of Director of Education was offered to Jodie Lane as a promotion. She accepted and started the new role on January 17th, 2019. Congratulations, Jodie. Inuit Pathways: Indigenous Skills, Employment Training Program. Inuit Pathways has 35 people in Long and Short-term Skills Development right now, in various fields such as, heavy duty equipment technician, welding, electrical and cooking. They are partnered with LATP and are cost sharing for these with LATP for the Cash Trades Program currently being offered at the College of North Atlantic in Goose Bay. ABE at the Learning Centre in Nain and Hopedale continues to be supported with 15 seats sponsored between the two communities with an active waitlist for new applicants to enter as funded space opens up in one of the centres. We also supported our beneficiaries through our other programming and services with seven work experience sponsorships and continue to work with the Inuit Community Governments of Hopedale and Makkovik in management, HEO Assessment Development Projects. Staff continue to work through the Inuit Human Resource Development Technical Committee and the ITK

on overall continuity and administration of the ISETP, allowing for consultation with other Inuit groups and ESDC on a National Level. As part of this process, there will be a National Urban Inuit Gathering held in Montreal at the end of February to gather information on Urban Inuit Labour Market needs, in an effort to work with the Federal Government for an Urban Inuit ISETP allocation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Palliser. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Gregory Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a real quick update on some of the things that I left off yesterday, Mr. Speaker, from the Environment Division. The Environment Division continues to work with the Provincial Government, Nalcor and other Indigenous groups on finalizing the terms of reference for the monitoring and Health Management Oversight Committee. The Province is setting up the committee to provide recommendations for adopting community-based methyl mercury monitoring programs to provide ongoing oversight of the implementation of the monitoring program. There is much work to be finalized for the term of reference. Also, Mr. Speaker, throughout the winter, the environment division will be conducting research on monitoring projects that include monitoring sea ice, thickness and changes in the sea ice extension and depth, while also monitoring the size and location of rattles. Also, Mr. Speaker, in partnership with the Province, research will be conducting a partridge-, conducting on partridges, research on partridges, Mr. Speaker to determine the migration patterns and the breeding areas of the winter

and spring. So I guess they'll be putting collars or some kind of tags on the partridges, Mr. Speaker and I guess I'll know more about these projects as you're all aware that I for our new Ordinary Member for Makkovik that yesterday I came in here thinking I was Education and Economic Development, cabinet shuffle, I am now the Lands and Natural Resources. And I say to my colleague, Mr. Tony Andersen, was versed very well and would also, if I'm new to the project, but he certainly was versed very well and I will be looking for some of his help as I move forward, Mr. Speaker. Also, Mr. Speaker, the Manager of Lands report a total of 46 new land use applications for 2019 were submitted. This is the largest number of applications submitted in one year since 2012. Most of the applications, Mr. Speaker was for cabins, so we see a lot-, also, Mr. Speaker, we see a lot of people now building new cabins and I just getting more out on the land. Also, Mr. Speaker, from Parks Canada-, working with Parks Canada, they are updating office space in Rigolet for the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve before they can complete their staffing on the visitor expansion position. So, Mr. Speaker, that's very good news for Rigolet. They will be looking for office space. Parks Canada will be moving into Rigolet. I am not sure when this will happen but it's always great news to see new things happening in Nunatsiavut. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, upcoming projects on the Land Division include identification of land boundaries for the Torngat Mountain National Park, for the base camp, and also Mr. Speaker, a small parcel of land in

Makkovik is to be transferred to the Inuit Community Government for their new subdivision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Flowers. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will provide a quick update on the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. There were some questions around that yesterday. Mr. Speaker, as I've said in December 2019, the then First Minister appointed the Deputy Minister of Affairs, Deputy Minister of the Secretariat and the Finance as...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: If I may interrupt First Minister, if you're providing Responses to Oral Questions, we can do that at the appropriate time. It's...

MR. EDMUNDS: No, it's not my intention to provide a return at this point, but I'm just speaking to the issue, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Please proceed then.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. That steering committee has been created and they are in the process of putting forward a scope of work for the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission. Mr. Speaker in terms of the Affordable Warmth Program, the 2020 Program and the Home Repair Program applications have closed and those applications will be assessed in the near future. The 2019 Program has concluded the assessment phase and is ready for the construction phase as soon as that's practical, into the spring and summer, Mr. Speaker and a tender for that work will

be issued in the near future and the 2018 program has been completed. In terms of the multiplexes, Mr. Speaker, the Nain Multiplex has received a final review and will be ready for occupancy in the near future. I am pleased to say, *Uhalitik*, that the Multiplex came in on budget. In terms of the 2018 and 2019 Housing Needs Assessment, Mr. Speaker, that was completed last March, officials from NG and the Provincial Government met in November to discuss data entry from the Housing Needs Assessment. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, data from the communities of Nain and Hopedale were insufficient due to low response levels. These two communities are the highest priority areas for our Government for Housing, based on the 2012 Housing Needs Assessment and Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that we have a complete picture of both communities before we can use the data from the assessment to make future decisions. We are preparing to go into these communities in the coming weeks with an effort to complete the data. We encourage Inuit in these communities to participate in these assessments as the data plays an extremely important role, not in just planning for housing, but that data can be used across our other departments as well. In terms of implementation, Mr. Speaker, Minister Andersen spoke yesterday about the negotiations that are ongoing, and I'll reiterate that we anticipate that the implementation negotiation will be concluded within the coming months. For Transportation, Mr. Speaker, Octant Aviation are concluding their work on the first phase towards the new Nain Airstrip. The phase is focused on the Implementation Process of that particular strip, Mr.

Speaker, and it will address the potential geographic location, the length of the runway, road access and what sort of navigational approaches are needed for that area. That work will give our Government a report regarding the next phases of the study which will focus on the costs of the project and the schedule for the implementation. We expect to receive the report in March of 2020. The Nunatsiavut Government has agreed to sit on a user's committee along with AngajukKâk Barry Sheppard and AngajukKâk Glenn Sheppard to represent the Inuit Community Governments. This committee will liaise with the Provincial Governments on the ferry service. As Members of the Assembly know, Mr. Speaker, there were many serious issues with the ferry service last season, issues which need to be resolved as quickly as possible if we are expected to live with this service, for life and contract. We sincerely hope that this committee will play a key role in bettering the service for the future, however, I want to stress that it is our Government's position that the Kamutik W is not the vessel to achieve the service that is needed in Nunatsiavut. In terms of justice, Mr. Speaker, Mark Gillette is the new Director of Legal Services, and we thank Mr. Gillette for accepting this important position within the Government. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, in terms of Membership and enrollment, we are reporting from the registrar that there are 7082 beneficiaries enrolled. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, First Minister. Just a small point of correction. I believe you referenced Barry Sheppard and I believe his actual title is Winston

Andersen, so-, if I'm not mistaken. *Nakummek* for your report. The Speaker recognizes Honourable Jim Lyall.

MR. LYALL:

Ullakut, Ukatik. I would like to thank the staff of my Department of Language, Culture and Tourism who have had a very busy fall with the Okak commemoration. The Base Camp Debrief and Strategic planning sessions, Language Summit and the opening of Illusuak. Since the last sitting, we have hired a Jewelry Studio Maintenance position in Nain, John Terriak. We are extremely excited to once again have the Jewelry Studio in Nain open for carvers to use the building and the equipment. We are also delighted to welcome Lena Onalik as our new Heritage Program Coordinator. Lena started to work with us on December 22nd of 2019 and is working closely with the Nunatsiavut Government archaeologist and archaeology assistant on several ongoing projects, including the Place Names Project, Nunatsiavut Stories and the Hebron Family Archaeology Project. We look forward to the bright ideas and keen interest that Lena brings to this role. I would now like, Mr. Speaker, to highlight some of the key areas that we are working on. The development of the Nunatsiavut Art Strategy is well underway, and we are expecting to present the strategy to NAC during our February meeting. Our Arts Program Coordinator will be attending a pre-art conference in the Ottawa area before the Northern Lights with artists from Labrador, and we'll provide assistance during the Northern Lights Conference. We will also be presenting on the development on the Nunatsiavut Art Strategy during the conference. The 2020 Nunatsiavut

Visitor's Guide, Nunatsiavut Tourism Tool Kit and community maps are all near completion. Our Director of Tourism continues to sit on working group committee for the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Stations. Planning for the 2020 and 2021 seasons are well underway. A consultant has been hired to develop and assessment of experience and product development for the Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve. The Assessment will include short and long-term projects and is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. We are in the process of hiring a Hebron researcher who will conduct a community consultations and interviews to develop a Hebron Ambassador Guidebook. Our staff will soon begin preparing for the Hebron Ambassador and restoration season. The work that goes into planning each season takes a lot of effort and time from my staff and we are looking at ways to better prepare for this season and the seasons to come. The Archaeology Heritage Team will be conducting several place names workshops in Hopedale, Makkovik and Postville in January and February of this year. They have already taken place in Rigolet and Goose Bay during the late '19. A report with recommendations will be produced after the workshops and have been completed in all communities. The Heritage Forum will take place in Nain at Illusuak this March. The organizing committee is working closely with Jens Haven Memorial School and local community members to highlight local heritage interests and initiatives. The dates of this forum and the agenda will be available later this month. In the area of language, Mr. Speaker, we are full speed

ahead. I will now highlight a few projects, specific to language. The Master Apprentice Inuttitut Program. Everything is going well. Participants are stating that they are really enjoying the program and are learning a lot from their masters. The masters, in turn, are saying that their apprentices are learning a lot and doing really well. Webinar: Sarah Townley of North West River will be facilitating a Inuttitut webinar later this month. The instructions were derived from Harriet Andersen's Introduction to Inuttitut booklet. These booklets were also provided to all NG staff. Public health packages. Packages are going to be launched at the end of this month. The packages include a small seal skin owl doll, a baby's first year magnet, an Inuttitut flash card, Inuttitut book, plus other items. Public Health Packages needed some things that our culture and language relevant, so this is what our staff have developed and will continue to work with for the upcoming years. Inuttitut Terminology Workshop: Another terminology workshop is being planned for early March. Language experts from the region will be invited to attend. Language workshop with Nick Welsh: Inuttitut teachers, masters and apprentices will be attending a language workshop designed to create community linguists and help them develop more skills to teach Inuttitut. Pilot evening Inuttitut classes: Joan Dicker will instruct Inuttitut classes in Nain for age 16 years and up. This will occur every Tuesday and Thursday, starting the 23rd of January and go on until March the 26th. We are hoping to carry these on after the new fiscal year and in the other communities as well, along the coast. Inuttitut survey: Partnered with

Kumiko Murasugi, an Inuttitut survey will be launched to determine how many speakers there are in Nunatsiavut and its constituents, where they use the language, if they do and so on. Participants in the survey will have a chance to enter their name to win a ticket donated by Air Borealis.

Culture resources for daycares: Resources such as seal dolls made of tanned seal skin, siapait and akulet were made for the daycares and language nest in the region, so the children are exposed to Inuit cultural items. They can use them during their play time or other activities.

Other items such as the child-sized Inuit drums and Kamutet are also being constructed. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my Deputy Minister, Belinda Webb for being selected for the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Council which will provide advice to Parks Canada on cultural, heritage related projects or initiatives with the goal of advancing reconciliation and supporting the agency in managing the heritage places in its care in the spirit of the *United Nation Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The council will advise Parks Canada on policy, programs and in initiatives related to history and heritage, including presentation of history at sites managed by Parks Canada, designations and commemorations, archaeology collections and repatriation, and the management of cultural resources. Belinda is one of eight that have been selected to a Canada-wide application process. I think she will be a great representative for Inuit on this council.

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Lyall. Are there any other Ministers wishing to make a statement this morning? Seeing none, we'll move on to the next item on the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Members statements". Are there any Members wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Nakummek, UKatik. First of all, I'd like to recognize Fran. I hope that your transition from Nain to your hometown of Hopedale has been a smooth one, and I must say that the community misses you. We miss your voluntary work and your unselfish volunteer time that you have given in the past, is sorely missed in Nain, and I ask that the AngajukKâk for Hopedale draws on you for advice with regards to heritage and Inuit culture because you were so helpful to us in Nain and now you are home. I'm sure that they will benefit greatly from your knowledge. Mr. Speaker, my report is gonna be short this time around because there's not much change that has happened, but first of all, I'd like to extend condolences to the Webb family on the passing of Chesley Webb Junior who recently passed away on January 6th. Chesley, to us, as a Nunatsiavut Government, I guess, is remembered for his support in the Research Department right from the get-go, to the forming of the Torngat Parks. He was the one that supported all of the land-based initiative that was going on, and he will be sorely missed. The projects that I talked about last fall are on hold because of-, due to the lateness of the arrival of materials, projects like the water line replacement equipment never came in till after the land was frozen on the last boat. The arena, even

though we have done some electrical stuff that allowed us to open it again this year. The outside work could not be touched because of the frozen of the ground. Our development lots, even though it was completed, by the time we got our surveys done and handed over to NICG, it was too late for Torngat Housing or anybody to even begin construction. So we expect that to begin early in the spring. Some of the things that we've been doing is with the CEEP Program, the Community Enhancement Employment Program-, we've allowed for seven people to get their hours to qualify for EI. We just recently acquired extra \$40,000 plus, so now we are able to help eight more people. I believe that's the correct figure-, six more people, sorry. So that's ongoing now. And starting this month, after our Community Council meeting this coming week, we will be starting talks on the Enforcement of the *Highway Traffic Act*. We, as a council have to get together first with the RCMP staff and discuss how we're going to start consulting with the community. So that's starting. Nain is the last community within Nunatsiavut that does not enforce *Highway Traffic Act*, regulations and as you have been in town, at times, you know, the traffic is congested in our community and we have to enforce the law now. So that's coming. By the end of this fiscal-, or this year, calendar year, the *Act* itself should be starting to get enforced, late in the fall. So we are given some time to people-, we are going to be consulting with the community prior to that. Just some stats for 2019: There were estimated 1100-, we cannot get an accurate figure because there's so many transients in our community-, permanent

residents. Last year, unfortunately, there were 15 people pass in our community, but at the same time, you know, we welcomed 20 new beneficiaries and children into our community. This year there are gonna be eight new young men celebrating their day, this Saturday. And in March, there will be 12 new young women celebrating their date. These are just some of the highlights that I wanted to present to you this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. The Speaker recognizes The Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'll give a yearly summary of the Community Freezer. There was a total of 1467 visits to the Max Winters Memorial Community Freezer for 2019. Average 122 people per month. The highest number was December 2019 was 181 people. The lowest was April 2019 which was 81 people. This was mainly due to not very much in the freezer during this time of year. Food distributed during 2019: Partridges, moose, carrots, potato, turnip, turnip greens, cabbage, rabbits, smelt, seal meat, salmon, char, trout, rhubarb, blueberries, corned cod, frozen berries and frozen corn and peas and that's only when there's no fresh produce. So we serve a lot of people and it's very invaluable to elders in our community and a lot of them are widows. So we're carrying on our tradition of providing food for widows. I'd like to thank Kate Mitchell for all her hard work and dedication as First Minister to the Assembly and she's certainly missed. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Jodie Lane here and her team for the great-, I'm gonna say performances last night, that was put off at the school gym. Thank you, Jodie and your team. You know, it's really touching to sit there in an audience and watch young people and like, I think the teacher made mention last night that young boys, young men sing in Inuttitut. It's really touching. Now I can't sing for nothing and I was speaking with my colleague before this Assembly started this morning, and I was thinking as time was going on and the Ministers statements were coming out and I think, if somebody asked me to sing, personally, I think you should all run out of the room. I might sound like someone blowing in a paper bag, but they did an excellent job last night, an excellent job. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to acknowledge the Department of Health and Social Development, Minister Asivak's portfolio there in my community. Some of the activities that happen in the community throughout the year, a lot of times we're prone to, yeah, go and sit down and have a meal, going out, enjoy an evening of games and what have you, not realizing, Mr. Speaker, that the amount of effort that's put into this. It's easy for us to say, "That's their job. They get paid for it", but sit back and think. That's a lot of energy. It's a lot of thinking. It's a lot of time put into these kind of activities for the communities to enjoy, and I wanna say this morning, officially, to the Department of Health and Social

Development, in the community of Postville, their staff, a big thank you for what it does for our community. And that goes for when there's a tragedy or a funeral or anything that they-, they're really supportive in those areas. Mr. Speaker, this morning I'd also like to recognize someone in my community that put a lot of time and effort into the community at an elderly age. Now, I would like to recognize Shirley Goudie today as I stand here. She's not only my Minister in the office in Postville, the ICG, she's a mom. She's a grandmother. She's involved, active in the church, on the church board. Mr. Speaker, she's 70 plus, and anything that go on in the community, you can see Shirley going around town with her bag, you know, delivering goods to individual families in the community in time of need, and I'd like to recognize her this morning and acknowledge her that this do not go unseen from my point of view as AngajukKâk for Postville. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard, and thank you for bringing Ms. Goudie's efforts to the attention of the Assembly. It's certainly worthy of mention in this Chamber . The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS:

Nakummek, *Ukatik*. I would like to welcome John Andersen, Ordinary Member for Makkovik to this Assembly. I'm really pleased, and I know that Mom and Dad would be proud to see you sitting here today, John, and it's a wonderful completion, I think, to your retirement which will be 25 years? Also, I was thrilled to attend the book launch for InukKutivut IlukKusivut at ACMS last evening. The reception was wonderful. The

school choir did an awesome job of drumming and I think the highlight probably was the two young boys or men, now, Nicholas Flowers and Denver Edmunds who sang three hymns in Inuttitut. Their beautiful voice was carried through the gymnasium with clarity and pride, and I commend everyone who is involved in this awesome venture. I particularly want to commend Jodie Lane and her team for helping and doing a lot of the work, and most of all the students who brought this to the forefront, that they wanted to see more of their own history and work in textbooks in our schools. Mr. Speaker, our school is thriving due to the hard work and dedication of teachers, parents, and volunteers. Here are some highlights of some events that are taking place. A sewing summit is scheduled to take place on January 27th with students coming in from the other schools in Nunatsiavut. They will be hosting the Pan Labrador Choir at the end of February which is a wonderful performance of students. And this year, Mr. Speaker, ACMS began their first GSA, Gay Straight Alliance and they are about 10 members strong. ACMS also successfully ran three Christmas drives for the foodbank, the council hampers and the safe house this year and their Christmas season was a success with their concerts and Parents, Student Teacher nights. Nicholas and Denver, along with Ms. Doris Boase, their teacher, are preparing for the Inuttitut Speak-off. And the Winter Sports Meet will be beginning at the beginning of February with all North Coast schools involved, and we wish them well. Also, Nicholas and Denver have been invited to Prague Czech Republic, Mr. Speaker, following a successful

summer work program with the archaeology teams which is a great experience for these two young men. I am pleased to announce finally, that we just completed our 2018 audit. Since I came on as AngajukKâk in December of 2015, Mr. Speaker, I've been involved with completing seven audits for Hopedale Inuit Community Government. So, this brings us up to date with the audits and I'm pleased with the work that our staff has done, and the accountants, to help. It's been a huge venture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate Lynn Blackwood on her recent announcement of her appointment to the Dieticians of Canada Board, as Regional Director for the Atlantic Region for the 2020, 2024 term. She will formally join the board in June. We are sure she will do a wonderful job representing Atlantic Canada. Congratulations are also extended to Dr. Robert Way on his 2019 Inuit Recognition Award from the Arctic Net Inuit Advisory Committee. Dr. Way, a beneficiary from Happy Valley, Goose Bay is an assisting professor in the Department of Geography and planning at Queens University. He has conducted research in Nunatsiavut for more than a decade, such as studying the glaciers in the Torngat Mountain, and his doctorate research on the relationship between permafrost and vegetation. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Robert, (Bob) Lyall on his recent announcement for the induction into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Lyall has

volunteered countless hours with various community organizations, mainly the Labrador Friendship Centre. And, as you may know, the Labrador Friendship Centre is located in the Robert Lyall building on Grenfell Street in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, so it just goes to show their appreciation for his time as well. I applaud the selection committee for the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador for recognizing Mr. Lyall's tireless dedication to serving his community. We thank him for his time and efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the years of service we had from our former First Minister, Ms. Kate Mitchell. It was great working with Kate, while I-, the short time I've been around. And welcome to-, that being said, welcome to John. It's great to see you here. I understand you just retired very, very recently, so it's great to have you on board and I look forward to working with you. The book launch-, Jodie's here, I know-, was absolutely amazing last night. The two young men, Nicholas and Denver, really impressed everybody that was there. I think they did a wonderful job. I had the unique privilege of being involved in the book on a couple of different levels. So being actually there at the launch last night was an amazing opportunity and thank Jodie for that. Thank you. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to get your attention. Sling shot and a-, anyway...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: If you wave a bit I'm sure to catch you.

MS. WOLFREY: Anyway, I'd like to take this time to publicly congratulate our Ordinary Member Carlene Palliser in her appointment as Minister of Education and Economic Development. Your passion to help our people will be a big benefit to the Department. And as well as your work ethic, your humble, down to earth attitude. We're proud of you. Rigolet is proud of you. Congratulations. And I would also like to take this time to say, thank you to my good friend, Kate Mitchell for the years she spent working to better the lives of Labrador Inuit. Kate, your guidance and leadership, especially in the area of the housing strategy, is a legacy of hope for our people. Thank you, *Nakummek*, and I wanna wish you luck in whatever you do in the future. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd also like to welcome our new Ordinary Member for Makkovik, John Andersen to the Assembly. He just recently retired. We were hoping he was gonna stay on for another probably 25 years with his new bionic knee but I guess that's not the case. I'd also like to recognize the Education Department, Jodie and Minister for their excellent book launch last night. I think everybody was impressed, especially the displays and the initiatives at the school, Amos Comenius Memorial School. So many new initiatives, the interaction-, I think many people enjoyed that. As for what's happening in Makkovik, the Makkovik Inuit Community Government has seen a large turn over in employees in

the last year. John is just being one of them and there's two more. We're seeing a new uptake within our community. We have a new assistant, recently hired again, the day before yesterday, I do believe, since I've left Makkovik anyway, so and we're losing an outside worker in June. So we'd be looking to replace that person again, hopefully to have a transition period starting in May some time. But I think we'll have some more further discussions on that later. We did have Mr. Gilles Picard from Magestion, I think, Incorporated. I'm trying to verbalize that French word, but he did an excellent job in Makkovik with a couple of staff members over a 10-day period this month. So I think it was an eye-opener for a lot of us who deal with the public and he's a good PR and HR person to have around. Makkovik groomer operations for groomed trail system-, Trans Labrador Trail System, we have two people hired on now and they're gonna be starting-, they're already starting marking the trails from Makkovik to Burnt Lake, then we'll hopefully, dare I say, wish for some more snow so we could get the groomer out and operating again. We don't want so much as we had last year, but if we have a little bit more, we'd be good. So we'll have the groomed trails open and marked safely so that everybody travelling back and forth, that which already started now can see their-, the markers from one point to the next. I'd just like to let everybody know that the new-, the distance between the markers this year is 100 feet or 30 metres apart during-, in open areas, whether it be on the ice or in the bogs, as opposed to last year, it was 100 meters apart, so every mile you'll see 52 markers. For every kilometre,

you'll probably see I think it's 32 markers in a kilometre. So you could almost swing from post to post on the groomed trail system, which will be much safer for those who was not familiar with the land, in bad weather, especially. Other than that, I think that's all for the Makkovik update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Andersen. The Speaker recognizes The Chairperson of the Sivunivut Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Maxene Winters.

MS. WINTERS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year and all the best in 2020. After a brief Christmas break, Sivunivut began holding our weekly seniors craft afternoon. Since this event is getting more popular, this year we hope to sponsor more crafts, including, in the near future, learning to make an Oopik. The women say they like to get out of their house and socialize with the other residents in our community for a couple hours in the afternoon, especially during the cold winter months. We would like to thank Nunatsiavut Government, especially Lands and Natural Resources for the generous allotment of the Gros Morne Newfoundland Moose to our Community Freezer. The elders were happy to have this popular item back in our freezer. We are also continuing to purchase some fresh, locally grown vegetables from Nature's Best Garden. We would also like to thank Nunatsiavut Group of Companies for their donation of \$250 to our freezer. This money will be used to supply the Members with traditional foods. With the importance of growing our Inuttitut, Sivunivut has held an Introduction to Inuttitut

Course in November and December. We had 10 participants enrolled and they learned basic knowledge of our language and we planned on holding more sessions with more advanced language material in the near future. They even ended the course singing Christmas carols in Inuttitut with they found a nice way to end the 10-day course. In closing, I would like to welcome back our clerk, Mary. So glad to see you back, and we wish you good health. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Chairperson Winters. Are there any other Members wishing to make a statement this morning? Seeing none, we'll call a short 15-minute recess. AngajukKâk Dicker?

MR. DICKER:

(Inaudible.)

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Under the Standing Orders for everyone's information, every Member is permitted two statements per day, so you're certainly within your right to make a second statement. Again, I'll just canvas through to make sure everybody who's had a first go around has had a go, and then we'll go back to you, AngajukKâk. Are there any Members wishing to make a statement this morning? Seeing none, AngajukKâk Dicker, you have the floor.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge the Nunatsiavut Government, especially the Ullapitsiat Committee. Just before Christmas, there was some pallets of wood that was sitting on the dock in Nain and I had word from my colleague in Hopedale that they had purchased some wood and my-, the seniors in my community were crying for-, to see if

there was any wood available. They thought that the wood down at the dock was for them. So I quickly called my Council and asked them if I could apply on behalf of the Community Government to Ullapitsiat see if we could purchase 25 pallets to distribute to seniors 65 plus. The numbers are so great in Nain with regard to people needing wood, that I had to target the ones that need it most and Ullapitsiat did not hesitate to approve that application, and I'd like to acknowledge and thank them for their quick response. With that quick response, we were able to distribute the wood before-, most of it before Christmas but as the Christmas season came on, the rest of it they distributed a couple days after. So thank you, I guess to Isabelle on behalf of her team from NICG. This came at a very needed time. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. Are there any other Members wishing to make a second statement this morning? Seeing none, we'll call a short recess and there are snacks available in the room.

[Recess]

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Welcome back from break. We ended off on Item Five on the *Orders of the Day*. We'll resume on Item six of the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Returns to Oral Questions". Yesterday, the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker asked the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds what the plan upgrades for the Nain Airstrip are and what was the status of the feasibility study on the airstrip was. I'll call upon the First Minister to provide his response.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. *Uhalitik*. I did speak to one part of that question earlier within my Ministerial statement and again the feasibility study and its report, we expect to have that in March. With respect to the second part of the AngajukKâk's question, relating to the necessary work that needs to take place in the existing airstrip, it is a Provincial Government responsibility to complete a rehab of the Nain airstrip, but it is our understanding that they will be issuing a tender to have that work completed this year. I will be addressing this issue with the Minister, as it is important work that needs to be completed as soon as possible. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Honourable First Minister. Yesterday, the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers asked the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Honourable Gregory Flowers about how for outside the Hunts River Lodge guests can go to hunt and fish, and about how many fish each guest is allowed to take. And I'll call upon Mr. Flowers for providing his response to that question.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you-, I don't think I'm gonna thank you. Thank you, Marjorie for your question. The outfitters in the Big Bay area, Hunt River, had to abide by the same guidelines that anyone who would come into Nunatsiavut to fish. Their big limit per day for trout is 12 fish per day with a limit of 24. Arctic char, the bag limit is two fish per day and a limit of four. Wild game, partridge 25 and the position limit is 50. And snowshoe hare there is no limit. And she had also asked about the chopper flying in around the Harp Lake area. Right now, Mr. Speaker,

the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is currently working on a new permitting agreement without outfitters that will give the Minister the ability to dictate in the agreement, where and when aircrafts and guests can go. So right now, Mr. Speaker, there is new policy legislation coming down so that we will have more control over where the outfitters and camps, anywhere in Nunatsiavut can travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Also yesterday, the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker, asked the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds, "When the Assembly passed the *Nunatsiavut Housing Act*, it was planned to hire a Director of Transition for the Torngat Regional Housing Association to the NG Housing Commission and what is the status, as the TRHA mandate finishes in 2020, 2021, and also, will the position of the Housing Director be advertised or appointed"? I'll call upon the First Minister to provide his response to the questions.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I did speak very briefly to that question yesterday, however, I did say I will follow up with a proper return. I do not have that ready for today. I'll follow up with the clerk. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, just a procedural note, when there is an oral question asked, there is a seven-day window for any Minister who is asked a question, to provide a response. Obviously, it's nice if they can provide a response in a more timely fashion but you're certainly under no obligation to do so. The next question, yesterday, the Chair of the Nunakatiget Inuit Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak asked the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Honourable Gregory Flowers how the

percentages of Moose licences for Upper Lake Melville were decided and how they were allocated. Minister Flowers, I call upon you for your response.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Patricia, for your question. This year, the 29 moose harvest from Gros Morne, the breakdown were 40.5 per cent for Nain, Hopedale 21 per cent, Makkovik 13 per cent, Postville 6 per cent, Rigolet, 11.5 per cent, North West River, 3.5 per cent and Happy Valley, Goose Bay, 4.5 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I know that I'm not totally answering the question on who done this breakdown. It had to be done by-, this breakdown has been the same breakdown that's been used since the moose has been harvested in the Gros Morne Park, Mr. Speaker, and I would suggest to Patricia that we and North West River, sit down and we can negotiate or talk about how you feel about percentages, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker that this moose that is harvested is for Nunatsiavut and I will more than likely not be changing any of the percentages at this time, but I would engage in talking about, you know if there's some moose licences that might be left in Nunatsiavut that's not harvested, look at maybe putting one more tag or one more moose licence to the Upper Lake Melville to help them out. But at this time, I'm not committing to that, but I will engage and talks on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Just a small procedural note, when we're in Committee of the Whole, it's acceptable to address people by their

first name. When we're in regular Assembly, we prefer to use the terms of people by their position.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just forgot her title.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The next question, yesterday, again, the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey, asked the Minister of Finance and Human Resources and Information Technology, Honourable Tony Andersen, if there was a process whereby RICG can change their auditors and if there was any way that the NG can assist the RICG to fulfill their requirements identified by the auditors. I'll turn it over to the Honourable Minister of Finance for his response.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And because I'm so new and I have not had the opportunity to speak to different officials within the Department, I'm not at any position to provide a good answer, an answer that the AngajukKâk for Rigolet deserves. So I will take advantage of the seven-day window to provide a more acceptable answer for the AngajukKâk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Andersen. Finally, yesterday, the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville, Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler asked the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Gregory Flowers, if it was possible to put signage so that visitors entering the Labrador Inuit Lands would be aware that they had transitioned into our lands and that they would be advised of-, to be cognizant of any

regulations surrounding that. I'll turn it over to the Honourable Minister for his response.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and first of all, I'd like to apologize for you correcting me for the Chair of NunaKatiget. And thank you Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville for your question yesterday and it was in my mind a very good question and something that I spoke with my Deputy Minister kind of right away on because people should know that they are coming into our area. And I can tell you that we will certainly be getting signs and things made up as soon as I can, you know, speak with him and direct him to get it done. And one more point that I made yesterday, that we would certainly like to do it also going on into Postville so that we can-, people will be reminded where they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. With that, that concludes Item six of the *Orders of the Day*. We'll proceed on to Item Seven which is "Oral Questions". Are there any oral questions today? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Nain, Mr. Joe Dicker.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Honourable Greg Flowers. In the past couple of days, we've heard that caribou are starting to show up in our area, and with that, monitoring has to take place. In the past, we've relied, I guess, on our conservation officers to do that, but it is a Provincial ban and it is the Provincial authority that should be monitoring, you know, what's happening within our area on that. We only have a limited number of

people that-, on the ground, that can do that for us and I ask the Minister, will he be talking with the Provincial authorities as to when they will be sending out wildlife officers to monitor the caribou that are within our area, the ones that we are trying to protect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Dicker. The Speaker recognizes Honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, AngajukKâk Dicker for your question. I certainly will be talking to my Deputy Minister as soon as time makes available for us to have engage in all aspects to whatever is happening in my department, and that is a good point. I certainly will discuss this with him to see-, and you're absolutely right, it is the Province that put the ban in place, and it's over the five years now and there is no-, as far as I know to date that there's no set time that the ban will be lifted, so it is the Province's-, in my understanding, it's the Province's jurisdiction to regulate and monitor the herd. So I will certainly, when time allows me, Mr. Speaker, certainly, talk with my Minister and talk with the Province on monitoring and looking after the animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MR. DICKER:

No, I don't. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet, Ms. Charlotte Wolfrey.

MS. WOLFREY:

Nakummek, UKatik. My question is to the Minister of Health. I was trying to listen to see if you had an update from the Status of Women. Is it still in your department? I didn't hear it. I might've missed it, but I'm interested to know. All my life I spent advocating for women and children and I know you're doing really good work in the area of, especially foster children, and I'm just wondering, are you going-, you know, can we get an update at some point on what's happening in the status of women, because I-, one thing I know is that from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls File, for example, there's the-, there's talk about it. There's a commemoration project and I didn't hear any reports on that kind of stuff, so I'm just interested to know that. I think because women make up 52 per cent of the population, we should be reported on what's happening in the department that takes care-, that their portfolio is in. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Wolfrey. That is a very good, valid question, and I appreciate it. There has been a slight movement within the Status of Women within my department. It's still maintained under DHSD. It has switched under to Community Programs as early as within the last week. So with that, there'll be, hopefully more monitoring and more updates because as I understand, Mr. Speaker, with more stand alone within the department, with-, now with more appropriate supervision and guidance from the director of that area, we can ensure

that for my next statement in March, or at your request, I can provide a statement including the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Commemoration Report. But as of right now, to be honest, I am not fully aware if there is any full update from the Federal Government and plans for Nunatsiavut Government unless it's in a work of progress for funding and planning. But I'll definitely, gladly report for March statement to have that or even I'll send you a personal update myself through email. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. AngajukKâk Wolfrey, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WOLFREY: It's okay. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Inuit Corporation, Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Many home support workers are only part-time casual and do not get benefits, guaranteed hours, holidays, et cetera. They play a very important role in keeping our elders home in the communities longer. Would you consider making more of the home support workers, permanent positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairperson Kemuksigak. Another very valid question. I value our home support workers in our communities. They

play a vital role in helping our elders, mainly, and people with disabilities. I am pleased to report there has been a review of this essential program for the last three fiscal years. Our recommendations have been sent to Human Resources for some possible changes from permanent part-time to permanent full-time. This includes the five Inuit Communities in Land Claims and Happy Valley, Goose Bay and North West River. With any job posting, sometimes there's recruitment issues. There have been many postings with no applicants and for whatever reason, there've been postings in each community with some or none applicants. There are some recommendations for individual communities to switch from permanent part-time to permanent full-time. As I stated, this will rest with our recommendations from DHSD from the Director of Health Services to the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes AngajukKâk for Makkovik, Mr. Barry Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Tony Andersen. Will the new FFA negotiations include the increases for the ICG's core funding, so the ICG's can legitimately operate its ever-increasing infrastructure and offer competitive salaries to attract and maintain our current employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Andersen. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Tony Andersen, Minister of Finance.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that I sincerely hope so. I'm not too far into these negotiations as you know, since I just came here less than 24 hours ago, but certainly, in the coming days we will, as I mentioned in my statement yesterday, I just had to make sure what I said yesterday. As soon as agreement is reached between the parties, this information will be communicated to the Assembly-, and even before then, I hope that I will be able to provide better answer than I am right now, to the AngajukKâk from Makkovik's question. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister. AngajukKâk Andersen, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other questions this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable First Minister, Honourable Tyler Edmunds. I know he's brand new in the portfolio and I find it very difficult in asking questions, however, as being an active member of the Executive Council, my question is related, Mr. Speaker to employment opportunities within our communities, and I guess some barriers that eliminate some qualified people-, not necessarily in the community. The question-, and it's based on accommodations and what have you-, my question for the First Minister

would be, have there been any discussions in the past related to housing for individuals applying for jobs within the communities, job opportunities, as opposed to just a home for somebody to live in? So, that's my question for the First Minister. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Sheppard. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. The AngajukKâk's question is an important one related to staff housing. We have invested significant dollars over the years in terms of staff housing, to try to ensure that we recruit and retain our employees. It will be an important issue going forward. And as I spoke to yesterday, it will be an important part of the mandate that we will have to deal with in the next couple years. Obviously, our priority has been developing land for people resident in our communities who are homeless or do not have adequate housing, but I give the AngajukKâk the commitment that it is something that we need to continue looking at, continue investing in and it is a priority area for our Government moving forward. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

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

MR. SHEPPARD:

No, I don't. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other oral questions? AngajukKâk for Rigolet, I'm just gonna canvas the floor just to make sure everyone's had a first go-around before I come back to you. Are there any other oral questions, this

morning? Seeing none, The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Rigolet.

MS. WOLFREY: I don't-, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I'm gonna be allowed to ask it 'cause I had to absorb a little bit of what the Minister of Health and Social Development said to me in his response about the Status of Women and I got some concerns, and I had time to absorb a little bit and I want to ask a question that's kind of related to that.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: I will allow it but typically, that's what supplementary questions are for, but I will allow it. Go ahead.

MS. WOLFREY: Okay. So I'm gonna just-, I know you're not gonna like it, but I'm gonna just a little bit talk about women. Women and...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: AngajukKâk Wolfrey, it's a question period, so please-, I'll allow a short preamble, but this is a question period and we prefer that things be phrased in the form of a question.

MS. WOLFREY: Okay. It's gonna be a question in the end. First, there was a department that represented the Status of Women. Then because we didn't have that in our *Constitution* or whatever it was, it got dissolved. And it went under the Deputy Minister of Health to put some emphasis on it, to put the importance of women's rights and women's recognition in there and now I'm concerned because it's-, the represented, or women's issues are gonna be lumped in with probably one of the biggest sections in the Department of Health and Social Services, "Community Services". I'm just wondering, before these decisions were made, was there an

assessment done? What's the basis of the decision-, those kinds of things, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: And your question is directed towards?

MS. WOLFREY: The Minister of Health and Social Development. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, AngajukKâk Wolfrey. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Gerald Asivak.

MR. ASIVAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and AngajukKâk Wolfrey. I'm not able to answer that question right now around the logistics and the departmental change of it. It is valid. I will come back within the seven-day period with a full response around the changes from its own department then under the supervision of the Deputy Minister, and then your question around the purpose of why it was slightly restructured, and the assessment and a decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Minister Asivak. AngajukKâk Wolfrey, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WOLFREY: No, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions this morning? The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Hopedale, Ms. Marjorie Flowers.

MS. FLOWERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Greg Flowers. I think that's who the question would go to. I'm not quite sure, but I've heard that there's a big surplus of wood at Voisey still, Voisey's Bay or Anatalak, and people from Nain can go access that wood, but there's a lot of people who can't. My question is, is there

a way that our Government can work with the companies to get that wood out and maybe to the surrounding communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, AngajukKâk Flowers. The Speaker recognizes The Honourable Gregory Flowers, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

MR. FLOWERS:

Thank you, AngajukKâk from Hopedale for the question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really sure. Maybe this question is not totally for me. I'm not sure, so at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would not be able to answer that question. I don't know if there's anyone else-, any other Minister that might be able to answer that question. I know that the concern of wood in the communities, especially, Hopedale and Nain is vital, but I'm trying to recall where I think the First Minister in the past used to address the wood issues, so maybe that might be what it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Minister Flowers. Honourable First Minister are you comfortable providing a response to this question?

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I know that previous First Ministers have spoken to that issue. I know that previous First Minister have given updates on the "Wood to the Coast" program that was done in partnership with Nunatsiavut Group of Companies. I don't have any information as to potential partnerships to get that wood moved, but it is something that we could certainly look into and I could get a response back to the AngajukKâk for Hopedale. *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, First Minister. So, even though the question was originally directed towards the Honourable Greg Flowers, we'll call upon the First Minister to provide a response within the seven days as allowed.

AngajukKâk Flowers, do you have a supplementary question?

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

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Are there any other oral questions, this morning? I'm gonna let Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville proceed. The Speaker recognizes the Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the new Minister of Department of Education and Economic Development. I realize you're new in the portfolio, but I just have a question regarding the wonderful book launch we had last night. It's wonderful to see that we're creating our own content for our schools and within the Province. I'm wondering if there are any plans or discussions ongoing about any future textbooks and possibly the courses that may be involved? Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Carlene Palliser.

MS. PALLISER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Ordinary Member Wheeler for your question. I do not have the answer to that question but I can get back to her as soon as I speak to Mr. McNeil. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable Minister. So our written response to the Clerk of the Assembly within seven days is-, would be-, is the standard

procedure. Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: No, I don't. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes the Chairperson of the NunaKatiget Community Corporation, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak.

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister. How are some family members getting reviewed and they're either taken off or kept on the registry, but their siblings stay the same, when they're all from the same family? Thank you, Mr. Speaker?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Chairperson Kemuksigak. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable First Minister.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek*, to the Chairperson for NunaKatiget, Ms. Patricia Kemuksigak for your question. I know that there have been many times around this table where there have been questions around Membership. It is undoubtedly a really contentious issue. My department is not involved in, or I, as Minister am not involved in any of those particular decisions. My responsibility is to ensure that the committees are full-staffed and I'm not prepared to give a response to that question at this time. I know that there have been some changes to the forms and whatever else, in the last couple of years. I won't say anything beyond that, Mr. Speaker. *Nakummek*.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Honourable Minister, for clarification, you said you would not be providing a response. So, are you saying you will not be providing a written response within the seven-day window?

MR. EDMUNDS: That is correct. *Nakummek.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek.* Chairperson Kemuksigak, do you have a supplementary question?

MS. KEMUKSIGAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Speaker recognizes the AngajukKâk for Postville, Mr. Glenn Sheppard.

MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance and Human Resources, the Honourable Tony Andersen who is brand new again in the portfolio, but my question would be-, and I know he's gonna be working very close with the ICGs, the five ICGs along the coast-, would he have a date and I guess location for the next JMC meeting of the Communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek,* AngajukKâk Sheppard. The Speaker recognizes the Honourable Tony Andersen.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, AngajukKâk for Postville for the question. I don't have a date, but I'm sure that I can have one this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek,* Honourable Minister of Finance. AngajukKâk Sheppard, do you have a supplementary question?

MR. SHEPPARD:

No, thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other oral questions, this morning? Seeing none, we'll move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, "Written questions". Are there any written questions today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item nine, of the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Returns to written questions", and there are no returns to written questions. On to Item 10 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Petitions". Are there any petitions this morning? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 11 of the *Orders of the Day*, which is "Responses to Petitions" and there are no responses to petitions today. On to Item 12 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Reports of Standing in Special Committees". There are no reports today. We'll move on to Item 13, "Tabling of Documents". Are there any documents to be tabled today? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 14 of the *Orders of the Day*, "Notices of Motions". There are no notices of motion today. Move on to Item 15, "Notices of motion for first reading of bills". There are no notices of motion for first reading of bills and we'll move on to Item 16. Item 16 of today's *Orders of the Day* is "Motions". At this point I'd like to recognize Ms. Marlene Winters-Wheeler, Ordinary Member for Upper Lake Melville.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Members. I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Rigolet, Ms. Carlene Palliser, the following motion: Whereas Section 116(a)(1) and (2) of the *Nunatsiavut Election Act*, requires that a moderator who speaks and understands Inuttitut be selected by the Nunatsiavut Assembly to moderate the Presidential

Debate, and whereas this position will be required for several weeks every four years prior to a Presidential Election, be it resolved that the moderator who possesses the unique skill of speaking Inuttitut and the ability to manage the Presidential Debate be paid \$500 per day with four per cent vacation pay. Furthermore, be it resolved that the Member Services Committee be hereby directed to review the remuneration of the moderator every four years prior to the Presidential Debate, for approval by the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. Your motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

Yes, Honourable Speaker. The Members Services Committee does recommend the remuneration of the moderator to the Assembly for approval and is recommending \$500 per day with a four per cent pay. Excuse me. The Members Services Committee considered the history of this position, and in February 2016 it was a remuneration of \$200 per day plus four per cent vacation pay. However, the Members Services Committee considered that finding a moderator fluent in Inuttitut and with the additional skills requirements of organizing and broadcasting a public Presidential Debate, placed this position in an extremely hard to recruit category. Interpreters for the Assembly are paid \$500 per day and a moderator should at least be paid in this category. This suggests remuneration for the moderator would recognize the unique skill set required for this position, and it would show utmost respect and recognition for Inuttitut. Our Government has changed the name of the

Department of Culture and Recreation to the Department of Language, Recreation and Tourism, in recognition of our language. Inuttitut is constitutionally recognized as the cornerstone of our culture and to increase the daily remuneration of the Inuttitut moderator for the Presidential Debate to the rate we pay our Assembly interpreters that is the way the Members Services Committee has chosen to go.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Nakummek, Ordinary Member Winters-Wheeler. Does anybody else wish to speak to the motion? If no other Members wish to speak to the Motion, does Ordinary Member wish to make final comments and conclude debate?

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

No, I don't wish to make any closing comments, and would like to close debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

That concludes debate on the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? The motion is carried. At this point, I wanna recognize the First Minister, the Honourable Tyler Edmunds.

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Honourable Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer the following motion: Be it resolved that the Nunatsiavut Assembly break into a Committee of the Whole to consider the resumes of the individuals recommended by the Speaker in order for the Assembly to appoint an Inuttitut moderator for the 2020 Presidential Debate.
Nakummek, UKatik.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, Honourable First Minister. Your motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? The motion is passed, and we are now in Committee of the Whole for the purposes of the discussion. First Minister would you like to begin the process? I believe we had discussions around inviting our Director of Legal Services to invite to join us?

MR. EDMUNDS: Yes, Mr. Chair if you just wanted to ask the consent of the A; to get him into the Chamber?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: What I'm asking-, what the Speaker is asking for is the consent of this Assembly to invite a stranger, namely our Director of Legal Services into this Chamber for the purposes of answering any potential questions Members of this Assembly may have during the discussion of the moderator. All those in favour of inviting Mr. Gillette into our Chamber? Any opposed? Mr. Gillette, please come down. Charlotte? And I'll use your first name because we're now in Committee of the Whole.

MS. WOLFREY: Do I-, you know, the motion that was just passed, I had a question on that motion but you only ask if there was any more speakers wishing to speak to the motion, so I didn't know if I could ask a question or not.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: It certainly would-, and you can ask a question at this point. The motion is not passed, but there was an opportunity and I did invite comments-, those wishing to participate in the debate.

MS. WOLFREY: Yeah, you asked for comments. I had a question, so I didn't know if that was the same thing. But in any event, my question was one around, I

guess, the administration. Like I'm just wondering if this is-, why couldn't this just be a contract position and not pay a four per cent vacation pay or are you taking like if you're not having it a contract position, you need to take EI and CPP and all that stuff out of that pay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

We are moving. We-, the MSC operated in a manner as dictated by finance. We did confirm, just for the information of all, we did send a confirmation email to Rexanne Crawford about the four per cent vacation pay and her comments to us was that it was a legal requirement that she be paid four per cent-, that the moderator-, and I say, "She", 'cause both candidates are female-, that was a requirement. But your consideration was addressed with Finance and they suggested that the way we proceeded was correct, which is the rate of \$500 per day plus four per cent vacation pay.

MS. WOLFREY:

And then they're gonna get CPP and EI and taxes taken out, yes?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

That I couldn't-, to be honest with you, how the actual person's final cheque is calculated, I can't speak to.

MS. WOLFREY:

All I was getting at is, that's not gonna be \$500 a day if you're not gonna do it on contract and paying taxes and all that is gonna be taken out of that.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The pervue-, the mandate of the MSE was to suggest a remuneration rate which was accomplished. I cannot opine on the withholding tax obligations that, that position would attract. We came up with a gross figure and now whether or not that ends up being a gross figure or a net

figure-, I can tell you that will not be a net figure. The gross figure will be \$500 plus four per cent vacation pay. That is what the MSE put forward. We did not provide an opinion on what deductions, if any, should come out of that compensation. First Minister? I believe you want...

MR. EDMUNDS:

Nakummek, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to add that the resumes for the two candidates, Katie Hay and Sarah Townley should be in your briefing books in your binders at the end of Tab Three. Each time this-, well, this is the second time that we've been through the process, and the candidate's fluency in Inuttitut, I think as the Assembly Members have already seen has been confirmed with the Minister of Language Culture and Tourism. And that is required under our *Elections Act*. And as we've expressed before, whoever is appointed by the Assembly will have some help with logistics, organization and whatever else from the Clerk of the Assembly who is mandated by the *Elections Act* to give some reasonable assistance to the Moderator in the performance of their duties. So again, everyone should have the resumes in their binder and allow you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Gillette to sort of add anything else to the discussion and I'm sure that Members may have some questions as well.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Perhaps I can just shed some light on how we arrived at this juncture. So the process for finding a Moderator begins with a discussion between the Speaker and the Minister of Language, Culture and Tourism. So I had a discussion with Jim Lyall and based upon that discussion, Mr. Lyall put forward a number of names that the Speaker could contact just to see if indeed, they would be interested in doing the role. Based upon the list of

names that Mr. Lyall provided to me, I made some phone calls, made some inquiries and was successful in attracting two individuals.

Legislation requires that a minimum number of two individuals be placed before the Assembly for consideration and that's what we're doing here today. We have Sarah Townley who is the person selected for the Previous Presidential Debate and we have Katie Hay. Both of these people have been contacted by myself. Both have agreed that they would be up for consideration for the role. And as First Minister suggested, we have confirmed that both of these individuals have sufficient fluence in Inuttitut to carry out the role in question. If there are any questions, I thought it might be beneficial to go into Committee of the Whole, should any members have any questions about the role of the Moderator or the powers of the Moderator. So if any-, I will open up the floor to questions at this point should any Members have any questions of Mr. Gillette.

MR. EDMUNDS:

And pardon me, Mr. Chair I did mis-speak the resumes and documentations at the start of Tab Three if there is confusion.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Go ahead, Joe.

MR. DICKER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the only concern I have with regards to whoever may be chosen to moderate the debate is that when the debate actually takes place, is there gonna be some support there for the Moderator in the event that they do need support, like some logistics and things like that?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

One of the tasks of the moderator is to arrange a venue and arrange to consult with people like the OK Society to make sure there's coverage of the event. There's certainly nothing that restricts the Moderator from accessing the resources they may have. The Moderator is tasked with coming up with a list of five questions and those five questions will be asked at the debate. Those five questions will come out of a collaborative effort between the Moderator and our own Clerk of the Assembly. So there's certainly no restrictions. We have lines in the-, we have a budgetary line in the Assembly budget for the Moderator's role, and we certainly-, I wouldn't anticipate any situation whereby the Moderator was not able to carry out their function because of a lack of resources, financial or otherwise. Barry, go ahead.

MR. ANDERSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the question is for the Legal Counsel. Just a description, maybe, of the role of the Moderator, I think would be beneficial and the duration of the contract. Is it just a day or is it weeks?

MR. EDMUNDS:

I believe there's a Terms of Reference sheet provided in your material, that would, I think, answer that question better than I can. It outlines the duties of the Moderator and so the exact amount of time, I think, would be something that would be worked out between the Moderator and the Clerk as to how much lead-up time but the Debate itself, is supposed to be conducted within seven days of the closed nominations, so there'll be obviously, some preparatory work, venue, communications, all those types things that would happen beforehand, but it's a relatively short window after the election is actually called, within a week. So I'm not-,

it's-, I can't give you an exact number, but that's essentially where it is-, an appropriate amount of time for the lead-up to secure the logistics for the occurrence of the Debate, and then the Debate would be a week after we close the nominations.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

If I could just shed some light on that one. So in my discussions with people who were potential candidates, they asked that same question, "What type of time commitment would be involved". And of course that's undetermined, but the rough number that was used was roughly five days, typically, but again, there's nothing that says it has to be three or it has to be six. But the rough number I would anticipate would be around five days. That's to come up with questions, secure a venue, actually perform the role, itself. So, Charlotte?

MR. ANDERSEN:

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, yeah, it's satisfactory for me. It's my first go-around. I read the documents here but it's-, I guess it's a bit-, I notice it's a kick-off to the Election for the President's position in May and I think it's just a *Constitutional* requirement if I'm correct.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

It's a requirement of the *Elections Act*, not the constitution. But Mr. Gillette could-, he would know certainly, more about that, than I would.

MR. GILLETTE:

It's a *Constitutional* requirement for a candidate for the, or for a person to be President of Nunatsiavut, that they have to speak and understand Inuttitut. The-, what the provisions of Section 116 through 120 of the *Elections Act* does, it's set out a debate in which candidates can demonstrate their ability to speak and understand Inuttitut so that

individual beneficiaries can listen to that and determine for themselves, whether or not they think the candidate appropriately can understand and speak Inuttitut.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Charlotte, I believe you have-, oh, Barry, did you have another question?

MR. ANDERSEN: No, just thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Okay. Charlotte?

MS. WOLFREY: I guess the Moderator, even though we'll chose who that's gonna be here today, they wouldn't be hired till after the Election was called and the nominations closed and all that kind of stuff, yes?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Again, there's no fixed date on it, per se, but I wouldn't anticipate so. The requirement is, is that once the nominations close for the Presidential Election, the debate has to happen within seven days, and the reason, as I understand it-, I wasn't around at that time, but my understanding of that, is that if there was an issue with someone's fluency in Inuttitut, then that person could be removed from the ballot at an early juncture in the election campaign. But again, I wouldn't-, I can't speak for a Moderator. I'm not that person, but I wouldn't anticipate that they would start until some time, you know, after nominations close. I would think so, anyway. Anybody else? Marlene.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER: Thank you. I'm not sure if this is a question for Legal or not, but I have a question regarding where the questions for the Presidential Debate actually come from? Is that something the Moderator develops? And is there an opportunity for input from the Assembly or beneficiaries?

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

The questions are a collaborative effort between the Moderator and the Clerk of the Assembly, so the Clerk of the Assembly and the Moderator will collaborate and arrive at those list of five questions. Anything else? Any other questions? I had anticipated a lot more. Joe?

MR. DICKER:

I'm still not. I need clarification, I guess, more than anything else. When a possible candidate puts their name forward, he or she, their name-, when they do come forward, their name will not be listed on this slate of candidates until they have taken the test or the debate, participated in the debate, before their names are put on the ballot? Am I correct? You know, like if I wanted-, let's, just for example, I wanted to put my name forward, would I have to go through the debate first before I can put my name forward? Do you know what I mean? Like if I'm not sure if I'm not gonna pass that debate or not, I don't know if I wanna put my name forward and then be told I'm not bilingual. You know? There's the refusal of a candidate, you know, that hurts a person's sometimes, will to move forward in the-, towards leadership, I guess, or put your name forward towards things like, learn your own language. But if you're told that you're not strong enough to be bilingual or you're not working hard towards it or, you know, that's my question I guess, or concern.

MR. GILLETTE:

AngajukKâk, if I could just in general, just to give you an overview of how the process works, so, if an individual wants to be a candidate for President, they will file the appropriate paperwork by the close of nominations. At the time of close of nominations, the Nunatsiavut Electoral Officer will have a list of nominated candidates. That'll be at the

close of nominations, so, then within seven days, whoever-, it's a requirement of the law, the Inuit law, that any-, all candidates for President must participate in the Debate. If you're going to be a candidate, you must participate in the Debate. If you do not participate in the Debate, you won't be-, your name will be removed by the NEO as a candidate for election. I think what was being referred to by The Speaker earlier, was that the-, one of the reasons for having it within a fairly quick turnaround from closing nominations, is so there wouldn't be the printing of ballots and the disbursement of ballots with individuals names on them that could potentially come off if they hadn't participated in the Debate. So in order to be a candidate, you have to file-, you're all elected individuals. You understand that you have to file paperwork by the close of nominations to be a candidate for something. The additional part of the Presidential Election is that there's the Inuttitut Debate. So once you file your paperwork, or once an individual files the paperwork, they are doing so with the understanding that they will have to participate in the Debate. So, but then their name does-, is included on the NEO's return-, the list-, the piece of paper has written down, all the nominated candidates on it. The Moderator at the debate-, so all-, I'm saying the same thing again. All of the candidates have to participate in the Debate. The Moderator has a responsibility to determine if a person attends the Debate. That's a pretty easy thing to do-, whether or not they show up, and whether or not they participate. If an individual does not show up to the Debate or refuses to participate in the Debate, then the Moderator

has the responsibility under the *Elections Act*, to disqualify the candidate because they didn't participate. And it's not about how well they answered questions. It's about whether or not they answered questions, really. It's whether or not they participated. And so it's a threshold issue is whether or not they participated or not. The moderator doesn't really have much discretion as to whether or not somebody could've did this better or not. It's whether or not they participated or not. If they didn't participate or if they didn't show up, the Moderator then disqualifies the candidate and informs the NEO that the candidate, this person, didn't show up or didn't qualify. I have disqualified them and the NEO then takes their name off of the list of nominated candidates. That's how it works.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

If I could just reiterate something Mark said earlier. I think the intent was that the ultimate decider of the fluency of the candidate is left up to the voter. So there is no means test. There is no test that's given to each candidate and a form to fill out or questions, or anything to be filled out. The only way the Moderator can excuse someone is if they refuse to answer the questions and if they refuse the question-, if they answer the questions in a, shall we say a sub-par manner, then that is up to the individual voter to decide this person is not suitable. But-, so again, it's up to the individual voter to decide what their language capability is and are they comfortable enough to put their X next to that person's name when it comes to the Presidential election. Charlotte.

MS. WOLFRY: So I'm, so okay, then, somebody just learns a small phrase, comes up and says (Speaks in Inuttitut) to every question. They tried to participate, but their name can still be on the ballot, is it?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Yes. Joe?

MR. DICKER: Thank you, Legal Counsel for that. I understand now a lot better, or I mean I understand fully. I guess what my concern was is not there anymore. It's up to the individual who puts their name forward to sell themselves to the Moderator and sell themselves to the audience that's out there or to the beneficiaries who are they-, they are seeking support from, to say, "Yes", you know, "There is that knowledge of Inuttitut there", so it's not up to the Moderator to say, "You don't know Inuttitut". If you refuse a question, I understand that you're disqualifying yourself right there. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The power of the Moderator is limited to telling the NEO if the person showed up or not. So there's no selling has to be made from the candidate to the Moderator, 'cause the Moderator doesn't have that power of adjudication. The Moderator just says-, and certainly, correct me if I'm wrong, Mark, but the Moderator does not have that power.

MR. GILLETTE: The purpose of the Debate and I wanna be careful about going down this path, 'cause we're not here to talk about whether or not a Debate is a proper thing or not because it's enshrined in the law and your required under the law to pick a Moderator, so let's focus on the task at hand. But the purpose of the Debate is stated specifically in Section 122(a)(2) of the

Elections Act, and I know you have that in front of you, but I'm gonna read it just for the sake. So-, but before I do, I'll just reiterate candidates for the Office of President should and they'll be told because it's a requirement under law and should be well aware that if they're going to be a candidate for President of Nunatsiavut, they must speak and understand Inuttitut. So the *Act* says, "The purpose of the Debate is to provide all candidates with the opportunity to publicly demonstrate that they meet the *Constitutional* requirement, that the President be able to speak and understand Inuttitut and to allow voters an opportunity to decide for themselves whether candidates can speak and understand Inuttitut.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Charlotte?

MS. WOLFREY:

Yeah, and all the people who's listening who can't speak Inuttitut are still gonna vote and they're not gonna make a bit of difference. That's what I'm saying. I could get up there and run and say (Speaks in Inuttitut), or whatever I else I might know a little stuff I might know in Inuttitut, but the majority of the voters and beneficiaries of Nunatsiavut don't speak Inuttitut, so that's-, you know what I'm saying? It's still gonna be-, I could be listening but I don't know what people are really saying. I might catch a word here and there but my vote, you know, my vote is not gonna go to the person who really convinced me they could speak Inuttitut. I'm finished now, but that's-, that was my-, anyway, when I was on the Committee, that was one of my arguments. What's the point, really? We're still gonna have all English- speaking people say who our President

is gonna be-, not all English-speaking people, but a lot of English-speaking people-, more English-speaking people than Inuttitut speaking people.

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Are there any other questions? I'll canvas the floor one more-, one final time before we excuse our guest and we'll proceed to a vote. Are there any questions about the process, about the candidates? Again, the bios for everyone's-, for the two candidates involved-, and I'll reiterate who they are. They are Katie Hay from Makkovik, and Sarah Townley from North West River, are the two people we have confirmed as candidates. Are there any questions? Marlene.

MS. WINTERS-WHEELER:

It's not listed in their resumes, or I didn't pick up on it, do any of these candidates have previous experience in the Presidential Debate? And is that a-, not a requirement, but...

MR. RUDKOWSKI:

Sarah Townley was the Moderator in the previous Debate in 2016. No, but she was the person selected to conduct that Debate, yeah. Final canvas of questions. Tony.

MR. ANDERSEN:

...to ask, to pick up on something Charlotte said and in the terms of reference, Moderator for the Presidential Inuttitut Debate, marked under three, number three says, "The Moderator must disqualify a candidate who fails or refuses to participate in the Debate or to respond to a question Is (speaks Inuttitut), "I don't know", a response or is that a failure to respond to the question?

MR. GILLETTE:

I can't answer that without being there to know what the context of what is going on. If the Moderator, perhaps is of the opinion that the person is

being evasive or really doesn't have any understanding of what's going on, the Moderator may make a decision based on that, but it's hard to say, I mean, someone might give that response because they don't know the answer. Someone might give a response because they really don't understand what's going on. So-, but generally, the power of the-, or the responsibility, I should say-, it's not really a power-, the responsibility of the Moderator would be to disqualify somebody either doesn't attend or doesn't participate actively, so...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: Any further questions on our two candidates at hand, or the process?

MR. DICKER: Maybe one of the questions, Mr. Chair that the Moderator could ask is, "Do you"...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: We can't dictate what the-, what questions the Moderator would ask.

MR. DICKER; Well, after (inaudible)...

MR. RUDKOWSKI: The Moderator is an independent person who will develop their questions with a consultation with the Clerk of the Assembly. We're not-, we cannot ask a question. We cannot tell the Moderator what to say and what not to say. That person is independent of this Assembly and will remain so.

MR. DICKER: Okay.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: If you have a question, I'll entertain the question. Are there any other comments or questions? With that, I'll excuse Mr. Gillette. Thank you for your participation. And I'll ask the Clerk of the Assembly to send ballots around. Again, the names of the two individuals involves are Katie Hay

and Sarah Townley. Please indicate your person of preference and I'll ask the Clerk to send ballots and to collect them.

[Pause for ballots]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: You look like you have a comment over there.

[Voting]

MR. RUDKOWSKI: We have the announced-, the results of the vote. Receiving four votes was Katie Hay. Receiving 12 was Sarah Townley. Sarah Townley will be our Moderator for the upcoming Presidential Debate. I'd like to call on the First Minister for a resolution naming Sarah Townley as the Inuttitut Moderator of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, just for clarity, are we still in Committee of the Whole?

MR. RUDKOWSKI: We're back in regular Session, now.

MR. EDMUNDS: *Nakummek*, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I'd like to make a motion, whereas the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act* requires that the Nunatsiavut Assembly no later than the 1st day of March in each year in which a Presidential Election is held, appoint a person who speaks and understands Inuttitut to moderate the Debate. And whereas the Speaker as further required by the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*, has obtained the advise of the Minister responsible for Language Culture and Tourism, that the individual recommended can speak and understand Inuttitut, and are qualified to carry out the functions of the Moderator, and whereas the Assembly is satisfied that the nominee to moderate the debate speaks and understands Inuttitut and is considered to be qualify to carry out the

functions of the Moderator, now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Ordinary Member for Nain, Mr. Tony Andersen and the Nunatsiavut Treasurer, that Sarah Townley be appointed as a Moderator for the Inuttitut Presidential Debate. *Nakummek, UKatti.*

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*, First Minister. Your motion is in order. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. EDMUNDS: I do not wish to speak to the motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: *Nakummek*. Does any other Member wish to speak to the motion? If no other Member wishes to speak to the motion, Ordinary Member, does the First Minister wish to make final comments and close debate?

MR. EDMUNDS: I do not want to make anymore final comments and I will conclude debate. Thank you.

MR. RUDKOWSKI: That concludes debate. All those in favour of the First Minister's motion? Any "Nays"? The motion is carried. On to Item 17 of the *Orders of the Day*, "First reading of bills". And there are no first reading of bills today. Move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, "Second reading of bills". And there are no second reading of bills. Move on to the next Item on the *Orders of the Day*, "Assent to bills". And there are no assent to bills today. Move on to Item 20, "Adjournment". Before we adjourn, I just wanna echo the comments of so many others that have made this Assembly and how welcome it is to have our Clerk of the Assembly back amongst us. She is a warm comfort blanket when things are uncertain and I really appreciate having her with us and, you know, so thank you

and welcome back. And I mean that with every ounce of sincerity that I can muster. Also, thank you to Tabea Onalik who deputized for you in your absence, so thank you, Tabea. Welcome back to Mary. Thank you all for a very productive session and we'll see you all in March. And with that, we're adjourned.